

INTERIM TECHNICAL REPORT_ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

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**School of Public Health
Addis Ababa University**



Final Report

**Situational Analysis of Urban Agriculture in Addis Ababa, and Feasibility of
Integrating Urban Agriculture with Social Protection Programs for Improving
Access of the Urban Poor to Healthy Foods: Qualitative Study**

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgement	4
Abbreviations.....	5
Executive Summary	6
1. Background.....	13
2. Objectives	15
3. Methods	16
3.1. Design and study setting	16
3.2. Sampling procedure and study participants.....	16
3.3. Data collection procedure.....	17
3.4. Data analysis.....	17
3.5. Ethical consideration.....	17
4. Results	18
4.1. Situational analysis of urban agriculture in Addis Ababa.....	18
4.1.1. Policy and structural issues	18
4.1.2. Institutional capacity	20
4.1.3. Acceptance of urban agriculture by the urban population	21
4.1.4. Access to agricultural inputs	22
4.1.5. Other challenges to urban agriculture	23
4.1.6. Urban agriculture: production volume, diversity and food security.....	24
4.1.7. Urban farming in schools, community gardens and institutions	25
4.1.8. Marketing of urban agriculture products.....	25
4.1.9. Sustainability of urban agriculture.....	26
4.1.10. Social inclusion of urban agriculture	27
4.1.11. Summary of the SWOT of urban agriculture in Addis Ababa.....	28
4.2. Situational analysis of urban PSNP in Addis Ababa	29
4.2.1. Description of the uPSNP	29
4.2.2. Livelihood promotion	30
4.2.3. Organizational structure and institutional capacity	32
4.2.4. Other challenges of the PSNP	33
4.2.5. Gender and social inclusiveness	33
4.2.6. Linkage of uPSNP with urban agriculture	35
4.2.7. Summary of the SWOT of urban PSNP in Addis Ababa.....	38
4.3. Situational analysis of School Feeding Program in Addis Ababa.....	39

4.3.1.	Description of the School Feeding Program	39
4.3.2.	Usefulness of the program.....	40
4.3.3.	Challenges of the SFP in Addis Ababa.....	41
4.3.4.	Engaging diverse stakeholders in SFP	43
4.3.5.	Linkage between SFP and school gardens	44
4.3.6.	Summary of the SWOT of SFP in Addis Ababa	46
4.4.	Situational analysis of UCCAs in Addis Ababa.....	47
4.4.1.	Description of consumer cooperative associations.....	47
4.4.2.	Support provided to consumer cooperative associations	47
4.4.3.	Usefulness of consumer cooperatives	48
4.4.4.	Challenges of consumer cooperative associations.....	49
4.4.5.	Gender and social inclusion	52
4.4.6.	Role of UCCAs in supplying diversified food to the urban poor.....	52
4.4.7.	Summary of the SWOT of consumer cooperatives in Addis Ababa	54
5.	Conclusion	55
6.	Recommendations	56
	References	57
	Annex: Interview guides	59

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Abbreviations

AACA	Addis Ababa City Administration
AEP	Agricultural Extension Program
CSA	Central Statistical Agency
EPHI	Ethiopian Public Health Institute
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCA	Federal Cooperative Agency
FUADC	Farmers and Urban Agriculture Development Commission
HGSFP	Homegrown School Feeding Program
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
KII	Key Informants Interview
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
MoUDC	Ministry of Urban Development and Construction
MoWSA	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
NCDs	Non-communicable Diseases
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NSA	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture
PASS	Payroll and Attendance Sheet System
PDC	Planning and Development Commission
PDS	Permanent Direct Support
PM	Prime Minister
PIM	Program Implementation Manual
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
PW	Public work
SFA	School Feeding Agency
SFP	School Feeding Program
SPP	Social Protection Program
SWOT	Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat
TDS	Temporary Direct Support
TIN	Tax Identification Number
UA	Urban Agriculture
UAP	Urban Agriculture Program
UCCA	Urban Consumer Cooperative Associations
UPSNJP	Urban Productive Safety Net and Jobs Project
UJCFA	Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency
WFP	World Food Program

Executive Summary

Background: Urban agriculture (UA) has the potential to advance the availability of healthy foods to urban dwellers. UA improves the availability, affordability and market stability of healthy foods. Over the last few years, with the goal of reducing poverty, increasing job opportunity and stabilizing food price, the Addis Ababa City Administration (AACAA) has taken a bold move to promote UA. The Farmers and Urban Agriculture Development Commission (FUADC) was established in 2020, and lower-level structures formed at sub-city levels. Frontline urban agriculture workers have also been deployed. Addis Ababa, the capital and the largest city in Ethiopia, has more than five million residents. In the city, 19.3% of economically active adults are unemployed, and 16.8% households live below poverty line. In order to alleviate the problem, the government has covered nearly half a million residents by the Urban Productive SafetyNet Program (uPSNP), rolled out School Feeding Program (SFP), and actively supported the Urban Consumer Cooperative Associations (UCCA) to ensure that essential food and non-food items are available at reasonable price.

Objective: School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University and its partners, conducted situational analysis of UA in Addis Ababa, and explored the feasibility of integrating UA with three selected social protection programs – uPSNP, SFP and UCCA – with the goal of improving access of the urban poor to healthy foods in Addis Ababa. The study was financed by the International Development Research Center (IDRC) – Canada.

Methods: The study primarily used qualitative design. Key informants' interviews were conducted with sixty purposively selected respondents including decisionmakers, program implementers at federal, city administration, and sub-city levels; non-governmental organizations supporting the programs of interest, members of UCCAs, urban farmers, school principals, and PSNP beneficiaries. All in-depth interviews were tape recorded, transcribed and translated verbatim, and analyzed using thematic analyses approach. Pertinent themes were identified and systematically organized according to the evolving themes. Selected quotes were provided to support the interpretations. Triangulation was done by comparing data coming from different groups of individuals.

Situational analysis of UA:

In recent years UA in Addis Ababa has received high-level political attention as a strategy to improve household food insecurity. Politicians at all levels have promoted the practice, and the FUADC is actively supporting households and selected institutions (including schools) having vacant spaces to start UA. Furthermore, external factors like soaring food price,

increasing urban poverty and unemployment, and food safety concerns are inspiring residents to practice agriculture. However, most of the UA activities are being implemented as campaigns, casting doubt on the sustainability of the initiative.

Recently the mandate of implementing UA activities in the city has been formally transferred to FUADC. UA is now well linked with the existing administration structure of the city and frontline agricultural workers are deployed at sub-city level. However, FUADC suffers from lack of budget and shortage of skilled and motivated manpower. The linkage between FUADC and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is so far modest, and the engagement of the latter in UA is limited. Further, both lack the practical experience on UA. FUADC did not adequately engage other key partners including research and academic institutes and NGOs.

Another major bottleneck to UA is absence of standalone policy that gives strategic direction at national level. The “Green Legacy” – a nationwide reforestation movement – has supported the UA initiative. However, linkage with other parallel initiatives like Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Climate Smart Agriculture is weak. The national agricultural extension program is focused on the rural areas and does not give attention to UA. Accordingly urban farmers have limited access to essential inputs and technologies. The UA initiative is generally not compatible with the existing urban land administration policy.

Most of the urban dwellers, especially the poor, have very small landholding to support UA. Access to water is also a major constraint except for those practicing riverbank agriculture. Technologies like vertical farming are at piloting stage and remain largely inaccessible. Access of the urban farmers to credit service is very limited. Other challenges to UA in AA include food safety concerns (especially for peri urban agriculture), inability to utilize vacant and communal urban spaces, politicization of the program, and outbreak of pests and plant and animal diseases. In general, urban farmers have too much expectation from the FUADC. Many complained that they did not get improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides for free.

The key informants indicated that, the market size and productivity of UA remains low but it has helped to improve food security among disadvantaged segments of the population. So far only small proportion of urban farmers, especially those engaged in peri-urban agriculture are surplus producers. Though UA program in Addis Ababa has intended to increase production diversified foods, so far, the initiative is limited to subsistent production of horticultural crops. Many of the key informants reported that creating additional market opportunity to urban farmers is not a priority because the volume of production is small.

The FUADC has the experience of working with SPPs and has been helping PSNP beneficiaries to initiate UA. Some of urban farmers are also supplying UCCAs but the linkage is weak due to low productivity. One of the core objectives of the UA initiatives is to rehabilitate farmers that had been displaced by the expansion of the city. Yet, as their number is large, most have not benefited from the initiative so far.

Situational analysis of uPSNP:

The uPSNP was initiated in 2016 with the goal of reducing poverty and building resilience of the urban poor. Through a series of geographic and individual targeting, beneficiaries are identified, get engaged in public work (PW) for 36 months, and receive payments. Whereas, households that are unable to be engaged in PW get direct unconditional transfers. After “graduating” from the PW phase, beneficiaries obtain modest grant, receive life skill, entrepreneurship and technical trainings, and embark on livelihood activities. According to the PSNP beneficiaries that we interviewed, the program improves the lives of the poorest of the poor specially during the PW phase, and promotes diverse livelihood options.

According to the key informants, one of the key strengths of the uPSNP is the efficient use of the available budget. The uPSNP also actively promotes saving among beneficiaries. During the PW phase, beneficiaries are expected to automatically save up to 20% of their earnings so that it will help them to initiate livelihood activities later. Beneficiaries that we interviewed reported that saving culture is one of the best experiences they gained from the program.

Key informants from the NGOs supporting the program indicated that uPSNP is not being implemented as per the guideline due to blockades including lack of human and financial resources for providing trainings and follow-ups to beneficiaries. Livelihood promotion activities are not started earlier, and don’t sustainable change the lives of most beneficiaries. Other challenges include poor work attitude of beneficiaries, inadequacy of the PW payment, scarcity of working space for livelihood activities, poor access of the beneficiaries to credit schemes, and attempt by local politicians to use the program for united benefit.

At the beginning of the program, inclusion and exclusion errors used to be high. However, targeting has gradually improved through active engagement of the community. Exclusion errors are still common due to increasing poverty and joblessness in the city, and budget shortage. uPSNP by design is a gender sensitive and socially inclusive program that equitably benefits women, other socially disadvantaged members of the population.

The importance of UA for improving income and household food security of the urban poor has been acknowledged by the uPSNP. UA is considered as one of the major livelihood promotion activities under the uPSNP. In principle uPSNP encourages beneficiaries to be engaged in UA both before or after graduation from the program. Yet, promotion of UA in the earlier phase of the project lacks clear guideline and not been implemented consistently.

However, after the beneficiaries graduate from the program, UA is advocated as a major livelihood promotion activity. Within the UA, beneficiaries are supported to initiate vegetable and livestock production within their compound or other void lands provided on temporary basis. Yet, few successful started UA due to constraints including inadequacy of seed money, scarcity of land and water, lack of technical support from concerned bodies, misalignment among different sectors, and limited access to agricultural inputs and technologies.

Among those who initiated UA, the practice has somehow helped to advance household income and food security; however, productivity remains low. Due to water shortage, most urban farmers only produce during the rainy seasons. With the existing land and water shortage, little has been done to promote space-efficient (e.g., vertical farming) and water-efficient (e.g., drip irrigation) technologies. Beneficiaries who started UA do not consider market linkage as a major challenge because their production is low and they can easily sell their produces within their neighborhood because the demand for UA produces is high.

Situational analysis of SFP:

In Addis Ababa, the homegrown school feeding program (HGSFP) is being implemented by the newly established School Feeding Agency (SFA). The existence of the agency has strengthened the program and confirmed the commitment of the government. The program has covered all public pre-formal and elementary schools in the city. Through the program, students receive breakfast and lunch prepared based on standardized menu. All the key informants agreed on the significance of SFP for averting hunger, and improving dropout, class repetition, school attendance, academic performance of students. Conversely, due to budget shortage, quality of school meals is modest, and may not have nutritional benefits.

The SFA have outsourced the feeding service to locally organized women groups. Accordingly, the program has created job opportunities to women. However, with the modest budget (20 br/child/day) and the soaring food prices, the women group are losing interest, and are delivering sub-standard meals to students. With the exception of SFPs supported by NGOs, nutritious foods like fruits and animal source are not included in the menu. The

women groups purchase some essential items (like sugar, flour and oil) from UCCAs, but they don't have established market linkage for the other food commodities.

Frequent interruption of water supply, and lack of standard kitchen, and food storage facilities at schools have caused food safety concerns. Outsourcing of the feeding service to local women has increased efficiency of the program and helped schools to focus on their core business. Yet, the SFP has caused burden on schools in terms of managing operational issues, and compromised the time allotted for teaching activities. However, considering the benefit of the program, the school community has so far taken the burden positively.

According to the key informants, with the recent food price inflation, it is not possible to fully finance SFP with government budget alone, and efforts have to be made to mobilize resources from different stakeholders. There is also increasing interest from NGOs to support the program. However, the collaboration between the agency and NGOs engaged in SFP is far from ideal. Effort to engage individual local contributors is also low.

According to key informants from MoE, some schools outside Addis Ababa have started school gardening to strengthen their HGSFP. The experience suggested, school gardening has improved access of SFP to fresh supply of vegetables and fruits, and reduced expenses. Conversely, the success of school gardening in Addis Ababa is modest, because unlike rural schools, schools in the city do not have adequate space to initiate gardening. In Addis Ababa, high schools have relatively larger compounds and individual organized by the AACAA have initiated UA. However, this cannot be directly linked with the SFP, because high schools so far have not initiated SFP. In schools that had experience of school gardening, scarcity of water and lack of personnel to take care of the farm, limited production.

One major challenge that hinders linkage between UA and SFP is low productivity of school gardens. Experience from the schools that implemented UA at different levels suggests, the scale of production is too small to have meaningful effect on the meals delivered to the students. However, the gardens can be used as demonstration sites and may help students to understand how agriculture works. Market linkage between UA and SFP is currently not feasible because most of urban farmers are subsistent producers and cannot supply beyond their household needs. Even excess produces cannot formally supply to schools because usually they are not formally registered and don't have functional cooperatives.

Situational analysis of UCCAs:

In AACA 11 unions and 150 UCCAs are functional. Originally most were formed by the government with the goal of stabilizing food price in the city. But they gradually evolved to autonomous entities fully owned and managed by ordinary citizens. UCCAs provide essential food and other commodities to consumers at lowest cost by creating linkage with suppliers, and farmers' union. Members of UCCAs receive dual benefit as a shareholder and customer. The market linkage between farmers' and consumers' cooperatives bypasses non-value adding middlemen, and enabled members to get supplies at cheaper price. As consumer cooperatives are exempted from income tax and have smaller profit margins, commodities are available at a reasonable price. Though the primary goal of UCCAs is to serve their members, they also benefit others by making subsidized commodities accessible to public.

UCCAs are actively supported by the government through federal and regional cooperative agencies. UCCAs by law are exempted from income taxes and the government allocates revolving fund to capacitate them. The cooperative agency also provides UCCAs technical supports include trainings to strengthen business management skills, helping to establish linkage, and providing free audit and legal support services. However, the structure of the agency suffers from scarcity of resources (e.g., budget, vehicles) and lack of motivated manpower to provide continuous support.

The major challenge in the routine activity of UCCAs is shortage of capital to meet customers' demand. UCCAs, unlike farmers' cooperatives, do not own meaningful infrastructure like offices, shops and stores. Typically, UCCAs are run by management committees delegated by the general assembly. The performance of the UCCAs is highly dependent on the efficiency of the committee. Most committees function sub-optimally due to corruption, high members' turnover, lack of sense of ownership, internal conflict, shortage of skilled members, and gaps in financial and administrative skills. Though UCCAs are independent entities, local politicians and unions interfere in their internal affairs. Though UCCAs have several members and cover large share of the population, as a market outlet their access to the urban population is not universal.

UCCAs have forged strong market linkage with farmers' unions and the experience can be used as a springboard to establish linkage with urban farmers. In this regard, the major bottleneck is that most urban farmers are subsistent producers and they have little to market through the UCCAs. Excess producers also have established customers within their vicinity, so working

with UCCAs is not their priority. Urban farmers don't have functional cooperatives, and for the UCCAs negotiating with individuals is not practically feasible.

Mostly the activity of UCCAs is limited to distribution of subsidized commodities (like sugar, oil and wheat flour) and they don't engage in marketing of diversified food like fruits and vegetables for various reasons. Firstly, they assume that trading fruits and vegetables is risky and nonprofitable due to their perishable nature. Secondly, UCCAs don't have standard storage facility. Further, their procurement system is protracted make perishable food products liable to wastage. The associations that had the experience of trading fruits and vegetables complained that unlike other foods, the price and supply of fruits and vegetables is highly unstable, posing financial risk. Most consumer cooperative associations are involved in direct marketing of products without adding value. Blockades for adding value are financial constraints, lack of working space, and poor leadership.

Conclusion: In recent years UA has enjoyed high-level political attention in Addis Ababa and FUADC is doing its best to promote UA. However, the productivity of UA remains low due to several factors. Hence creating additional market linkage is not the priority of the urban farmers. The uPSNP encourages beneficiaries to be engaged in UA both before or after graduation from the program. Yet, few successful started UA due to challenges including inadequacy of startup money, scarcity of land and water, and lack of technical support. The success of school gardening in Addis Ababa is so far modest, because primary schools in the city do not have adequate space to support UA. Market linkage between UA and SFP is currently not feasible because most of urban farmers are subsistent producers and cannot supply beyond their household needs. UCCAs usually are not engaged in the marketing of fruits and vegetables due to lack of standard storage facility, fear of losses secondary to the supply fluctuations and perishableness of the commodities. UCCAs have established market linkage with rural farmers' unions; however, linkage with urban farmers is challenging for various reasons including limited productivity of urban farmers.

Recommendations: The best way to forge linkage between UA and SPPs is through supporting PSNP beneficiaries to practice UA. In this regard, creating strong relationship between the two sectors, and providing better technical assistances to PSNP beneficiaries are required. Schools with large compound size should also be supported to initiate UA using space and water efficient technologies.

1. Background

Over the last two decades the nutritional situation in Ethiopia has improved. However, undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies remain major public health challenges (EPHI & ICF, 2021; EPHI, 2016a). Among under five children, 37% are stunted, 21% underweight and 7% wasted (EPHI & ICF, 2021). Among adults, 22% of women and 33% of men are underweight (CSA & ICF, 2016). Iodine deficiency disorder, zinc and folate deficiencies affect more than one-third of women in reproductive age (EPHI, 2016a). The burden of obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is also increasing and nearly one-tenth of adults are overweight or obese (EPHI, 2016b). Subsequently, Ethiopia is shouldering triple burden of malnutrition including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overnutrition.

Addis Ababa, the capital and the largest city in Ethiopia, has more than five million residents (Macrotrends, 2023). In the city 7% of the adults are underweight; whereas, 38.7% are overweight or obese. Further, the magnitudes of elevated blood pressure (22.1%), dyslipidemia (33.1%) and hyperglycemia (6.1%) are all concerning (Gebremedhin, 2023). Food insecurity is a major problem in Addis Ababa, and nearly half a million residents are covered by the Urban Productive SafetyNet Program (uPSNP) (The World Bank, 2018). In 2015/16, the average per capita calorie consumption in Addis Ababa (2594 kcal/person/day) was the lowest among all regions of Ethiopia (PDC, 2018). More than three fourth of the adults have inadequate (< 400g/day) intake of fruits and vegetables (Gebremedhin, 2023). Over the last decade Ethiopia has seen dramatic inflation in the price of food reaching rate of 27% in 2020 (Trading Economics, 2020). Specially the problem is more alarming in cities (Headey *et al.* 2012).

Urban Agriculture (UA) refers to agriculture, including crop production, animal husbandry, aquaculture, beekeeping etc., within cities or surrounding areas (FAO, 2007). Urban agriculture can be implemented in various settings like backyards, riverbanks, roadsides, school gardens, community gardens, indoors, peri-urban areas etc. (Pye-Smith *et al.* 2022). Urban agriculture is can be done at small-scale or commercial level (Mougeot, 2000) and offers multiple benefits to the urban consumer by improving household food insecurity and advancing access to healthy and nutritious foods (Nogeire-McRae, *et al.* 2018). Furthermore, UA reduces domestic food expenses, increase household income, promotes food awareness in the urban population (Dona, Mohan, Fukushi, 2021). Urban agriculture improves the availability, affordability and market stability of healthy foods by increasing supply and

seasonal stability of food, minimizing cost of food transportation, and eliminating middlemen in the value system.

Recently the Addis Ababa City Administration (AACA) took a bold initiative to promote UA in the city. The goal of the initiative was for reducing poverty and creating job opportunities for the youth and subsistent women-headed households in the city. The initiative envisioned to alleviate the growing food scarcity and inflation of price of food. While homestead farming is not new to Addis Ababa, the UA program launched in 2020 by the AACA is extensive in scale and received full political attention. The Farmers and Urban Agriculture Development Commission (FUADC) was established in 2020 to oversee the implementation of UA in the city, and lower-level structures were formed at sub-city levels. Frontline agriculture workers have been deployed to support UA.

With the financial support of International Development Research Center (IDRC) – Canada, School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University and its partners, conducted a situational analysis of UA in Addis Ababa, and explored the feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with three selected social protection programs (SPP) with the goal of improving access of the disadvantaged urban population to healthy foods in Addis Ababa. The selected social protection programs (SPP) evaluated are: uPSNP, School Feeding Program (SFP) and urban consumer cooperative associations (UCCA). This qualitative situational analysis is the extension of a quantitative survey that we conducted among urban farmers in Addis Ababa in January 2023.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the study were:

1. Assess the contemporary situation and implementation challenges of urban agriculture in Addis Ababa
2. Assess the strength, weakness, opportunity and threat to urban agriculture, uPSNP, school feeding program, and urban consumer cooperative associations in Addis Ababa
3. Explore the feasibility of creating linkage between urban agriculture, and uPSNP, SFP, and UCCA, with the goal of the improving access of the urban poor to health foods

3. Methods

3.1. Design and study setting

This qualitative study assessed the contemporary situation, implementation challenges, and strength, weakness, opportunity and threat (SWOT) of the individual programs of interest – UA, uPSNP, SFP, and UCCA in Addis Ababa – and explored possible mechanisms and challenges of linking UA with the SPPs. Data were collected in such a way that the perspective of decisionmakers, program implementers (both governmental and non-governmental), and beneficiaries can be captured and triangulated. The study was geographically delimited to AACA, so findings cannot be generalized to other settings.

Addis Ababa, the capital and the largest city in Ethiopia, has a population of about five million, of which two-third is below the age of 30 years (Population Census Commission, 2008). In Addis Ababa, 19.3% of economically active adults are unemployed (CSA, 2021), and 5.8% of the households face food shortage (PDC, 2018). Between 2011 and 2016, poverty based on monetary indicators declined in AACA from 28.1 to 16.8% (World Bank Group, 2020). Addis Ababa is administratively divided into eleven sub-cities.

3.2. Sampling procedure and study participants

The qualitative data were primarily collected through key informants' interviews (KIIs). Interviews were conducted with decisionmakers and program implementers at federal, city administration, and sub-city levels; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) supporting the programs of interest, members of UCCAs, urban farmers, school principals, and PSNP beneficiaries. Respondents were selected purposively and for most of the in-depth interviews, criterion-based purposive sampling was employed – i.e., individuals that likely to provide rich information were included. Though number of interviews was decided based on the level of data saturation. In total we have undertaken more than sixty KIIs (Table 1).

Table 1: List of study key informants interviewed

Urban agriculture
Agriculture experts at MoA (# 3)
UA expert at FUADC (# 4)
UA experts at sub-city administrative offices (# 3)
Urban farmers in Addis Ababa (# 3)
NGOs supporting UA program (# 3)
Urban Productive SafetyNet Program
Expert from Ministry of Urban Development and Construction (# 2)
Expert from Ministry of Women's and Social Affairs (# 2)
PSNP officers at sub-city level (# 3)

NGOs supporting uPSNP (# 2)
uPSNP beneficiary (# 4)
School feeding program
Experts from Ministry of Education (# 2)
Experts from AACA School Feeding Agency (# 2)
NGOs supporting SFP (# 3)
School principals (# 3)
SFP coordinators at schools (# 3)
Urban consumer cooperative associations
Experts from Federal Cooperatives Agency (# 2)
Experts from AACA Cooperatives Agency (# 2)
Cooperative offices at sub-city level (# 2)
Urban consumer associations (# 5)

3.3. Data collection procedure

The KIIs were facilitated using semi-structured guideline developed based on 10-12 open ended exploratory questions (Annex I). The data were gathered by four experienced and trained master's degree holder facilitators with diverse academic background. The validity of the qualitative research was ascertained by making sure that the data collection and analysis approaches are compatible with the four-dimension criteria set for assuring rigor and robustness of qualitative research (Korstjens & Moser, 2017).

3.4. Data analysis

All in-depth interviews were tape recorded, the interviews were transcribed verbatim, and later translated into English. Transcripts were sent to the investigators for feedback along with concise field notes. The investigators did manual coding and analyzed the data using content thematic analyses approach. Pertinent themes were identified and the report is organized in a logical order according to the evolving themes. Selected quotes were provided to support the interpretation and to demonstrate the findings have emanated from the data. Triangulation was done by comparing and contrasting data coming from decisionmakers, implementers, NGOs, and informants at the community level.

3.5. Ethical consideration

The research was implemented in line with national and international research ethics principles. The research protocol was cleared by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of College of Health Sciences, Addis Ababa University, and Ethical Committee of AACA Health Bureau (Ref number: A/A/H/10861/2278). Administrative permissions have also been taken from all concerned administrative officers. Interviews were conducted after taking written consent from all study participants. The collected data are anonymized and, in the reports, we have not revealed the identity of the study participants.

4. Results

4.1. Situational analysis of urban agriculture in Addis Ababa

4.1.1. Policy and structural issues

Over the last few years, UA has received increasing attention in the city. The general goal of the initiative is to support the city to feed itself, create job opportunity and reduce income inequality. The major opportunity to the initiative is the high-level political commitment by federal and AACA officials to support UA. The motto '*our food from our backyard*' popularized by the Prime Minister is being used to mobilize the public. The political leadership at sub-city level is also actively engaged in public mobilization. In addition to household-level production, governmental organizations having vacant spaces have initiated UA.

The "Green Legacy" – a nationwide reforestation movement initiated by the federal government – has also supported the UA initiative through increasing availability of agricultural supplies specially seedlings. Though there is potential synergy between the Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture (NSA) and UA initiatives, so far strong linkage has not been forged between the two.

One bottleneck for the implementation of UA is absence of standalone policy that gives strategic direction at national level. Though the issue of UA has been somehow addressed in the revised agricultural policy and the 10-years perspective plans of the MoA, a standalone strategy is yet to be introduced. However, the AACA has its own strategy, but it has not been updated, lack comprehensiveness and does not adequately consider local context. In general, UA initiative is only limited to AACA, and there is no meaningful activity in the other cities of Ethiopia.

The compatibility of the UA initiative with urban land administration policy of the country was questioned by many of the key informants. In the urban setting there is no established mechanism by which land can be made available for agriculture purpose. Even sometimes urban residents are barred from practicing livestock production in their own compound citing hygiene concerns. At times when land is provided to urban farmers, it would be given on temporary basis so that it can be taken back for other activities as needed.

"Without the engagement of the urban land administration system, it is not possible to introduce a meaningful urban agriculture in the city" An expert from MoA

Recently the mandate to implement UA activities in Addis Ababa has been formally transferred from Bureau of Trade and Regional Integration to Farmers and Urban Agriculture Development Commission (FUADC), and this has been described as a positive move by many of the key informants. UA is now well linked with the existing administration structure of AACAA and agricultural experts have been placed at sub-city level. Reportedly, similar structural changes have also been made in Dire Dawa City Administration. However, the UA structure lacks robust functionality.

“The typical rural agriculture sector has standard structure, and functional and accountable professionals. But that is not the case in urban agriculture” An expert from FUADC – AACAA

Urban agriculture is primarily implemented by the city administration structure and the involvement and sense of ownership of the agriculture sector is so far weak. The linkage between MoA and FUADC is so far weak. Some of the key informants proposed for having a separate department or directorate for UA under MOA. Under the MoH, the issue of UA has been left to the horticulture department, and this may limit production diversity in the urban environment. The MoA, on the other hand, argued that it is doing its best to support UA in Addis Ababa and other settings. However, lack of resources and limited practical experience on UA limited the efforts of the ministry.

“As far as I understand, the MoA is a key stakeholder of urban agriculture program. The MoA should not push aside the urban agriculture agenda.” Key informant from FUADC

“Urban agriculture is not only new to the practitioners, but also for the Ministry..... UA is at infantile stage and the MoA has so far done little in that regards” Key informant from MoA

The national agricultural extension program is focused on the rural areas and does not give meaningful attention to UA. For instance, the FUADC lacks farmer’s demonstration centers which are commonly available in rural areas. Accordingly urban farmers have limited access to agricultural inputs like pesticides, compost and fertilizers. Some of the urban farmers that interviewed practice urban agriculture by “trial and error” because they don’t get meaningful extension service.

“We don’t have farmers’ demonstration center so far. We are conducting demonstration at private farms” Sub-city urban agriculture officer, Lemi Kura sub-city.

4.1.2. Institutional capacity

Within the UA sector, the availability of skilled frontline agriculture workers is limited. While agricultural professionals at the commission have versatile technical knowhow, their innovative and technological skills are unsatisfactory. Though UA is new for the city and the country, no effort has been made to organize international experience sharing platforms.

Demotivation and staff turnover are also common due to lack of incentives, unavailability of transportation service for field activities, and absence of attractive career structure. Shortage of agricultural inputs like water, demonstrations centers and improved seeds have also made the work of frontline agriculture professionals challenging. At lower level of the system (sub-city, woreda), the commitment of the workforce is affected by many demotivating factors. Unlike the rural agriculture, development agents (DAs) are not available at lower level of the urban agriculture system. Reportedly, the administrative organization of FUACD is not enabling and not being led by agricultural professionals.

“Top level officials themselves lack awareness of urban agriculture” An expert working at an NGO supporting UA in Addis Ababa

“We have serious staff shortage at all levels. A single professional is expected to be engaged in all forms of UA, horticulture, livestock, poultry, beekeeping” Key informant from FUACD

Budget and manpower shortage are cross-cutting problems faced by the commission. In many cases, sub-city level FUADC officers do not get direct budget to implement UA programs. Often, due to budget shortage, implementation of the program is dependent on the availability of support from partner organizations. FUACD has also weak partnership with relevant partners including research and academic institutions. The commission has recently established a seed multiplication center to make selected seeds accessible to beneficiaries. However, scarcity of land has limited the capacity of the center and the seed supply remains inadequate in terms of quality, size and diversity.

“How can we implement the program without getting formal budget to run the required day-to-day activities?” Sub-city urban agriculture officer

The FUACD of AACA developed an ambitious plan to expand UA practice in Addis Ababa. However, the plan had been criticized by officers at sub-city level for being non-participatory, too ambitious and disregards resources required to implement the strategic objectives. Reportedly, the ambitious plan has also led to false reporting practice.

4.1.3. Acceptance of urban agriculture by the urban population

External factors like the soaring food price, ever-increasing urban poverty and unemployment, are among the major factors that inspire households to practice UA. With the increasing food safety concerns, homestead farming is being considered as safe and this has been mentioned as a reason to practice urban agriculture by many households. Households that had been displaced by the expansion of the city, are being organized and supported to be engaged in UA. The family farming tradition has motivated such individuals to practice UA.

“We started urban agriculture because many of my brothers were jobless and the recent soaring food prices provided us with the opportunity to sell our produce with good profit” An urban farmer from Lemi Kura sub-city

“When we sell our urban agriculture produce, many customers will lineup here. It’s because our product is fresh, safe, and cheap” An urban farmer from Yeka sub-city

In general, the overall adoption of UA is low for several reasons. The chaotic lifestyle of urban dwellers has limited the acceptance of AEWs. Reportedly many urban residents consider agriculture as a backward practice and they even resist attending brief training sessions organized by agriculturalists. Urban farmers are usually confronted by neighbors due to environmental sanitation concerns. Many also assumed that agriculture cannot be practiced in small spaces. As recommended by one of the key informants from FUADC, reintroducing agriculture education into the curriculum starting from elementary schools may help improve the attitude of the urban population towards agriculture. On the other hand, rural families that had been displaced by the expansion of the city have positive attitude towards agriculture and they are actively engaged in UA.

“There are some negative perceptions about urban agriculture in the community. Urban people underestimate agriculture. Many used to laugh at us when we start urban agriculture”
An urban farmer in AA

Most subsistent urban farmers practice traditional approach of production and they are reluctant to accept improved technologies. The FUADC also did little to promote the adoption of urban agriculture through creating experience sharing platform among individual households. Few urban dwellers are practicing successful but subsistence UA. Such urban dwellers are practicing UA using discarded plastic containers and compost made from household refuse. Few are successfully practicing integrated agriculture comprising poultry and backyard production.

4.1.4. Access to agricultural inputs

The FUADC has been actively engaged in providing agricultural extension service and distribution of agricultural inputs to urban farmers. Compost (traditional and vermicompost), improved seeds and seedlings, water containers have been distributed to urban farmers for free at subsidized price. Trainings were organized to farmers on how to practice UA and produce compost at household level from domestic refuse. The MoA is also involved in providing technical support and assisted urban farmers in establishing greenhouse facilities. Urban agriculture cooperatives have been established but the organizations remain weak.

Sometimes due to bureaucratic procedures and lack of established system inputs like improved seeds are not distributed timely to farmers and have caused resources wastage. Even though the UA offices under sub-cities are doing their best to distribute improved seeds, fertilizers and composts, resources are largely scarce to meet the demand of urban farmers. The quality of seeds and compost distributed was also questioned by some of the farmers. Interruption of supplies is also common due to lack of established logistic system.

Most of the urban dwellers, especially the poor, have very small landholding to support meaningful UA production. Even though plots of unutilized lands are there in and around the city, limited actions have been taken by the AACAA to identify and use the land for UA. Due to gaps in urban land administration regulations, the request of urban farmers for additional land is not being addressed. Lands that have been given to urban farmers are sometimes taken back by the AACAA for other purposes like construction of buildings.

“The major challenge is shortage of space. How can we increase production in this small plot of land?”. Urban farmer from Lemi Kura sub-city

Access to agricultural water is also a major bottleneck except to those practicing riverbank agriculture. Despite the recent attempts to distribute large plastic containers to urban farmers, water shortage is a major challenge to most farmers. UA practitioners had been encouraged to dig their own wells, but this has not been economically feasible to them. Tap water is commonly used for UA which may have its own negative implication to drinking water security of the city. In general access to water saving technologies is limited and UA practice in the city has not been water efficient.

“It would have been good if we could get access to water pump and drip irrigation technology. So far, we are working with the traditional irrigation ditch that is not water efficient” Peri-urban farmer from Lemi Kura sub-city

Agricultural technologies like vertical farming are at piloting stage and remain largely inaccessible to urban farmers. Interviews with the farmers indicated that most of them thought that small-scale agricultural production like backyard gardening does not need technological support as the scale of production is low. Most urban farmers are backyard producers or use plastic containers for crop cultivation. Conversely, few peri-urban farmers practice mechanized agriculture using tractors provided by sub-city offices on loan basis. One emerging challenge to those producing vegetables like broccoli and pumpkin is the increasing occurrence of pests and soilborne diseases. Unfortunately, as the agricultural extension program (AEP) is focused on rural areas, access to pesticides is limited in AA.

“We are not using any technology to increase production and productivity. We have asked the concerned office for the technology [Vermicompost]. But we could not get it. Support from the government is so far very low” Urban farmer from Lemi Kura sub-city

“Pesticides and herbicides are primarily intended to rural farmers. So, it would be surprising if there is scarcity in urban areas” Expert from MoA

Access of the urban farmers to credit service is low. Most farmers, including excess producer, are not formally registered with the intention of averting taxes. This has limited their access to loan and credit services. Existing microfinance institutions also don't consider UA as a viable business so they don't usually provide credit service to urban farmers. The FUADC has recently established an initiative to make credits available to urban farmers using a revolving fund model. However, repayments over an agreed period of time remain a concern.

“In order to get credit and saving service they [government officials] demand us to have TIN. But we are farmers, not business entities” An urban farmer from Lemi Kura sub-city

In some of the in-depth interviews that we conducted it has been observed that urban farmers have too much expectation from the FUADC structure. Many farmers complained that they did not get improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides for free. Efforts to develop simple innovations and technologies like drip irrigation system by themselves was also low.

4.1.5. Other challenges to urban agriculture

According to the key informants from FUADC, UA being practiced at household level is generally regarded safe. However, peri-urban agriculture at riverbanks has serious quality concerns including contamination with heavy metals, pesticides and sewage. As reported by an expert from an NGO working on urban agriculture in Addis Ababa, systematic research

has not been conducted to identify crop varieties that can be cultivated best in the agro ecology of Addis Ababa.

4.1.6. Urban agriculture: production volume, diversity and food security

Key informants with urban farmers and officers from FUADC indicated that, the market size and productivity of urban agriculture remains low but it has helped to improve food security among disadvantaged segments of the population. Urban farmers that we interviewed reported that they produce vegetables to cover household consumption. So far only small proportion of urban farmers, especially those engaged in peri-urban agriculture and producing at the banks of Akaki River are considered as profitable and surplus producers.

“The production volume of urban farmers is so far low and they don’t have surplus production for the market. However, it has significance for improving their household food insecurity.” Officer at seed multiplication center of FUADC

“Since we started urban agriculture, we have not purchased vegetable from the market. There is no profit than this! We even give some surplus vegetables to the neighbors as gift.” Urban farmer from Lemi Kura sub-city

Though the UA initiative in Addis Ababa intended to increase production diversity of plant and animal source foods, so far, the initiative is limited to subsistent production of horticultural crops like green leafy vegetables, potato, tomato and mushroom. Others are engaged in activities that are not directly related to food production like seedling production and urban landscaping.

“The attention of the commission (FUADC) is on horticultural products. Limited attention has been given to other sectors like animal husbandry” Key informant from FUADC

Animal husbandry practice is limited in scale for various reasons including shortage of feeds, improved breeds, and absence of animal health service. FUADC is working to promote integrated urban agriculture that links, for example, horticulture with poultry production. Reportedly, practicing animal husbandry in urban setup is challenging due to shortage of space and large quantities of animal wastes. Manure recycling is also not being adequately implemented. Though urban poultry does not require much space, the practice is now growing as planned due to disease outbreaks, unaffordability of feeds and improved breeds.

4.1.7. Urban farming in schools, community gardens and institutions

School gardening looks promising. Especially in the context of SFP, produces from school gardens can partly supply the SFP. However, many public schools are crowded and they don't have adequate space to accommodate agriculture. In schools having larger space school gardening has been somehow successful in terms of acceptance and production volume. Some schools have also been engaged in animal husbandry.

“We have started some activities at schools. But the problem is space. Most schools in our sub-city are small and crowded and don't have space for agriculture.” Sub-city urban agriculture officer, Arada sub-city

According to key informants from FUADC, many communal buildings like condominium complexes have green areas, but the spaces have not been used for UA due to lack of support from Federal Housing Corporation, condominium owners' association, lack of awareness and weak community mobilization efforts. So far there is no guideline how communal spaces would be utilized for the benefit of the public.

With increasing political attention, many governmental organizations having vacant spaces have initiated UA production. This includes MoA and Institute of Ethiopian Standards. Fruits and vegetables cultivated in these organizations are being sold to employees at reasonable price. While many key informants appreciated such initiatives, others criticize it for not having institutionalized structure (e.g., not included in their plan) and for being too political because urban farmers are not being selected in transparent manner.

4.1.8. Marketing of urban agriculture products

Many of the key informants thought that creating additional market opportunity to urban farmers is not a priority because the volume of production is small and the farmers know how to best market their products. Some of them have already been practicing petty trade like “*gulit*” for long so they know how to market their products. However, orientations have been given on the importance of bypassing non-value adding middlemen in the market chain. Farmers have also been supported to sell their products in Sunday markets. Bazaars are also organized occasionally.

However, excess producing urban farmers reported that they have marketing problems including weak linkage with supermarkets, lack of transportation mechanisms to market their product away from the production area, lack of storage space and partiality in getting access

to Sunday markets. Fearing taxation, urban farmers are not willing to be formally registered as trade practitioners, so that are not able to supply formal entities like supermarkets. Accordingly, they would be forced to sell their products to non-value adding middlemen.

“We want to produce much room but we don’t have facility to store it. We also don’t have linkage with supermarkets” An urban farmer from Yeka sub-city

4.1.9. Sustainability of urban agriculture

Many of the key informants questioned the sustainability of the UA initiative in the city. Even though UA is enjoying top political attention now, there is no guarantee that the attention will be sustained in the future. Most of the UA activities are now being implemented through campaign-based and community mobilization activities, while efforts on awareness creation have been modest. The support provided by FUADC is inadequate and the number of households that started UA has been sub-optimal so far. High turnover of top-level leadership is also a major threat. Lack of optimal support and attention from MoA has also limited the development of the program.

Though distribution of agricultural inputs to urban farmers at subsidized price or for free is a bold initiative, sustainability and long-term implications need to be taken into considerations.

The urban agriculture initiative was introduced by high level politicians “knee jerk reaction” to the increasing poverty and food insecurity in urban areas. The same was cascaded down to the system without adequate preparation, research and stakeholder engagement. The initiative has not been informed by a comprehensive strategic direction casting doubt on the sustainability of the initiative. Sometimes the UA activities are being performed by the leadership just for “political acceptance and media coverage”.

“UA is being advocated in the city simply because the PM and other politicians promoted it in the media. It lacks research and stakeholder engagement” Key informant from FUADC – AACAA

The UA initiative has specially benefited households that had been displaced by the recent expansion of the city. This has created a misconception in the public that only a specific ethnic group is benefiting from the initiative. As the program had been promoted by top level politicians (like the PM and the Mayer of the city), the initiative has been politicized posing sustainability threat to the initiative.

“As I told you, many offices and bodies are implementing UA as a political assignment, without having deeper understanding and readiness, simply because the PM is advocating the practice. This will have serious sustainability implication” Key informant from MoA

4.1.10.Social inclusion of urban agriculture

The FUADC has the experience of working with SPPs. Some PSNP beneficiaries are being supported to initiate UA. In order to enhance their income, PSNP beneficiaries have been engaged in producing compost to be used by urban farmers. Some of farmers are also supplying their products to consumers’ cooperatives but the linkage is weak because the volume of production is low.

The UA initiative in AACA has multiple social-inclusion related goals. In addition to combating urban food insecurity and improving production of healthy foods, the initiative envisions empowering women, and benefiting the elderly and unemployed youth in the city. Women practicing UA are also being supported to have access to credit and saving services and get priority in the distribution of agricultural inputs like improved breeds of chickens. UA frequently enrolls the elderly, based on the assumption that they have more time to implement it. On the other hand, even though there are many jobless agriculture graduates in the city; limited effort has been made to engage them in UA.

One of the core objectives of the initiatives is to rehabilitate farmers that had been displaced due to the rapid expansion of the city. Such households have been identified and organized to practice UA. However, as the number of displaced farmers over the last decade is unmanageably large, most have not benefited from the initiative.

4.1.11. Summary of the SWOT of urban agriculture in Addis Ababa

Strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of UA structure at city administration and sub-city levels - Commitment to support socially disadvantage segments of the population including those displaced by the recent expansion of the city - Attempts to distribute agricultural inputs to urban farmers at subsidized price - Implementation of UA through various approaches including homestead farming, school and institutional gardens - Willingness and interest of the FUADC to link UA with SPPs including PSNP and SFP
Weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Failure to allocate budget for urban agriculture activities - Lack of adequate and multidisciplinary agriculture professionals at all level of the UA system - Weak staff motivation scheme of FUADC - Lack of technological and innovative skills of agricultural professionals and farmers - Inability to adequately engagement partners including research institutions - Providing inadequate attention to animal husbandry including poultry production - Failure to provide quality agricultural extension service to urban farmers - Failure to make animal health services to urban farmers - Failure to make space and water saving technologies accessible to urban farmers - Inability to utilize vacant and communal urban spaces
Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing political attention is being given to UA by the federal government and AACA - Synergy between UA and “green legacy” initiatives - Possibility of exploiting the nutrition-sensitive agriculture and climate smart agriculture initiatives for promoting UA - Increasing interest of the public to be engaged in UA due to soaring food prices, increasing urban food security, unemployment and food safety concerns - Interest of schools and other governmental institutions to initiate UA within their compound - Presence of market opportunity to those urban farmers engaged in commercial level production
Threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited productivity of UA practitioners - Implementation of UA on campaign-based approach, rather than systematic and sustainable approach - Limited practical experience of MoA in implementing UA programs - Lack of standalone national policy to support UA - Lack of enabling urban land administration system - Inadequate engagement of MoA in UA, and lack standalone department or directorate for UA under MOA - Politicization of UA - Food safety concerns (specially for peri-urban and riverbank agriculture) - Sustainability concerns due to inadequate institutionalization of UA, and campaign-based implementation of activities - Unaffordability and limited availability of feeds, agricultural inputs and improved seeds and breeds in the urban environment - Limited access of urban farmers to loan and credit services - Unwillingness of many urban farmers to be registered as formal entities - Outbreak of pests and plant and animal diseases - Too much expectations of urban farmers from the government, including getting agricultural inputs for free - High turnover of in the leadership of the UA sector - Inadequate number of partners and NGOs interested to support UA - Poor interest and disengagement of the private sector in importing, developing and marketing improved technologies for urban agriculture

4.2. Situational analysis of urban PSNP in Addis Ababa

4.2.1. Description of the uPSNP

The uPSNP was initiated in 2016 with the financial support of World Bank, the Ethiopian government, and other donors, with the goal of establishing urban safety net mechanism that covers poorest of the poor in urban areas. The aim of the program is to reduce poverty and vulnerability among the urban residents living below the poverty line. The program was initiated with the intension of covering nearly 600,000 beneficiaries in the city. The program was started in 11 cities and later scaled up to 83 cities. More than two third of the total uPSNP beneficiaries are Addis Ababa residents. Since 2022, the program has been rebranded as Urban Productive Safety Net and Jobs Project (UPSNIJP).

The uPSNP is implemented by multiple stakeholders. The program was initially led by Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency (UJCFSA) and recently came under Ministry of Urban Development and Construction (MoUDC). Implementing structures have been established at regional, city, sub-city, and woreda levels. Ministry of Labor and Skills is engaged in livelihood promotion activities, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) is responsible for Permanent Direct Support (PDS) transfers. Other ministries like Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Economic Development also have their own responsibilities.

Enrollment to the PSNP program starts by geographic targeting by which poverty maps are developed to identify socio-economically disadvantaged blocks in the city. Within in the selected blocks, all households get listed and, by engaging committee members selected from the community, all households are ranked into economic groups (poorest of the poor, poor, middle and rich). Then the poor of the poorest households get supported by the program. Normally, about 86% of the beneficiaries would be engaged in public work (PW) activities and receive conditional transfers; whereas, households that are unable to engage in PW for various reasons receive direct support (unconditional transfers).

The direct support can be permanent or temporary. Pregnant women in the second or third trimester, lactating women taking care of children under 18 months of age are entitled to temporary direct support (TDS); whereas, the elderly, and people with disability receive PDS transfers. Reportedly, sometimes when children develop stunting, their mothers would be transferred to TDS so that they can provide better care for them.

Selected beneficiaries are expected to be engaged in labor intensive PW for three years (4-5 hours for four days per month) and received predictable payments. Over the recent years, the payment rate has gradually increased from 75 to 120 birr/day. Up to four family members can be allowed to enrolled in PW activities. Payments are made using the computerized a Payroll and Attendance Sheet System (PASS). The system assures that the payment is made to the beneficiary in simplified manner and helps to prevent fraud and corruption.

The PW usually includes labor intensive environmental sanitation, soil and water conservation, landscaping activities within the urban environment. Public work, rather than direct support, is preferred because the earlier is believed to improve the working attitude of the beneficiaries and is unlikely to cause dependency. It also maximizes the benefit of the program to the general public and the environment. uPSNP has helped to improve the sanitation conditions in the city including slum villages.

In general, the uPSNP has improved the lives of the poorest of the poor at least during the PW phase in which beneficiaries receive predictable payment. Many of the key informants and beneficiaries reported the benefit of the program by saying *‘now mothers can at least feed their children’*, *‘now I can get credits from local shops for my daily purchases’*, *‘my economic status has now improved’* etc. However, the benefit is not sustained after completing the PW phase of the program.

4.2.2. Livelihood promotion

Over the three years PSNP engagement, the payment declines overtime and the beneficiaries are expected to gradually initiate their own livelihood mechanisms. After one year of enrollment, according to the guideline, PSNP beneficiaries receive life skill and entrepreneurship and technical trainings so that they can embark into sustainable livelihood activities. MoUDC has developed manuals to guide implementation of livelihood promotion activities. Technical supports are ideally expected to be conducted on quarterly basis; however, in practice this is not being regularly done due to budget shortage.

“According to the guideline, trainings are expected to be given to beneficiaries every three months. This has not materialized so far due to budget shortage and lack of training facility.”
uPSNP livelihood officer from a sub-city administration

The PSNP actively promotes saving among beneficiaries. Saving is well integrated in the induction trainings provided to beneficiaries, Further, they are also expected to automatically save up to 20% of their PSNP earnings so that it will help them to initiate livelihood activities

after graduation from the program and be eligible for credit schemes. Based on the existing agreement between the PSNP and the designated bank that dispatches the installments to the beneficiaries, 20% of their income would automatically be saved in blocked accounts. Beneficiaries that we interviewed reported that one of the best experiences they gained from the program is promotion of their saving culture.

“We have been saving from our public work earnings. Now we have used the earnings to start milk production” Ex-PSNP beneficiary

After graduating from the PSNP, beneficiaries will be linked with job creation and life skills department. Graduates receive life skill training and get certified to practice one of the livelihood promotion activities. Then the beneficiaries shall be organized in groups, and receive grant and technical supports to be engaged in livelihood promotion activities to sustainably improve their economic status. The livelihood activities being actively promoted are UA, petty trade and service (like brewing coffee on the road sides), production of construction materials etc. The technical support includes coaching and mentoring by professionals in the livelihood activity the beneficiary is engaged in.

At the time of graduation, beneficiaries receive grant equivalent to 600 USD. With the financial support, some attempt to improve their livelihood while others fail to show any meaningful efforts. As one PSNP officer at sub-city officer reported, *“with the grant some buy TV sets while others initiate petty trades to improve their lives”* On the other hand, beneficiaries that we interviewed complained that, with the existing inflation, the 600 USD seed money is grossly inadequate to start any meaningful business.

“After graduation, with the financial support they receive, some beneficiaries started petty trade to improve their livelihood, while others did not do anything” uPSNP livelihood officer from a sub-city administration office

“Among those who graduated from the PSNP along with me, only one stated business. Others did not do anything. Some of them are daily laborers now” ex PSNP beneficiary

4.2.3. Organizational structure and institutional capacity

Urban PSNP is being implemented by Ministry of Urban Development and Construction. At sub city administration level, the office has two units comprising social support and livelihood promotion units. Professionals with diverse academic background work at the sub-city office. Though the presence of a structure at sub-city level by itself is an enabling factor, the structure lacks manpower, both in terms of numbers and qualifications.

“According to the guideline, social workers are required for ground level activities. But in most sub-cities they don’t have one. This makes implementation of the program difficult.” Key informant from a multilateral agency supporting uPSNP

While key informants from the NGOs supporting the uPSNP acknowledge the contribution of the program, they indicated that the program is not being implemented as per the guideline due to multiple blockades. Sub-city offices face shortage of resources to organize technical trainings with the required frequency. Lack of human and financial resources limits the implementation of regular capacity building activities to the beneficiaries. PSNP graduates that we interviewed complained they have not been visited by the office after graduating from the program. PSNP officers also admitted they are not providing adequate follow up to those who already graduated from the program.

“We only have five professionals. So how can we give technical support to PSNP beneficiaries dispersed over nine blocks” PSNP officer at sub-city level

“Based on my observation, everything written on the implementation manual is being implemented.” A key informant from an NGO supporting the uPSNP

According to key informants from the PSNP offices at the sub-city levels, one of the key strengths of the uPSNP is use of the available budget for intended purpose. However, the existing budget is inadequate to cover operational costs. Sometimes, due to shortage of resources, PSNP beneficiaries do not get personal protective equipment (PPE) like face masks while engaging in PW activities. Though the issue urban food insecurity is cross cutting, the problem has been left only for one sector. Initially the support from other relevant sectors was high at the beginning of the uPSNP, but it is now declining. There is also lack of dependable management information system among the sectors implementing the program. As reported by NGOs supporting the uPSNP program, officers have poor data management skill so reliable data of on the beneficiaries is lacking.

4.2.4. Other challenges of the PSNP

According to the key informants, in relation to PW, one major challenge that is gradually improving is the poor work attitude of PSNP beneficiaries like feeling ashamed of PW activities and avoiding PW on monthly religious holidays. Despite the recent improvements, the payment scheme (up to 125 br/day) is considered to be grossly inadequate to support PSNP beneficiaries, so this has limited the engagement of the poor in the program. On the other hand, some beneficiaries develop dependency and demand for handouts for extended period or expect to get every little input required for their business from the agency.

“The program covers us for only three years. It would be good if it gets extended” uPSNP beneficiary

One of the biggest challenges of the UJCFS sector in supporting PSNP beneficiaries to develop sustainable livelihood is lack of working space, like plot of land for UA and shades for micro enterprises established by PSNP graduates. Accordingly, working spaces can only be provided on temporary basis for predefined time, so that others can work on it later.

“Most PSNP graduates in one- or another-way demand space like land or shades to work on. With the existing situation of the city, it is not possible to meet their demands” PSNP officer from a sub-city administration

Sometimes, due to poor communication between different partners, PSNP beneficiaries are deployed to unpredictable PW activities within short notice and this has caused dissatisfaction among the beneficiaries. In general, the program has received good political attention; however, sometimes, local politicians abuse the program and attempt to use it as a platform to promote their agenda. Despite efforts to make PSNP nutrition sensitive, beneficiaries normally don't receive training on health and nutrition issues. As the PSNP program prime focus is to provide cash for PW, supporting PSNP beneficiaries to initiate UA production for own consumption is not being actively supported.

“During our field visits we observed that little has been done in promoting healthy food consumption among PSNP beneficiaries” PSNP expert, MoWSA

4.2.5. Gender and social inclusiveness

By design, PSNP is social inclusive program and covers poorest of the poor in urban areas. During recruitment of PSNP beneficiaries' women get priority because they usually have limited economic opportunities. As women-headed households are usually economically

vulnerable, they tend to be more frequently benefit from PSNP. Reportedly, men consider the payments from PW too modest and they usually feel ashamed to be engaged in PW than women, so their PSNP enrollment tend to be lower. Currently the majority of the PSNP beneficiaries are women or women-headed households.

“Women and men are adequately benefiting from the PSNP support. In reality most of the beneficiaries are actually women” PSNP beneficiary

“Our initial plan was to enroll 50 % women and 50% men. But actually 70% of the beneficiaries are women. It is because women have limited economic opportunities than men.” PSNP officer from a sub-city administration

Women beneficiaries also reported different merits they acquire from engaging in the program. This includes improving their livelihood, being able to feed their children, financial independence from their husbands, and adoption of a lifestyle that promotes productivity. PSNP has improved teamwork and collaboration among women as in other beneficiaries. Normally PSNP beneficiaries are interlinked through “one-to-thirty networking”.

“Previously I used to sleep till 10 AM and spend the day without doing anything. But now I walk up 5AM in the morning to go to the public work. I am happy. For me walking up early by itself is a good experience.” A woman uPSNP beneficiary

“PSNP has provided an opportunity to poor women to go out of home, work and communicate each other. This has helped to build their confidence” uPSNP officer, MoWSA

In addition to women, the elderly, HIV positive patients, and the disabled get priority to be enrolled in the PSNP. Normally, displaced people and those who don't have permanent residence are not covered. According to the guideline of the program, individual won't be considered eligible unless they live for a minimum of six months in the locality. Lack of residence ID cards also limit beneficiaries' access to various supports including loans and formation of formal groups.

Though loan and credit opportunities are generally limited to the beneficiaries, the UJCFSA working with microfinance institutions to create access to credit services that don't require formal collaterals. Income earned from PW is also exempted from tax.

At the beginning of the program, inclusion and exclusion errors were used to be high. However, targeting has gradually improved through active engagement of community

members including elders and traditional burial associations ‘edir’. However, exclusion errors are still common due to increasing poverty and joblessness in the city, and uncontrolled immigration due to the ongoing political instability in the country. In general, the budget quota allocated to sub-cities is not adequate enough to cover all who need the support. In order to improving the targeting of uPSNP, Proxy Means Test (PMT) is conducted in sub-samples of the population, PMT is process by which living conditions and livelihood of the household members is used as a proxy measure of household welfare status.

“In the second phase of the uPSNP, beneficiaries who are in need of support are enrolled. Complaints [on poor targeting] have decreased” Key informant from s multilateral agency supporting uPSNP

The uPSNP has inbuilt Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) by which individuals who supposed that they were wrongly excluded from the program can file complaints. The system is also used to report gender-based violets and other administrative misconducts.

4.2.6. Linkage of uPSNP with urban agriculture

The importance of UA for improving income and household food security of the urban poor has already been acknowledged by the uPSNP. Urban agriculture is considered as one of the livelihood promotion strategies of the uPSNP. In principle the uPSNP encourages beneficiaries to be engaged in UA both before or after graduation from the program. However, in practice little has been done to forge strong linkage between the two sectors.

“To be honest, the effective participation of uPSNP beneficiaries in urban agriculture in Addis Ababa is questionable” Key informant from a multilateral agency supporting uPSNP

During the active PW phase (i.e., before graduation), UA is considered as one of the PW activities by which beneficiaries may engage in UA and receive payment. Further, beneficiaries participating in environmental sanitation and landscaping PW are encouraged to initiate UA on the same plot of land. However, in most cases, they won’t be allowed to get their produces for free as they have received fees for the PW. But they would be given the chance to purchase the products at a reasonable price. In general, promotion of UA in the earlier phase of the project (i.e., before graduation) lacks clear guideline and is not been implemented regularly and consistently. Some beneficiaries reported they have not been allowed to start UA early because they are yet to complete the PW phase of the program.

“The beneficiaries have wasted their time and energy cleaning the illegal garbage dumping site. So, rather than leaving that place open, why don’t we allow them to farm the land?”

PSNP officer from a sub city administration office

“There are 40 women [PSNP beneficiaries] in my village. We have planned to form a team and initiate urban agriculture after 3 years. We won’t be allowed to start now because we are in the PW phase.” A woman PSNP beneficiary

However, after the beneficiaries graduate from the program, UA is advocated as one of the livelihood promotion activities. The other livelihood promotion activities are classified into production, manufacturing and service sectors. Within the UA sector, beneficiaries are being supported to initiate vegetable and livestock production within their compound or other void lands provided to them on temporary basis. Yet, few had successfully started UA due to multiple bottlenecks including scarcity of land. Among those who initiated UA, the practice has somehow helped to advance income and household food security; however, productivity remains generally low.

“Nowadays a cow costs around 120,000 ETB. As you can see, we [group of PSNP graduates] have three cows..... Now we don’t have the problem of fulfilling our household needs, and we are independently leading our lives.” Previous PSNP graduate working on UA

“Due to scarcity of land, productivity of urban agriculture is generally low. there is no adequate production for the market.” PSNP Officer from a sub city administration office

Theoretically PSNP graduates that engage in UA would be supported to establish market linkage. One example is supporting beneficiaries to initiate petty trade of vegetables ‘Gulit’ within their vicinity. Beneficiaries who started UA do not consider market linkage as a major challenge because their production is low and they can easily sell their produces within their neighborhood without much difficulty. UA products are usually sold with reasonable price and good quality in the city so that marketing is not a concern for the producers.

“To my knowledge, there is no adequate production from urban agriculture that could make market link an issue.” Key informant from multilateral agency supporting uPSNP

Urban agriculture is not being satisfactorily implemented among PSNP beneficiaries due to several reasons including inadequacy of seed money, scarcity of land and water, and lack of regular and enabling technical support. Among those who already started UA, the use of

technologies, like water and space saving technologies, is limited. Access to agricultural inputs including improved seeds is also limited by multiple blockades.

“Leave alone water for urban agriculture, there is scarcity of drinking water in the city”
PSNP officer from a sub city administration office

“We are not using any technology. We are working in the traditional way like what our forefathers used to do.” A PSNP beneficiary urban farmer

With the existing land shortage, little has been done to initiate space-efficient UA including poultry farming, and vertical agriculture. The PSNP office at sub-city level has been somehow engaged in identifying void and unused lands, and requesting concerned bodies to provide the land to PSNP beneficiaries organized in groups on short-term basis. However, this has not been largely successful due to legal constraints. Sometimes void places like riverbanks are given on temporary bases for beneficiaries. Later on, other individuals come and claim the land and interrupt farming. Due to water shortage, most urban farmers are only producing during the rainy seasons.

“I’m practicing urban agriculture because I have a relatively larger compound size. Others could not manage to do the same because they don’t have adequate land” A PSNP beneficiary engaged in urban agriculture

“So far, due to scarcity of land, urban agriculture has not been actively started among PSNP beneficiaries” PSNP Officer from a sub-city

According to a key informant from MoUDC, there is no established system to support UA in the city, and most of the UA activities are being implemented as campaigns. There is also system misalignment in the sense that some sectors actively support UA, while others (like the land administration sector) do the opposite. Sometimes, lower-level law enforcement officers prohibit practice of agriculture (especially livestock production), in the urban environment citing hygiene concerns.

Among PSNP beneficiaries living in rented houses, practicing UA is literally impossible as it is not usually allowed by the landlords. Many urban residents consider UA as unhygienic practice so they actively discourage others from practicing it in their neighborhoods. Many PSNP beneficiaries do not have residency ID cards in their locality and this has limited their access to formal assistances from the government.

4.2.7. Summary of the SWOT of urban PSNP in Addis Ababa

Strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotes pro-poor growth by design - Beneficiaries are selected in equitable and socially responsible manner by targeting poor of the poorest through engaging the community and using composite index to measure household poverty - Improves the lives of the poorest of the poor specially during the PW phase - Promotes diverse livelihood promotion modalities including UA - Implements livelihood promotion programs that integrate both financial support and life skill training - Promotes work culture among beneficiaries through PW and life skill training - Promotes team work and saving culture among beneficiaries - Use of digitized payment system that prevents frauds and corruption - Has inbuilt grievance redressing mechanism
Weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Failure to initiate livelihood promotion supports early after enrollment of beneficiaries - Failure of the livelihood support programs to sustainably change the lives of the beneficiaries after graduating from the program - Inability to mobilize budget for organizing regular technical and life skill trainings - Beyond increasing income of households, limited attention is given to the nutrition sensitivity of the program. - Shortage of budget at sub-city offices level to run day-to-day activities - Provided limited attention to space-efficient UA mechanisms including vertical farming and poultry production - Inadequate support to increase the production and productivity of UA - Lack of follow up to beneficiaries who graduate from the program - Lack of supportive supervision to UA practitioners due to shortage of human manpower and other resources
Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enabling policy environment for linking UA with PSNP - Interest of key partners like the World Bank and Unicef to continue supporting the program - Presence of well-established intersectoral platform for implementing the program
Threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Donor dependency and concerns on the sustainability of the program - Increasing urban poverty and unemployment creating unmanageable demand for the program - Politicization of the program - Frequent turnover of top-level managers and technical experts - Frequent change of organizational structure in the sectors that implement the program - Poor working attitude of the beneficiaries including feeling ashamed of PW - Shortage of land to promote UA as a livelihood promotion mechanism - Limited access of beneficiaries to loan and credit opportunities to initiate UA or other livelihood promotion activities - Inflation that compromises the purchasing power of the savings of the beneficiaries over time

4.3. Situational analysis of School Feeding Program in Addis Ababa

4.3.1. Description of the School Feeding Program

In Ethiopia, School Feeding Program (SFP) is being implemented through three different approaches: homegrown school feeding program (HGSFP) owned and financed by the government, SFPs run by NGOs like the World Food Program (WFP) and; SFP initiated and owned by communities themselves. The SFP is well supported by the existing food and nutrition policies including the national Food and Nutrition Policy and Strategy. Furthermore, the program has enjoyed political attention and support from different stakeholders.

In Addis Ababa, HGSFP is being implemented by the AACAA School Feeding Agency (SFA). Unlike other regions that don't have standalone structure to implement the program, in the city a separate SFA has recently been established. This has been taken by the key informants as a major step in the right direction. In Addis Ababa, school feeding was initiated earlier by at small-scale by NGOs, and now the city administration has expanded the program and assumed full ownership. Earlier selected economically disadvantaged students used to be targeted by the program; however, currently the program has covered all pre-formal and elementary public schools (grade 1-8) in the city.

“AACAA has demonstrated its commitment to the program. The SFP in the city is maturing to the extent it cannot be rolled back. Unfortunately, the situation in other regions is different”
Health and Nutrition Expert, MoE

Through the program, students receive two meals (breakfast and lunch) prepared based on the menu developed by the SFA. The cooking is outsourced to local women organized by the MWSA. The women groups receive a standard payment of 20 br/student/day. Payments are transferred to the women's group every two weeks and they are expected to provide the service according to the standardized menu. The women also support the kids to feed themselves. In other regions where HGSFP is being implemented, one major blockade of SFP is procurement delay and hiccups in the logistics of supplies which frequently interrupt the program. However, in Addis Ababa, such problem is not an issue because the service is effectively outsourced.

Schools through their SFP committees are responsible to assure the quality of the meals served to the students. The SFP committee members include school principals, teachers and parents. The parents' council also independently supervises the program. Furthermore, schools are expected to provide cooking and dining spaces and supply inputs like clean water,

fuel and electricity to the women as required. Sub-city Education Offices provide training and ensure that all food handlers have regular medical checkups. SFP committees have also been established at sub-city and woreda levels to provide technical support to schools. The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (FDA) also supervises the food safety situations occasionally.

4.3.2. Usefulness of the program

All the key informants unanimously testified the importance of the SFP for preventing hunger among students from poor households. The same has been acknowledged by the parents as well. According to the key informants from schools, the program has helped to cut dropout, class repetition, and improved school attendance, academic performance, and concentration of students. Reportedly, prior to the initiation of the program, some students used to come to schools without lunch boxes and sometimes students collapsed in classes due to hunger. Coming late to school, which once was a major concern to schools, has resolved after initiation of the program.

“Prior to the initiation of the program, even I saw students carrying empty lunch boxes..... imagine the seriousness of the problem that forced mothers to send their children to school with empty lunch boxes” SFP monitoring expert, sub-city education office

“Previously we used to conduct action research to reduce students’ late coming to school. But after the introduction of the SFP, it’s no more a concern” SFP improvement and monitoring team leader, sub-city education office

On top of education related outcomes, the SFP in Addis Ababa has also multiple socio-psychological benefits. Reportedly, parents are relieved from the physical and economic burden of preparing meals to their school going children on daily basis. This has indirectly improved household food security as well. Children from poor households are no more suffering from the psychological pressure of being unable to bring lunch to school. The program has also made kids happy and focused.

“The poor children are now visibly happy in the school” A school principal

On the other hand, due to budget shortage, the dietary quality of school meals was described by many key informants as modest, and it may not have nutritional benefits beyond preventing hunger. The SFP so far only covered elementary schools and the program has not reached to high school students. As reported by sub-city education offices, poor students get

challenged as they advance to high schools. Many high school students from economically disadvantaged families stay the whole day at school without lunch boxes; while others share the lunch of other students.

“The program has to benefit high schools as well. Poor students that used to be covered by the program earlier are struggling after joining high schools” A high school principal

“Some of our students illegally entered to the neighboring elementary school for school meals” A high school principal

4.3.3. Challenges of the SFP in Addis Ababa

Recently 1-2 nutrition experts have been assigned to each school, and this has created ownership and increased the quality of the program. The experts provide technical support and supervise the implementation of the program. While the move to assign nutrition experts at school level has been taken as a positive step, sub-city and district education offices still have manpower shortage to provide supportive supervision to schools on regular basis.

The women groups receive 20 br/student payments to prepare two meals per day for each student. With this modest budget and given the ongoing food price inflation, the women are struggling to prepare the meals according to the standard menu. Due to budget shortage, the women are losing interest, and sometimes they provide sub-standard meals. Some of the key informants expressed their fear that, with the existing budget, the quality of the school meals may deteriorate to the extent it threatens the very significance of the program. The current food price inflation is even pushing SFPs run by NGOs to compromise their meal plan.

“For each student 20 Birr/day is allocated for breakfast and lunch. In the current market, it is difficult to feed children with this budget.” SFP monitoring expert, sub-city education office

“Currently an egg costs 12 or 13 birrs. So, how can you prepare two meals for a student with 20 br/day budget” SFP improvement and monitoring team leader, sub-city education office

“When we start our SFP, a kg of banana was 25 birr. Now, the cost has doubled. So, we have to remove banana from the meal plan”. A key informant from an NGO implementing SFP

Women groups providing school meal service have market linkage with consumer cooperatives (specifically for sugar, flour and oil) and Sheger bakery. However, according to the key informants, the linkage is not adequate to financially sustain the program. Schools also don't have any established linkage for other supplies like vegetables. As reported by the

key informants, if direct market linkage had been established with agricultural cooperatives or farmers, grains and vegetables could have been obtained at cheaper price. Though such kind of market linkage had been promised by the government, so far it has not materialized.

Many schools also do not have adequate dining hall to accommodate students; therefore, class rooms and libraries have to be used for the same purpose. Lack of standard store and kitchen infrastructure are also causing food safety concerns. Though all schools in the city have access to potable water, the frequent water supply interruption and lack of standard water storage facility have added to the food hygiene problem. NGOs running SFP also reported that, due to frequent interruption of water supply, they are forced to use bottled water and this has affected cost of the program. Currently most schools also don't have access to three-phase electric power needed for mass cooking so, they use biomass fuel. Ministry of Education (MoE) is in the process of introducing school food hygiene guideline.

“Among 23 schools under our office, only seven have standard kitchen. How can we talk about food safety while the kitchen is sub-standard?” SFP improvement and monitoring team leader, sub-city education office

Menus have been developed by the SFA with the goal of standardizing the meals; diversifying diet and ensuring the nutrient requirements of students are met. Nationally SFPs run by WFP use highly standardized menus, and taking this experience into consideration, the SFA has introduced standardized recipes based on locally available ingredients including green leafy vegetables. The menus are developed in such a way that the school meals are diversified across and within days. Though the school meals are prepared following standardized menu, some key informants have questioned the nutrient quality of the food being provided to students. With the exception of schools being supported by NGOs, animal source foods like milk and egg are not included in the menu due to budget shortage. The scarcity of resources also limited inclusion of healthy foods like fruits into the meal plan. Though there is no immediate plan to introduce highly nutrition food items like fruits and animal source foods into the school meal, the existing hygiene standard neither allows. As reported by key informants from sub-city education offices, school meals are sometimes unpalatable to students because they are prepared in mass with compromised quality.

“Sometimes students bring lunch boxes from home complaining that the school meals are not palatable” SFP improvement and monitoring team leader, sub-city education office

The initiation of the SFP has also caused burden to schools in terms of managing operational issues and facilitating finance needed for the program. SFP has increased work burden on principals, teachers and admin staffs. The feeding program is also compromising the time allotted for learning activities. However, considering the benefit of the program, the school community has so far taken the burden positively.

“SFP has increased the burden on teachers and the entire school community. But they are aware of the benefit of the program as well” SFP improvement and monitoring team leader, sub-city education office

4.3.4. Engaging diverse stakeholders in SFP

According to a key informant from MoE, with the recent food price inflation, it is not possible to fully finance SFP with government budget alone. So, efforts have to be made to mobilize resources from the community and other partners. There is also increasing interest from NGOs to support the SFP. However, the collaboration between the SFA and NGOs engaged in SFP is far from ideal. Effort to engage individual local contributors is also low.

Schools being supported by NGOs provide better quality of meals that include fruits, vegetables and animal source foods. However, in Addis Ababa context, NGOs usually don't provide support to more than a school so their impact is limited. According to key informants from sub-city education offices, many NGOs are only interested in achieving their goals and they have poor engagement in joint planning with the education sector. Sub-city education offices usually don't have full knowledge on the programs of NGOs, because MoUs are signed at city administration level. The way NGOs work usually is not transparent; therefore, monitor their activity and ensuring accountability is difficult. On the other hand, an NGO that runs SFP reported that since the initiation of the AACA-led SFP, they are being indirectly sidelined and the support they receive from the SFA is also inadequate. Another NGO reported that the SFA is unfairly pushing them to change their implementation model, areas of intervention; and unreasonably demanded them to provide financial support to the agency.

“We are not planning to scale up our SFP. In Addis Ababa, there is no clear government direction on the fate of SFPs run by NGOs” Key informant from an NGO running SFP

“The agency is pushing us to outsource the meal preparation to local women. How can an NGO outsource a major activity to an entity that cannot provide receipt?” Key informant from an NGO running SFP

4.3.5. Linkage between SFP and school gardens

According to key informants from MoE, some schools in Amhara, Oromia, and SNNP regions have started school gardening to strengthen their HGSFP. The respective regional structures of the agriculture sector are supporting the initiative by providing technical and material supports, including agricultural inputs like improved seeds. Experience from elsewhere outside AA indicated, school gardening has improved access of schools to fresh supply of vegetables and fruits. Further, it has also excluded middlemen from the market chain and reduced the expenses of the program. Conversely, shortage of agricultural water has troubled the productivity of school gardens.

“One major approach to assure access of students to fresh and nutritious vegetables and fruits is initiation of school gardens” Health and Nutrition Expert, MoE

In contrast, the achievement of school gardening is modest in Addis Ababa, because unlike rural schools, schools in the city do not have adequate space to initiate gardening at scale. In Addis Ababa, high schools have relatively larger compound and individual organized by the AACAA have initiated UA within the school environment. However, this cannot be directly linked with the SFP, because high schools have not been enrolled in the SFP.

So far, most schools that run SFP (elementary schools) in AA have not started gardening at large scale. School gardening has the potential to improve the access of the SFP to vegetables at better price and quality. This has also been observed in schools that started gardening. Many of the schools have no adequate space to establish meaningful UA while others have not received technical support for doing so. In schools that had experience of school gardening, scarcity of water and lack of personnel to take care of the farm, limited production. Many key informants assumed UA may help students to understand how agriculture works. Furthermore, it will help as a demonstration site for the agriculture course that will be included into the formal education starting from the coming year.

One major challenge that hinders linkage between UA and SFP is low productivity of school gardens. Experience from the schools that implemented UA at different levels suggests, the scale of production is too small to have meaningful effect on the meals delivered to students.

“The existing space in schools does not allow for large scale production. However, school gardening is used as a demonstration center so that students will apply the experience at their homes.” SFP monitoring expert, sub-city education department

“We are implementing school gardens and we have been acknowledged for that. However, the demand of the SFP is large and cannot be met by the gardens alone” A school principal.

According to key informants from MoE, UA in the city is being implemented as a campaign without having systematic approach. The same has also affected the implementation of school gardens in the city. Market linkage between UA producers and SFP is currently not feasible because most of urban farmers are subsistent producers and cannot supply beyond their household needs. Even excess producing urban farmers can not formally supply their produces to schools because usually they are not formally registered and do not have TIN. Furthermore, urban farmers usually don't have functional cooperatives or unions, making market linkage even more difficult.

In terms of supporting school gardening, according to key informants from MoE, the support of NGOs is only limited to training and capacity building activities. Usually, they are not interested in implementing concrete and visible interventions.

4.3.6. Summary of the SWOT of SFP in Addis Ababa

Strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Universal coverage of all elementary and pre-formal education public schools in the city - Creates job opportunity to disadvantaged women - Availability of nutrition experts in schools to support the program - Parents' engagement as SFP committee members - Market linkage with UCCAs has indirectly reduced program cost - Efforts to standardized meals by developing menus based on locally available food products - Outsourcing of the feeding service has increased efficiency of the program and helped schools to focus on their core business
Weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited dietary quality and diversity of school meals - Food safety and hygiene concerns - Manpower shortage at sub-city and woreda offices to provide technical support to schools - Failure SFPs to cover high school - In ability to engage NGOs effectively in the program
Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment of the AACA to the program - Establishment of separate agency (AACA-SFA) to oversee the implementation of the program - School gardens can improve access of the SFP to fresh, healthy and local foods - School gardens may help students to understand how food is produced
Threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing food price threatening the quality the school meals - In terms of managing operational issues and finance, the program has increased burden on the education system, it also causes loss of teaching time - Many schools have inadequate space to initiate school gardens - Shortage of water to initiate school gardens - Mistrust between the SFA and NGOs implementing SFP

4.4. Situational analysis of UCCAs in Addis Ababa

4.4.1. Description of consumer cooperative associations

In Addis Ababa there are registered 11 unions and 150 urban consumer cooperative associations (UCCAs). Primary cooperatives found within a sub-city form a union. Most UCCAs are established by urban communities living in same villages while few are owned by civil servants working in the same institution. Roughly, there are about ten UCCAs and one union in every sub-city of Addis Ababa. Originally most were formed by the government with the goal of stabilizing the food price in the city, but they evolved into autonomous organizations fully owned and managed by ordinary citizens as shareholders.

The goal of the UCCAs is to provide essential food and other non-food supplies to consumers at lowest cost by creating link with industries, and farmers' cooperatives and unions. Some of them are even involved in the import of commodities from abroad. The associations are also used as platforms by the government to distribute subsidized goods to the public. Items supplied by UCCAs depend on their interest but usually include sugar, oil and wheat flour. Other commodities include pasta, macaroni, legumes, teff, and detergents. UCCAs are for-profit organizations and annually distribute modest dividends to shareholders.

4.4.2. Support provided to consumer cooperative associations

Cooperative associations by law are exempted from income taxes; however, members are required to pay income tax on their dividend. The government through the AACAA Cooperative Agency allocates revolving funds – a short-term credit to procure subsidized food products – to support UCCAs. The organizations can easily repay the credit because the subsidized products are highly demand in the city. Had not been to such supports, many consumer cooperatives would not have survived the turbulent economic situation.

“Consumer associations will collapse if the supply of subsidized goods stops.” Manager of UCCA

“Among 13 consumer associations in the sub city, more than half would collapse if the government stops supplying oil for 2 or 3 more months” Manager of UCCA

The Federal Cooperative Agency (FCA) through its structures at city, sub-city and districts levels, support cooperatives (including UCCAs) during their establishment and function. The agency provides technical support and make sure that they are functioning within their mandate. The technical supports include capacity building trainings to strengthen business

and financial management skills, availing market information and helping to establish linkage with suppliers, and providing free auditing and legal support services. The agency also assists the associations by linking them with other governmental bodies when the need arises. The FCA may also cancel the registration of UCCAs if they are found engaged in financial misconducts and are not function according to their internal regulation. The Agency, along with FDA officers, also conducts regular inspection of food commodities dispensed through the consumer cooperatives to ensure that they are safe for consumption.

However, the structure of the agency suffers from scarcity of resources (e.g., budget, vehicles) to provide coordinated and continuous support to all associations. Accordingly, closer follow-up is only given to selected underperforming associations. On the other hand, the UCCAs that we interviewed reported that they are not getting adequate support from the agency. According to them trainings are rare and not tailored to their needs. Further, UCCAs thought that the government is only working with them to distribute subsidized goods to the public, and not to strengthening their institutional capacity. The frequent staff turnover in the cooperative sector has also limited the support they should get from the government.

4.4.3. Usefulness of consumer cooperatives

Members of urban consumers receive dual benefit as a shareholder and as a customer. The market linkage between agricultural and consumers cooperatives bypasses non-value adding middlemen in the market chain and enabled members to get essential supplies at reasonable price. As consumer cooperatives are exempted from income tax and have smaller profit margins, essential food and non-food items are available from them at a reasonable price.

Over the last two decades, UCCAs have helped their members to navigate the challenging economical situations. Even some UCCAs provide credits to their members by establishing sister saving and credit associations. The price of the commodities supplied by the consumer cooperatives is also well regulated so that it is less liable to seasonal fluctuations. Normally, consumer cooperatives are not allowed to profit more than 5 to 10% of the base price.

“Merchants unreasonably increase food price during the holiday seasons. Yet, the price drops once the consumer associations start to sell the same product. Had not been to them, the price of teff would have exceeded 10,000 birr/quintal” Marketing expert, FCA

Though the primary goal of UCCAs is to serve their members, they also indirectly benefit others. The associations usually receive subsidized food products from the government, first sell to their members, and later to their surrounding communities. UCCA also increase their

accessibility by selling in trade fairs and Sunday markets. Beyond price, products distributed through consumer cooperatives are less likely to be adulterated. The long queues commonly observed behind UCCA shops indicate that their commodities are in demand by the urban dwellers. Some UCCAs parallelly run other services like butcher shops, flour mills, kindergartens, cafeteria, and recreation facilities. UCCAs also created thousands of jobs specially for women. The profitability of the UCCAs is highly divergent and depends on the performance of their management committee. Many are not effectively serving their members and the public due to mismanagement, and corruption.

“There are better performing cooperatives, while others are involved in malpractices including corruption. I think we need to take some radical steps” Key informant from FCA

4.4.4. Challenges of consumer cooperative associations

The major challenge in the routine activity of UCCAs is shortage of capital to meet the demand of their customers. Though the government is assisting them through establishing revolving fund, most have inadequate budget to run their activities. Therefore, consumer cooperatives frequently fail to adequately supply subsidized goods, leading to mistrust among their customers. Their modest profit margins and inflation are also threatening their existence. Many UCCAs are afraid to take financial risk because their capital is limited.

“The challenge we are facing is that, the demand for food products supplied by the consumer associations is high but they could not supply enough due to capital deficits.” Key informant from cooperatives office at sub-city level

Urban consumer cooperatives, unlike the rural farmers' cooperatives, do not own meaningful infrastructure like working offices, shops and stores. Most associations are working in temporarily spaces provided by the government. Key informants also complained that the government is not adequately supporting them in terms of providing land so that they can construct their own warehouses and trade centers. They also have limited access to loan and credit services from formal financial institutions because they don't own infrastructures that can be used as collaterals.

“The associations frequently ask for credit services but they can't do that, because they don't have collaterals.” Key informant from cooperatives office at sub-city level

In a typical UCCA, routine activities are run by a management committee delegated by the general assembly. The performance of the UCCAs is highly dependent on the efficiency of

the management committee. According to key informants from FCA, most committees function sub-optimally due to high turnover, lack of sense of ownership, internal conflict, shortage of educated and skilled members, and gaps in financial and administrative skills. Most members are part-timers who work for free. Many consumer cooperatives are poorly managed to the extent that the actual share of individual members is unknown.

Consumer cooperatives have bureaucratic working system that limits their flexibility in the dynamic market environment. Mechanism for admission of new members also lacks clarity. The committees usually also have poor human resource management skills, so their employees may not be regularly available on their duty and don't provide service with good quality. Urban cooperatives have low salary structure for their employees and are struggling to retain their workforce. Sometimes, due to financial constraints, the associations fail to regularly pay salary to their employees.

“One of their strengths is that they sell subsidized products as per the price-cap set by the government. Their weakness is, they don't give quality service like other merchants do.”

Marketing expert, FCA

Though one of the advantages of the UCCAs is to bypass non-value adding middlemen, in practice many administrators work with such brokers. They also have weak internal control mechanism and are prone to theft and corruption. Specially food products subsidized by the government are usually liable to bribery because they can be marketed at much higher price at private shops. Due to corruption, subsidized items distributed by the government to UCCAS sometimes end up in the hands of retailers. Ordinary members of the associations usually avoid administrative positions while others take the positions for their individual interests. As reported by officials from the cooperative agency and ordinary cooperative members, many members of the managing committee are heavily corrupted.

“The biggest challenge of consumer cooperatives is leadership skill gaps. Mostly, people want to lead the associations for their illegitimate personal benefits” Key informant from cooperatives office at sub-city level

“Individuals lobby shareholders to get selected as a member of the committee. They know that, they will ultimately benefit from the corruption” Member of UCCA

As stated above, cooperative agency supports consumer cooperatives by providing market informant and establishing market linkage with suppliers. In this regard common challenges

are lack of timely market information, and failure of suppliers to provide commodities as per the agreement. Many suppliers also prefer to do business with individual merchants than UCCAs, so that they can easily negotiate illegal terms (e.g., not issuing receipts) to evade tax.

“After we signed formal agreement with suppliers, when we ask for the product, they simply say they don’t have it” UCCA member

Though cooperative associations are independent entities, local politicians interfere in their internal affairs. For instance, politicians indirectly force UCCAs to make donation for causes they don’t believe in. Unions also exercise a strong control over their UCCAs and inadvertently compromise their autonomy. Unions usually establish market linkage on behalf of their primary cooperatives, and some of the UCCAs that we interviewed argued that unions only want to maximize their own benefit and are not doing enough to protect the interests of UCCAs. Some of the UCCAs considered unions as barriers for direct market linkage with suppliers. Sometimes unions are also involved in corruption, and force or misguide UCCAs to purchased sub-standard products.

“We donated twice for the Renaissance Dam, then to the displaced people, and then to the defense force. If this was a private organization, the owner would have definitely said no! How can an association develop this way?” Member of UCCA

“For instance, we may buy 1 kg teff for 50 birrs from the union, while we can buy it for 48 birr directly from farmers.” Manager of UCCA

Though consumer associations have several members and cover large share of the population, as a market outlet their access to the urban population is not universal. Accordingly, when the government distributes subsidized products to the public, more than half is delivered through individual merchants because UCCAs are not universally accessible to the public.

The cooperative sector functions through extension workers deployed at grassroots level. Reportedly, cooperative workers are underprivileged in terms of incentives as compared to other frontline workers, and are largely demotivated. On the contrary the expanding cooperatives training in the public universities in Ethiopia has helped to increase the availability of competent cooperative professionals in the country.

4.4.5. Gender and social inclusion

As reported by the FCA, women are expected to make up at least 30% the management committee of any UCCA. According to the key informants, most of the employees of the consumer cooperatives are women. As any organization, affirmative measures are also given to women during employment. In line with the universal cooperative principles, the national cooperative proclamation affirms that UCCAs have to be free of any bias and need to actively engage socially disadvantaged members of community. In practice most of the members of the consumer cooperative associations are economically modest urban dwellers.

Many UCCAs are discharging their corporate responsibility by financially supporting socially disadvantaged members of their community (like orphans, the elderly, and the destitute). Associations with better financial standings, also support construction of infrastructures like roads, and schools within their catchment population. As presented earlier, UCCAs supply women's group engaged in SFP with teff, rice, sugar and oil at cheaper price. MoWSA is also distributing food rations to lactating women using the UCCAs platform.

4.4.6. Role of UCCAs in supplying diversified food to the urban poor

The FCA has smooth working relationship with the agriculture sector. UCCAs have also forged market linkage with farmers' unions and cooperatives. This experience can be used as a springboard to establish linkage with urban farmers as well. In this regard, the major bottleneck is that, most urban farmers are subsistent producers and they have little to market through the UCCAs. Excess producers also have established customers within their vicinity, so marketing their produces through UCCAs is not their priority. Urban farmers don't have functional cooperatives, and for the UCCAs negotiating with individual farmers is not practically feasible. However, sometimes (especially during the holiday seasons) UCCAs purchase produces of urban farmers (e.g., eggs) at cheaper price and sell to their members.

"I don't think there are urban farmers in the first place" Manager of UCCA

"If consumer cooperatives establish market linkage with urban farmers, that will reduce their cost of transportation and be able to access quality foods at fair prices. However, I don't think urban farmers can produce adequate food that can suffice the current market needs of UCCAs" Key informant from cooperatives office at sub-city level

Even if the primary role of UCCAs is to benefit its members, the platform could have multiple benefits to the urban food systems by making healthy and diversified food accessible

at reasonable price. However, in most of the cases the activity of UCCAs is limited to distribution of government subsidized commodities like sugar, oil and wheat flour. UCCAs are not frequently involved in the marketing of healthy and nutritious foods like fruits and vegetables for various reasons. Firstly, they assume that trading fruits and vegetables is risky and nonprofitable due to the perishable nature of the products. Secondly, they don't have standard facilities to store fruits and vegetables safely. Further, their procurement system is usually prolonged make perishable food products liable to food wastage. This also increases the financial risk of UCCAs that normally have low profit margins.

"We encourage and train UCCAs to market fruits and vegetables. However, we have not been successful so far. As vegetables and fruits can easily get rotten, it would be too risky and unprofitable to them." Key informant from cooperatives office at sub-city level

"If consumer cooperatives have to market fruits and vegetables, they should have cold rooms and receive training" Key informant from cooperatives office at sub-city level

Even though, there are UCCAs which market fruits and vegetables, their number is limited. The associations that had the experience of trading fruits and vegetables complained that unlike other food products like grains, the price and supply of fruits and vegetables is highly unstable, and this increases their financial risk.

"Unions sometimes bring poor quality and perished onions, which are difficult to sell." Member of UCCA

"I remember once we bought bulk of onion at 35 birr per kg price. The next day the price dropped to 28 birr. We ended up in a total loss" Manager of a UCCA

Most consumer cooperative associations are involved in direct marketing of products without adding value. Many sell raw grains while they can add value by grinding or producing bakery products. Blockades of UCCAs for adding value to agricultural products are financial constraints, lack of working space, poor commitment, and weak strategic planning.

"One major weakness of consumer associations is that they don't add value to the products they sell." Manager of a UCCA

"We don't provide flour milling service. So, consumers would prefer to buy teff from a private mill because it is going to cost them a lot to buy teff from us and transport it elsewhere to get it milled." Manager of a UCCA

4.4.7. Summary of the SWOT of consumer cooperatives in Addis Ababa

Strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Playing key role in stabilizing of price of essential supplies including food items by establishing direct linkage with producers including industries, suppliers, farmers' unions and cooperatives - Benefits the economically disadvantaged members and customers - Benefits members both as owner (shareholder) and customer of the UCCAs - Have the experience of distributing commodities subsidized by the government
Weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In adequate capital to run their routine activities - Poor internal finance and administrative control mechanisms making them prone to corruption and theft - Poor human and financial resources management within UCCAs - Incompetent leadership - Afraid to take financial risks due to shortage of capital - Protracted and bureaucratic procurement system - Most don't own standard food storage facility
Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actively supported by the government through exempting them from income taxes and creating access to short term credits through revolving fund - Consumer cooperatives are widely regarded as discount outlets by the urban population and their products are highly demanded - The cooperative sector has well established linkage with the agriculture sector including farmers' unions and cooperatives - Close follow-up and support by the FCA
Threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing inflation that threatens the existence of UCCAs - Considerable proportion of the urban population is not covered (not member of) by UCCAs - Limited access to saving and credit services from formal financial institutions - Most of the income of the cooperative cooperatives is dependent on commodities subsidized by the government

5. Conclusion

In recent years UA has enjoyed high-level political attention in Addis Ababa. However, most of the UA activities are being implemented as campaigns, creating sustainability concerns. The establishment of FUADC is a major enabling factor; however, the commission suffers from lack of financial and human resources. Bottlenecks of UA in Addis Ababa include lack of standalone national policy, weak UA extension service, limited access of urban farmers to agricultural inputs, technologies, credit services, land and water. The market size and productivity of UA remains low; however, UA has helped to improve household food security among those who are practicing it. So far only small proportion of urban farmers, especially those engaged in peri-urban agriculture are surplus producers. As the volume of production is low, creating additional market linkage is not the priority of urban farmers.

The uPSNP is helping to reduce poverty and build resilience of the urban poor. The program improves the lives of the poor, promotes saving, and provides diverse livelihood opportunities. The importance of UA for improving household food security of the urban poor has already been acknowledged by the uPSNP. The program encourages beneficiaries to be engaged in UA both before or after graduation from the program. Yet, few successful started UA due to challenges including inadequacy of startup money, scarcity of land and water, lack of technical support, and limited access to agricultural inputs and technologies.

The SFP in Addis Ababa is helping to prevent hunger and improve educational goals among disadvantaged primary school students. However, due to budget shortage, quality of school meals remains modest. The program has also failed to cover public high schools. As witnessed in other regions, school gardening may help to strengthen the HGSFP through improving access to fresh supply of fruits and vegetables. Conversely, the success of school gardening in Addis Ababa is modest, because primary schools in the city do not have adequate space to support UA. In schools that had experience of school gardening, scarcity of water and lack of personnel to take care of the farm, limited production. One major challenge that hinders interlink between UA and SFP is low productivity of school gardens. Market linkage between UA and SFP is currently not feasible because most of urban farmers are subsistent producers and cannot supply beyond their household needs.

UCCAs are helping to make essential food and non-food commodities accessible to urban consumers at lowest cost by creating linkage with industries, and farmers' union. However, lack of budget, and inefficiency in their management limited their usefulness. UCCAs usually

are not engaged in the marketing of fruits and vegetables due to lack of standard storage facility, fear of losses secondary to the supply fluctuations and perishableness of the commodities. UCCAs have established market linkage with rural farmers' unions; however, linkage with urban farmers is challenging for various reasons. Firstly, most urban farmers are subsistent producers and they have little to market through UCCAs. Secondly, excess producers also have established customers, so working with UCCAs is not their priority. Thirdly, urban farmers don't have functional cooperatives, and working with individual farmers is not easy for UCCAs.

6. Recommendations

The best way to forge linkage between UA and SPPs is through supporting PSNP beneficiaries to practice urban agriculture. In this regard, creating strong relationship between the two sectors, and providing better technical assistances to PSNP beneficiaries are required. Schools with large compound size should also be supported to initiate UA using space and water efficient technologies. The IDRC-supported project can help to improve urban agriculture and PSNP linkage in Addis Ababa through: (1)

1. Supporting PSNP beneficiaries to start UA starting from the earlier PW phase.
2. Supporting sub-city level urban PSNP offices to provide quarterly technical support to active PSNP beneficiaries before graduation.
3. Creating enabling platform by which the two programs (PSNP and UA) work together to provide technical and financial support to beneficiaries in coordinated manner.
4. Promoting space-efficient UA technologies like vertical farming and poultry production among PSNP beneficiaries who could not start practicing UA due to land shortage.
5. Promote water-efficient UA technologies like drip irrigation to increase productivity among beneficiaries that started UA.
6. Engaging the MoA in providing technical support for urban farmers including PSNP beneficiaries.

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Annex: Interview guides

<p align="center">Assessing the Situational analysis and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association)</p> <p align="center">Key informant interview guide for assessing situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture (Tool 1.1)</p>
<p>To be used with the experts and department of the agriculture sector at federal & AACA levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AACA UA Office: experts - MoA: Horticulture Department - MoA: Livestock Department - MoA: Food nutrition coordination office - Sub-city agriculture structures
<p>Information and consent:</p> <p><u>Introduction and propose of the study:</u> good morning/Good afternoon. Thank you for the interest to discuss with me today. My name is _____ and I'm working for School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University. Addis Ababa University received grant for conducting "Assessing the situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association)" from International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada and as part of this research, we are undertaking a qualitative study. The study will help us to understand the existing situation and feasibility of integrated urban agriculture with selected social protection programs. You are selected for this interview purposely based on your expertise in the area. We would very much appreciate your participation in this study.</p> <p><u>Procedures:</u> if you agree to take part in this study, we will discuss about the aforementioned issue for about 50-60 minutes. I will also audio record the interview so that I will be able to transcribe it later on.</p> <p><u>Risks and Benefits:</u> we believe there are no risks to you from participating in this study. You will not be directly benefited from taking part in the study. However, your participation will help us to better understand the circumstances around the existing situation and the feasibility of integrated urban agriculture. It will also help us to and may help to design programs and interventions to address the bottlenecks of the urban agriculture.</p> <p><u>Compensation:</u> you will not be paid for participating in this study.</p> <p><u>Confidentiality:</u> we will keep your answers confidentially. We will not share your answers with others who are not member of the research/situational assessment team. Your name and other facts that might help people recognize you will not appear when we present this study to others or publish its results. Your recorded voice will be stored on password-protected computers.</p> <p><u>Voluntary participation and withdrawal:</u> Taking part in this study is voluntary. You can choose not to take part in the study or ask us to leave, and if you do agree to participate, you can stop the interview at any time or skip any questions that you do not want to answer. In addition, after finishing the interview, you can refuse to have your answers included in the study.</p> <p><u>Contact person:</u> if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them. Moreover, in case you ever want to contact the principal investigator, you should call +251916822815 and ask for Dr. Samson Gebremedhin. You can also contact the ethics committee that approved the project through: tel _____.</p> <p><u>Comprehension:</u> Do you have any questions about the interview? If so, I will be glad to explain.</p> <p><u>Consent:</u> if you wish to participate in this study, please sign here: _____ Date: _____</p> <p><i>Reminder for the interviewer: If written consent is given, proceed to the interview. If she/he is not willing to take part in the study, thank her/him and discontinue the interview.</i></p>

Basic information about the key informant interview

Name of the interviewer: _____

Name of the note taker: _____

Locality (federal, AA city): _____ / _____

Date of interview: _____

Venue of interview: _____

Beginning and ending times of the interview: _____ / _____

Basic profile of the respondent

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Education: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____

Interview guide questions

1. How do you describe the existing policy environment and institutional arrangement for implementing urban agriculture in Ethiopia/AACA?
 - Probe: Existence of supportive policy landscape (standalone strategy or inclusion in other existing strategic documents)
 - Probe: institutional arrangement
 - Probe: what specific strategies and interventions are in place to support urban agriculture in AACA/Ethiopia?
 - Probe: do you think that urban agriculture has received adequate policy attention so far?
 - Probe: how best are the existing policies and strategies being implemented?
2. How do you describe the existing practice and trend of urban agriculture in AACA or urban areas in Ethiopia?
 - Probe: how the UA is being practiced and implemented
 - Probe: role of different UA option: backyard gardening, school gardening, peri-urban agriculture
 - Probe: what do the farmers produce in terms of type and quantity? In addition, how do they produce?
 - Probe: The distribution of the UA production (e.g., sub-cities)?
 - Probe: what is the status of urban production (whether increasing or as usual)?
3. How do you describe the role of urban agriculture in improving the availability, and access for urban consumers and transforming the food systems in Ethiopia in general, in Addis Ababa city in particular?
 - Probe: what is the role of UA in poverty reduction
 - Probe: What is the role of UA food security improvement?
 - Probe: What is the role of UA in urban waste management and recycling?
 - Probe: What is the role of UA in urban greening and job creation?
 - Probe: What is the role UA in modernizing urban production process?
4. How do you describe the financial, technical and other supports being provided to urban farmers?
 - Probe: land, agricultural inputs
 - Probe: agricultural extension service and technologies
 - Probe: training, technical advice
 - Probe: financial support including saving and credit

- Probe: Market linkage
 - Probe: Are there support to diversify the production systems such specialized production systems, use of mixed production systems and others?
 - Probe: System establishment and strengthening of urban farmer organizations
 - Probe: what are the major factors that positively affect support to urban agriculture?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that negatively affect support to urban agriculture?
5. How do describe the current/existing market linkage of urban agriculture in improving access to food in Addis Ababa?
- Probe: How Producers gain access to urban land?
 - Probe: Access to fresh, nutritious food for poor consumers)?
 - Probe: Supply of urban food markets, street food and food processing?
6. Can you tell us the strength and weakness of the AACA structure, implementation and process?
- Probe: The presence of the encourage direction.
 - Probe: Established UA office and structure in the city.
 - Probe: availability of agricultural products and technologies
 - Probe: availability of enough and fertile land for UA
 - Probe: Labour cost of production/adequacy of manpower
 - Probe: ownership of agricultural land to start business
 - Probe: Presence of trained technician/exerts for implementation
 - Probe: availability of many subsistence farmers
 - Probe: In improving production varieties in the city
7. Can you tell us the current challenges of urban agriculture in AACA/Ethiopia?
- Probe: From agriculture inputs to market linkage
 - Politicization of urban agriculture
 - Unhealthy production scheme for both animals and vegetables farms, food safety concerns
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address the existing challenges?
 - Probe: What need to be done to anticipate the future similar and related challenges?
8. As an expert working here, what are the major opportunities and threats to the urban agriculture systems and their function in the city? In the other similar cities in the countries?
- Probe: Policy environment/lack of policy attention
 - Probe: Agricultural system readiness and support
 - Probe: Stakeholder's engagement in the urban agriculture?
 - Probe: Production-cultivate on land reserved for construction purposes, until the project starts.
 - Probe: Transportation costs compared to products coming from rural-based agriculture
 - Probe: Access to additional source of income and job opportunity
 - Probe: Increased access to fresh vegetables and cost of harvesting
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to sustain existing opportunities and make use of them?
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address and reduce these threats?
9. Given the situation discussed above, can you tell us how can urban production be increased and diversified to address the purpose of UA and to improve access of urban community particular urban poor and smallholders? Who are responsible for the enhancement of urban agriculture production?

- Probe: The use of public spaces to grow more food?
- Probe: Importance of awareness creation and agricultural extension strategies?
- Probe: Who should engage to improve UA production?
- Probe: Do we need cultural shift to improve production?
- Probe: who are you major stakeholders and partners of city UA?
- Probe: How is community engagement and active participation? Creation of city-supported resources?
- Probe: Which specific areas need support to increase production?

10. How can the urban agriculture initiative can be linked with social protection programs to increase the accessibility of the urban poor to healthy and sustainable food systems:

- Probe: Integration with PSNP, school feeding program, urban consumers cooperatives
- Probe: Mechanisms to improve market linkage
- Probe: Voucher system
- Probe: What other innovative modalities to increase access to consumers do you recommend?
- Probe: What are the challenges for improving access of urban poor to healthy foods produced through the urban agriculture initiative?

11. How do you describe the gender and social inclusiveness of the urban agriculture of the city?

- Probe: what is being done to equitably benefit men and women through urban agriculture
- Probe: What is being done to make the urban agriculture initiative pro-poor
- Probe: Benefiting farmers displaced by the expansion of cities
- Probe: Social equity in terms of access to resources, market linkage, agricultural inputs

12. Before I conclude, is there anything you would like to add or recommend?

<p align="center">Assessing the Situational analysis and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association)</p> <p align="center">Key informant interview guide for assessing situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture (Tool 1.2)</p>
<p>To be used with the experts and department of the agriculture sector at federal & AACA levels:</p> <p>- Urban farmers</p>
<p>Information and consent:</p>
<p><u>Introduction and propose of the study:</u> good morning/Good afternoon. Thank you for the interest to discuss with me today. My name is_____ and I'm working for School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University. Addis Ababa University received grant for conducting "Assessing the situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association) from urban farmers perspectives" from International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada and as part of this research, we are undertaking a qualitative study. The study will help us to understand the existing situation and feasibility of integrated urban agriculture with selected social protection programs. You are selected for this interview purposely based on your expertise in the area. We would very much appreciate your participation in this study.</p> <p><u>Procedures:</u> if you agree to take part in this study, we will discuss about the aforementioned issue for about 50-60 minutes. I will also audio record the interview so that I will be able to transcribe it later on.</p> <p><u>Risks and Benefits:</u> we believe there are no risks to you from participating in this study. You will not be directly benefited from taking part in the study. However, your participation will help us to better understand the circumstances around the existing situation and the feasibility of integrated urban agriculture. It will also help us to and may help to design programs and interventions to address the bottlenecks of the urban agriculture.</p> <p><u>Compensation:</u> you will not be paid for participating in this study.</p> <p><u>Confidentiality:</u> we will keep your answers confidentially. We will not share your answers with others who are not member of the research/situational assessment team. Your name and other facts that might help people recognize you will not appear when we present this study to others or publish its results. Your recorded voice will be stored on password-protected computers.</p> <p><u>Voluntary participation and withdrawal:</u> Taking part in this study is voluntary. You can choose not to take part in the study or ask us to leave, and if you do agree to participate, you can stop the interview at any time or skip any questions that you do not want to answer. In addition, after finishing the interview, you can refuse to have your answers included in the study.</p> <p><u>Contact person:</u> if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them. Moreover, in case you ever want to contact the principal investigator, you should call +251916822815 and ask for Dr. Samson Gebremedhin. You can also contact the ethics committee that approved the project through: tel _____.</p> <p><u>Comprehension:</u> Do you have any questions about the interview? If so, I will be glad to explain.</p> <p><u>Consent:</u> if you wish to participate in this study, please sign here: _____ Date: _____</p> <p><i>Reminder for the interviewer: If written consent is given, proceed to the interview. If she/he is not willing to take part in the study, thank her/him and discontinue the interview.</i></p>

Basic information about the key informant interview

Name of the interviewer: _____

Name of the note taker: _____

Locality (AA city): _____/_____

Date of interview: _____

Venue of interview: _____

Beginning and ending times of the interview: _____/_____

Basic profile of the respondent

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Education: _____

Interview guide questions

1. How do you describe your urban agriculture practice from input to marketing?
 - Probe: What motivated you to be engaged in urban agriculture?
 - Probe: What specific type of urban agricultural practice are you engaged in?
 - Probe: Scale of production (for self-consumption, for marketing)
 - Probe: Marketing strategies
 - Probe: is that profitable or does it save you money? how do you rate the economic benefit of your urban agriculture practice?
2. Do you use any technology in your urban farming? What technologies are you currently using?
 - Probe: What made it difficult or easier to use agricultural technologies like Water saving technologies like vertical farming, Aquaponics system, Hydroponics (growing plants without soil)
 - Probe: what support did you receive in terms of improving your access to technology
3. How do you describe the support that you are being received from concerned boded in relation to your urban farming?
 - Probe: Agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, agricultural chemicals)
 - Probe: Land and water sources
 - Probe: Training, agricultural extension and technology
 - Probe: training, technical advice
 - Probe: Are there support that help you to diversify the production such specialized production systems, use of mixed production systems and others?
4. How do you describe the financial support being provided to urban farmers in your setting?
 - Probe: access to saving and credit schemes
 - Probe: support in agricultural financing and marketing dimensions
5. How do you commonly market your urban agriculture products? What are your challenges in this regard?
 - Probe: Diversity of market outlets
 - Probe: support from different partners to establish market linkage
 - Probe: what opportunities and challenges do you face in marketing of urban agriculture products?
 - Probe: practice of adding value to urban agriculture products
6. What made it easier or difficult for you to practice urban agriculture in Addis Ababa?

- Probe: what were the major enable for practicing urban agriculture
- Probe: what stops you from growing more food products than you do?

7. What were the major challenges that you encountered while practicing urban agriculture?

- Probe: Lack of technical support from concerned bodies
- Probe: Lack of profitability
- Probe: Lack of market linkage)
- Probe: Lack of enough space/land)
- Probe: Lack of access to water
- Probe: Lack of access to credit
- Probe: Lack of appropriate technology
- Probe: Shortage of other inputs

8. What is your plan with your urban agriculture practice?

- Probe: reasons to abandon or scale down UA practice
- Probe: reasons to expand or diversify urban agriculture practice/production

9. Do you recommend others in your area to practice urban agriculture in Addis Ababa? Why or why not?

- What should be improved to practice urban agriculture more in the city?

10. Before I conclude, is there anything you would like to add or recommend?

<p align="center">Assessing the Situational analysis and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association)</p> <p align="center">Key informant interview guide for assessing situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with uPSNP (Tool 1.4)</p>
<p>To be used with the experts and department of the agriculture sector at federal & city levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food Security Coordination Directorate, MOA: expert - Food Security Coordination Directorate, AACA: experts - Ministry of labour and social affairs - Sub-city/woreda FSCD structures
<p>Information and consent:</p> <p><u>Introduction and propose of the study:</u> good morning/Good afternoon. Thank you for the interest to discuss with me today. My name is _____ and I'm working for School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University. Addis Ababa University received grant for conducting "Assessing the situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP)" from International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada and as part of this research, we are undertaking a qualitative study. The study will help us to understand the existing situation and feasibility of integrated urban agriculture with selected social protection programs. You are selected for this interview purposely based on your expertise in the area. We would very much appreciate your participation in this study.</p> <p><u>Procedures:</u> if you agree to take part in this study, we will discuss about the aforementioned issue for about 50-60 minutes. I will also audio record the interview so that I will be able to transcribe it later on.</p> <p><u>Risks and Benefits:</u> we believe there are no risks to you from participating in this study. You will not be directly benefited from taking part in the study. However, your participation will help us to better understand the circumstances around the existing situation and the feasibility of integrated urban agriculture. It will also help us to and may help to design programs and interventions to address the bottlenecks of the urban agriculture.</p> <p><u>Compensation:</u> you will not be paid for participating in this study.</p> <p><u>Confidentiality:</u> we will keep your answers confidentially. We will not share your answers with others who are not member of the research/situational assessment team. Your name and other facts that might help people recognize you will not appear when we present this study to others or publish its results. Your recorded voice will be stored on password-protected computers.</p> <p><u>Voluntary participation and withdrawal:</u> Taking part in this study is voluntary. You can choose not to take part in the study or ask us to leave, and if you do agree to participate, you can stop the interview at any time or skip any questions that you do not want to answer. In addition, after finishing the interview, you can refuse to have your answers included in the study.</p> <p><u>Contact person:</u> if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them. Moreover, in case you ever want to contact the principal investigator, you should call +251916822815 and ask for Dr. Samson Gebremedhin. You can also contact the ethics committee that approved the project through: tel _____.</p> <p><u>Comprehension:</u> Do you have any questions about the interview? If so, I will be glad to explain.</p> <p><u>Consent:</u> if you wish to participate in this study, please sign here: _____ Date: _____</p> <p><u>Reminder for the interviewer:</u> If written consent is given, proceed to the interview. If she/he is not willing to take part in the study, thank her/him and discontinue the interview.</p>

Basic information about the key informant interview

Name of the interviewer: _____

Name of the note taker: _____

Locality (federal, AA city): _____ / _____

Date of interview: _____

Venue of interview: _____

Beginning and ending times of the interview: _____ / _____

Basic profile of the respondent

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Education: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____

Interview guide questions

1. How do you describe the existing situation of uPSNP in your community?
 - Probe: The uPSNP practice and implementation?
 - Probe: How effective the facilitation of market linkage and uPSNP?
 - Probe: Who are the PSNP beneficiaries?
 - Probe: what do the beneficiaries of PSNP get access services?
 - Probe: initiatives to make uPSNP nutrition-sensitive
2. How do describe the role of uPSNP in improving the availability, and access for urban consumers and transforming the food related change in Addis Ababa city?
 - Probe: what is the role of uPSNP in poverty reduction
 - Probe: What is the role of uPSNP in food security improvement?
 - Probe: What is the role in boosting financial inclusion (cash plus), encouraging savings and providing skills?
 - Probe: What is the role uPSNP in improving urban poor nutrition sense food?
3. How do you describe the financial and technical support being provided to uPSNP beneficiaries?
 - Probe: Would you tell us the support you provide to PSNP beneficiaries?
 - Probe: Training, technical advice, services and credit provided to urban poor?
 - Probe: How do you evaluate the adequacy of support extended to PSNP beneficiaries?
 - Probe: What are the hindrances and drawbacks related to the service/support provided?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that positively affect support to uPSNP?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that negatively affect support to uPSNP?
 - Probe: What would you suggest for the improvisation of support?
4. How do describe the current/existing market linkage of between uPSNP and urban agriculture in improving access to food in Addis Ababa?
 - Probe: conditional and unconditional cash transfers
 - Probe: Access to fresh, nutritious food for consumers)?
 - Probe: In maintaining food consumption adequacy
 - Probe: any other related market related issues?
5. Can you tell us the strength and weakness of the Addis Ababa uPSNP implementation and process?
 - Probe: The presence established office and structure in the city.
 - Probe: Presence of trained technician/exerts for implementation?

- Probe: Presence cooperative that include smallholder farmers including PSNP beneficiaries?
 - Probe: Effectiveness of facilitating market linkage and access to market for PSNP beneficiaries?
 - Probe: what are critical areas of deficiencies or weakness in systems and controls that need recommendations for their improvement?
 - Probe: are there weaknesses in existing extension services/credit experiences?
6. As an expert working here, what are the major opportunities and threats to the uPSNP systems and their function in the Addis Ababa city?
- Probe: Conducive policy landscape
 - Probe: Stakeholder's engagement in the uPSNP and multi sectoral collaboration
 - Probe: Resources and budget
 - Probe: Unmet demand
 - Probe: Presence/absence of capacity building.
 - Probe: Access/lack of access to additional source of income
 - Probe: Do we need cultural shift to improve production
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to sustain existing opportunities and make use of them?
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address and reduce these threats?
7. How can the access of the urban poor (e.g., PSNP beneficiaries) to health foods (fruits, vegetables, nutrient rich animal source foods etc.) be improved?
- Probe: What is working well and what is not to increase access of urban poor?
 - Probe: What other innovative modalities to increase access of urban poor to health foods?
 - Probe: What are the challenges in improving access of urban poor to healthy food?
 - Probe: what are the influencing factors to improve the uPSNP clients to access the market?
 - Probe: What is the opportunity that helps to increase access for the uPSNP beneficiaries?
8. How can uPSNP be linked/integrated with urban agriculture to improve household food insecurity and access of the urban food to healthy foods? Do you think that there is a possibility of establishing linkage between urban agriculture and urban PSNP?
- Probe: linking urban agriculture producers and urban PSNP beneficiaries through voucher system
 - Probe: providing PSNP beneficiaries with technical and financial supports to initiate urban agriculture or to increase/diversify production
 - Probe: do you think such linkages are financially feasible?
 - Probe: what are the relevant stakeholders/partners, what would be the perception and prerequisite of the partners including your office?
9. How do you describe the current challenges uPSNP and its market linkage in Ethiopia?
- Probe: what are existing challenges of the uPSNP of AACA and how these challenges be addressed?
 - Financial challenges and high donor's dependency
 - Lack of appropriate technical support
 - Client selection and appropriate cash transfer
 - Sustainable Community assets building and access to social services enhanced
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address the existing challenges?
 - Probe: What are the gaps and challenges you have noticed in terms of market linkage and access?

- Probe: what are hindrances during providing support/services?
- Probe: What need to be done to anticipate the future similar and related challenges?

10. How do you describe the gender and social inclusiveness of the urban PSNP of the AACCA city?

- Probe: what is being done to equitably benefit men and women through urban PSNP?
- Probe: What is being done to make the urban PSNP initiative pro-poor?
- Probe: Is designing of urban PSNP respond to the unique needs of farmers displaced by the expansion of cities?
- Probe: Social equity in terms of access to resources and market linkage.

11. Before I conclude, is there anything you would like to add or recommend?

<p align="center">Assessing the Situational analysis and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association)</p> <p align="center">Key informant interview guide for assessing situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture (Tool 1.3)</p>
<p>To be used with the experts and department of the agriculture sector at federal & AACA levels:</p> <p>- NGOs working on UA</p>
<p>Information and consent:</p>
<p><u>Introduction and propose of the study:</u> good morning/Good afternoon. Thank you for the interest to discuss with me today. My name is_____ and I'm working for School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University. Addis Ababa University received grant for conducting "Assessing the situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association)" from International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada and as part of this research, we are undertaking a qualitative study. The study will help us to understand the existing situation and feasibility of integrated urban agriculture with selected social protection programs. You are selected for this interview purposely based on your expertise in the area. We would very much appreciate your participation in this study.</p> <p><u>Procedures:</u> if you agree to take part in this study, we will discuss about the aforementioned issue for about 50-60 minutes. I will also audio record the interview so that I will be able to transcribe it later on.</p> <p><u>Risks and Benefits:</u> we believe there are no risks to you from participating in this study. You will not be directly benefited from taking part in the study. However, your participation will help us to better understand the circumstances around the existing situation and the feasibility of integrated urban agriculture. It will also help us to and may help to design programs and interventions to address the bottlenecks of the urban agriculture.</p> <p><u>Compensation:</u> you will not be paid for participating in this study.</p> <p><u>Confidentiality:</u> we will keep your answers confidentially. We will not share your answers with others who are not member of the research/situational assessment team. Your name and other facts that might help people recognize you will not appear when we present this study to others or publish its results. Your recorded voice will be stored on password-protected computers.</p> <p><u>Voluntary participation and withdrawal:</u> Taking part in this study is voluntary. You can choose not to take part in the study or ask us to leave, and if you do agree to participate, you can stop the interview at any time or skip any questions that you do not want to answer. In addition, after finishing the interview, you can refuse to have your answers included in the study.</p> <p><u>Contact person:</u> if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them. Moreover, in case you ever want to contact the principal investigator, you should call +251916822815 and ask for Dr. Samson Gebremedhin. You can also contact the ethics committee that approved the project through: tel _____.</p> <p><u>Comprehension:</u> Do you have any questions about the interview? If so, I will be glad to explain.</p> <p><u>Consent:</u> if you wish to participate in this study, please sign here: _____ Date: _____</p> <p><i>Reminder for the interviewer: If written consent is given, proceed to the interview. If she/he is not willing to take part in the study, thank her/him and discontinue the interview.</i></p>

Basic information about the key informant interview

Name of the interviewer: _____

Name of the note taker: _____

Locality (federal, AA city): _____ / _____

Date of interview: _____

Venue of interview: _____

Beginning and ending times of the interview: _____ / _____

Basic profile of the respondent

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Education: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____

Interview guide questions

1. How do you describe the existing policy environment and institutional arrangement for implementing urban agriculture in Ethiopia/AACA?
 - Probe: Existence of supportive policy landscape (standalone strategy or inclusion in other existing strategic documents)
 - Probe: what specific strategies and interventions are in place to support urban agriculture in Ethiopia?
 - Probe: what specific strategies and interventions are in place to support urban agriculture in AACA/Ethiopia?
 - Probe: do you think that urban agriculture has received adequate policy attention so far?
 - Probe: how best are the existing policies and strategies being implemented?
2. How do you describe the role of urban agriculture in improving the availability, and access for urban consumers and transforming the food systems in Ethiopia in general, in Addis Ababa city in particular?
 - Probe: what is the role of UA in poverty reduction
 - Probe: What is the role of UA food security improvement?
 - Probe: What is the role of UA in urban waste management and recycling?
 - Probe: What is the role of UA in urban greening and job creation?
 - Probe: What is the role UA in modernizing urban production process?
3. Can you tell us what your organization is doing to advance urban agricultural practice in AACA/Ethiopia?
 - Probe: development of relevant guidelines and programs
 - Probe: supports being given to urban farmers (extension service, technology, agricultural inputs, marketing)
 - Probe: training and capacity development
 - Probe: Increasing access to agricultural extension service and technologies
 - Probe: financial support including saving and credit
 - Probe: System establishment and strengthening of urban farmer organizations
 - Probe: what are the major factors that positively affect support to urban agriculture?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that negatively affect support to urban agriculture?
4. How do describe the current/existing market linkage of urban agriculture in improving access to food in Addis Ababa?

- Probe: How Producers gain access to urban land?
 - Probe: Access to fresh, nutritious food for poor consumers)?
 - Probe: Supply of urban food markets, street food and food processing?
5. How do describe the strength and weakness of the AACA structure, implementation and process from your organization experience?
- Probe: The presence of the encourage direction and established structure in the city.
 - Probe: availability of agricultural products and technologies
 - Probe: availability of enough and fertile land for UA
 - Probe: Presence of trained technician/exerts for implementation
 - Probe: availability of many subsistence farmers
6. How do you describe the current challenges of urban agriculture in AACA/Ethiopia from your organization perspective?
- Probe: From agriculture inputs to market linkage
 - Unhealthy production scheme for both animals and vegetables farms, food safety concerns
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address the existing challenges?
 - Probe: What need to be done to anticipate the future similar and related challenges?
7. As an organization supporting the initiative, what are the major opportunities and threats to the urban agriculture systems and their function in the city? In the other similar cities in the countries?
- Probe: Agricultural system readiness, attention and support
 - Probe: Production-cultivate on land reserved for construction purposes, until the project starts.
 - Probe: Transportation costs compared to products coming from rural-based agriculture
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to sustain existing opportunities and make use of them?
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address and reduce these threats?
8. How do you see the potential and prospects of urban agriculture for supporting healthy and sustainable food systems in Ethiopia?
- Probe: potential for reducing food mils
 - Probe: contribution to stabilize food supply and volatility of food price
 - Probe: job opportunity to the urban poor and disadvantaged women
 - Probe: Importance of awareness creation and agricultural extension strategies?
 - Probe: Do we need cultural shift to improve production?
 - Probe: Which specific areas need support to increase production?
9. How can urban agriculture be transformed and modernized to meet the increasing food need of the urban population, and attain urban food sufficiency and quality?
- Probe: In term of system transformation
 - Probe: Use of appropriate technology
 - Probe: sharing experience from other established system
10. How can the urban agriculture imitative can be linked with social protection programs to increase the accessibility of the urban poor to healthy and sustainable food systems:
- Probe: Integration with PSNP, school feeding program, urban consumers cooperatives
 - Probe: Mechanisms to improve market linkage
 - Probe: Voucher system

- Probe: What other innovative modalities to increase access to consumers do you recommend?
- Probe: What are the challenges for improving access of urban poor to healthy foods produced through the urban agriculture initiative?

11. How do you describe the gender and social inclusiveness of the urban agriculture of the city?

- Probe: what is being done to equitably benefit men and women through urban agriculture
- Probe: What is being done to make the urban agriculture initiative pro-poor
- Probe: Social equity in terms of access to resources, market linkage, agricultural inputs

12. Before I conclude, is there anything you would like to add or recommend?

<p align="center">Assessing the Situational analysis and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association)</p> <p align="center">Key informant interview guide for assessing situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with uPSNP (Tool 1.5)</p>
<p>To be used with the experts and department of the agriculture sector at federal & city levels:</p> <p>- NGOs supporting uPSNP</p>
<p>Information and consent:</p>
<p><u>Introduction and propose of the study:</u> good morning/Good afternoon. Thank you for the interest to discuss with me today. My name is_____ and I'm working for School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University. Addis Ababa University received grant for conducting "Assessing the situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP)" from International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada and as part of this research, we are undertaking a qualitative study. The study will help us to understand the existing situation and feasibility of integrated urban agriculture with selected social protection programs. You are selected for this interview purposely based on your expertise in the area. We would very much appreciate your participation in this study.</p> <p><u>Procedures:</u> if you agree to take part in this study, we will discuss about the aforementioned issue for about 50-60 minutes. I will also audio record the interview so that I will be able to transcribe it later on.</p> <p><u>Risks and Benefits:</u> we believe there are no risks to you from participating in this study. You will not be directly benefited from taking part in the study. However, your participation will help us to better understand the circumstances around the existing situation and the feasibility of integrated urban agriculture. It will also help us to and may help to design programs and interventions to address the bottlenecks of the urban agriculture.</p> <p><u>Compensation:</u> you will not be paid for participating in this study.</p> <p><u>Confidentiality:</u> we will keep your answers confidentially. We will not share your answers with others who are not member of the research/situational assessment team. Your name and other facts that might help people recognize you will not appear when we present this study to others or publish its results. Your recorded voice will be stored on password-protected computers.</p> <p><u>Voluntary participation and withdrawal:</u> Taking part in this study is voluntary. You can choose not to take part in the study or ask us to leave, and if you do agree to participate, you can stop the interview at any time or skip any questions that you do not want to answer. In addition, after finishing the interview, you can refuse to have your answers included in the study.</p> <p><u>Contact person:</u> if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them. Moreover, in case you ever want to contact the principal investigator, you should call +251916822815 and ask for Dr. Samson Gebremedhin. You can also contact the ethics committee that approved the project through: tel _____.</p> <p><u>Comprehension:</u> Do you have any questions about the interview? If so, I will be glad to explain.</p> <p><u>Consent:</u> if you wish to participate in this study, please sign here: _____ Date: _____</p> <p><i>Reminder for the interviewer: If written consent is given, proceed to the interview. If she/he is not willing to take part in the study, thank her/him and discontinue the interview.</i></p>

Basic information about the key informant interview

Name of the interviewer: _____

Name of the note taker: _____

Locality (federal, AA city): _____ / _____

Date of interview: _____

Venue of interview: _____

Beginning and ending times of the interview: _____ / _____

Basic profile of the respondent

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Education: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____

Interview guide questions

1. How do you describe the existing situation of uPSNP in AACA/Ethiopia?
 - Probe: The uPSNP practice and implementation?
 - Probe: How effective the facilitation of market linkage and uPSNP?
 - Probe: what do the beneficiaries of PSNP get access services?
 - Probe: initiatives to make uPSNP nutrition-sensitive
2. How do describe the role of uPSNP in improving the availability, and access for urban consumers and transforming the food related change in Addis Ababa city?
 - Probe: what is the role of uPSNP in poverty reduction
 - Probe: What is the role of uPSNP in food security improvement?
 - Probe: What is the role in boosting financial inclusion (cash plus), encouraging savings and providing skills?
 - Probe: What is the role uPSNP in improving urban poor nutrition sense food?
3. Can you tell us what your organization is doing to improve the implementation and support being provided to uPSNP beneficiaries?
 - Probe: Would you tell us the support you provide to PSNP beneficiaries?
 - Probe: Training, technical advice, services and credit provided to urban poor?
 - Probe: How do you evaluate the adequacy of support extended to PSNP beneficiaries?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that positively affect support to uPSNP?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that negatively affect support to uPSNP?
 - Probe: What would you suggest for the improvisation of support?
4. How do describe the current/existing market linkage of between uPSNP and urban agriculture in improving access to food in Addis Ababa?
 - Probe: conditional and unconditional cash transfers
 - Probe: In maintaining food consumption adequacy
 - Probe: any other related market related issues?
5. How do describe the strength and weakness of the Addis Ababa uPSNP implementation from your organization experience?
 - Probe: The presence established office and structure in the city.
 - Probe: Presence of trained technician/exerts for implementation?
 - Probe: Presence cooperative that include smallholder farmers including PSNP beneficiaries?
 - Probe: what are critical areas of deficiencies or weakness in systems and controls that need

- recommendations for their improvement?
- Probe: are there weaknesses in existing extension services/credit experiences?

6. As an organization supporting the initiative, what are the major opportunities and threats to the uPSNP systems and their function in the Addis Ababa city?

- Probe: Conducive policy landscape
- Probe: Stakeholder's engagement in the uPSNP and multi sectoral collaboration
- Probe: Presence/absence of capacity building and additional income
- Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to sustain existing opportunities?
- Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address and reduce these threats?

7. How can the access of the urban poor (PSNP beneficiaries) to health foods (fruits, vegetables, nutrient rich animal source foods etc.) be improved from your organization experience?

- Probe: What is working well and what is not to increase access of urban poor?
- Probe: What are the challenges in improving access of urban poor to healthy food?
- Probe: what are the influencing factors to improve the uPSNP clients to access the market?
- Probe: What is the opportunity that helps to increase access for the uPSNP beneficiaries?

8. How can uPSNP be linked/integrated with urban agriculture to improve household food insecurity and access of the urban food to healthy foods? Do you think that there is a possibility of establishing linkage between urban agriculture and urban PSNP?

- Probe: linking urban agriculture producers and urban PSNP beneficiaries through voucher system
- Probe: do you think such linkages are financially feasible?
- Probe: what are the relevant stakeholders/partners, what would be the perception and prerequisite of the partners including your office?

9. How do you describe the current challenges uPSNP and its market linkage in Ethiopia?

- Probe: what are existing challenges of the uPSNP of AACA and how these challenges be addressed?
- Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address the existing challenges?
- Probe: What are the gaps and challenges you have noticed in terms of market linkage and access?
- Probe: what are hindrances during providing support/services?
- Probe: What need to be done to anticipate the future similar and related challenges?

10. How do you describe the gender and social inclusiveness of the urban PSNP of the AACA city?

- Probe: what is being done to equitably benefit men and women through urban PSNP?
- Probe: What is being done to make the urban PSNP initiative pro-poor?
- Probe: Social equity in terms of access to resources and market linkage.

11. Before I conclude, is there anything you would like to add or recommend?

Assessing the Situational analysis and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association)
Key informant interview guide for assessing situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with uPSNP (Tool 1.6)

To be used with the experts and department of the agriculture sector at federal & AACA levels:

- Beneficiaries

Information and consent:

Introduction and propose of the study: good morning/Good afternoon. Thank you for the interest to discuss with me today. My name is _____ and I'm working for School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University. Addis Ababa University received grant for conducting "Assessing the situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP)" from International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada and as part of this research, we are undertaking a qualitative study. The study will help us to understand the existing situation and feasibility of integrated urban agriculture with selected social protection programs. You are selected for this interview purposely based on your expertise in the area. We would very much appreciate your participation in this study.

Procedures: if you agree to take part in this study, we will discuss about the aforementioned issue for about 50-60 minutes. I will also audio record the interview so that I will be able to transcribe it later on.

Risks and Benefits: we believe there are no risks to you from participating in this study. You will not be directly benefited from taking part in the study. However, your participation will help us to better understand the circumstances around the existing situation and the feasibility of integrated urban agriculture. It will also help us to and may help to design programs and interventions to address the bottlenecks of the urban agriculture.

Compensation: you will not be paid for participating in this study.

Confidentiality: we will keep your answers confidentially. We will not share your answers with others who are not member of the research/situational assessment team. Your name and other facts that might help people recognize you will not appear when we present this study to others or publish its results. Your recorded voice will be stored on password-protected computers.

Voluntary participation and withdrawal: Taking part in this study is voluntary. You can choose not to take part in the study or ask us to leave, and if you do agree to participate, you can stop the interview at any time or skip any questions that you do not want to answer. In addition, after finishing the interview, you can refuse to have your answers included in the study.

Contact person: if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them. Moreover, in case you ever want to contact the principal investigator, you should call +251916822815 and ask for Dr. Samson Gebremedhin. You can also contact the ethics committee that approved the project through: tel _____.

Comprehension: Do you have any questions about the interview? If so, I will be glad to explain.

Consent: if you wish to participate in this study, please sign here: _____ Date: _____

Reminder for the interviewer: *If written consent is given, proceed to the interview. If she/he is not willing to take part in the study, thank her/him and discontinue the interview.*

Basic information about the key informant interview

Name of the interviewer: _____

Name of the note taker: _____

Locality (federal, AA city): _____ / _____

Date of interview: _____

Venue of interview: _____

Beginning and ending times of the interview: _____ / _____

Basic profile of the respondent

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Education: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____

Interview guide questions

1. How do you describe the practice of uPSNP services that are provided in AACA?
 - Probe: The uPSNP practice and implementation?
 - Probe: What are PSNP services provided?
 - Probe: initiatives to make uPSNP nutrition-sensitive
 - Probe: others related service
2. How do describe the role of uPSNP in improving the availability, and access of food and improving household food insecurity in Addis Ababa city?
 - Probe: what is the role of uPSNP in poverty reduction
 - Probe: What is the role of uPSNP in food security improvement?
 - Probe: What is the role in encouraging savings and providing skills?
 - Probe: Other roles if any?
3. How do you describe the support that you are being received from concerned boded in relation to your uPSNP services?
 - Probe: Would you tell us the support you received related to PSNP?
 - Probe: Training, technical advice, services and credit received?
 - Probe: How do you evaluate the adequacy of support received?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that positively affect support to uPSNP?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that negatively affect support to uPSNP?
4. How do you describe the financial support being provided to uPSNP beneficiaries in your setting?
 - Probe: access to saving and credit schemes
 - Probe: subsidy and cash plus
 - Probe: support in agricultural financing and marketing dimensions
5. What made it easier or difficult for you to receive or to get access to uPSNP in Addis Ababa?
 - Probe: what were the major enabler to get access to uPSNP service?
 - Probe: what are challenges to get access to uPSNP service?
6. What are major challenges you encountered in get access and practicing uPSNP and its market linkage in Ethiopia?
 - Probe: Lack of technical support from concerned bodies
 - Probe: Lack of market linkage)
 - Probe: Lack of access to credit and appropriate technology
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address the challenges?

- Probe: What are the gaps and challenges you have noticed in terms of market linkage and access?
 - Probe: What need to be done to anticipate the future similar and related challenges?
7. As a beneficiary, how do you describe the uPSNP in your setting?
- Probe: Linkages with different available services
 - Probe: urban environmental improvement
 - Probe: Encouraging savings and preparation for investments
 - Probe: Resources and budget
 - Probe: Presence/absence of capacity building.
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to sustain existing opportunities and make use of them?
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address and reduce these threats?
8. How can the access of the urban PSNP beneficiaries to health foods (fruits, vegetables, nutrient rich animal source foods etc.) be improved?
- Probe: What is working well and what is not to increase access of urban poor?
 - Probe: What other innovative modalities to increase access of urban poor to health foods?
 - Probe: What are the challenges in improving access of urban poor to healthy food?
 - Probe: what are the influencing factors to improve the uPSNP clients to access the market?
 - Probe: What is the opportunity that helps to increase access for the uPSNP beneficiaries?
9. How can uPSNP be linked/integrated with urban agriculture to improve household food insecurity and access of the urban food to healthy foods?
- Probe: link of urban agriculture producers and urban PSNP beneficiaries
 - Probe: providing PSNP beneficiaries with technical and financial supports to initiate urban agriculture or to increase/diversify production
 - Probe: what are the relevant stakeholders/partners, what would be the perception and prerequisite of the partners?
10. What is your plan with your urban PSNP practice?
- Probe: reasons to abandon or scale down uPSNP practice
 - Probe: reasons for stopping urban PSNP practice/service benefiting?
11. Do you recommend others in your area to practice urban PSNP in Addis Ababa? Why or why not?
- What should be improved to practice urban agriculture more in the city
12. Before I conclude, is there anything you would like to add or recommend?

Assessing the Situational analysis and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association)
Key informant interview guide for assessing situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with SFP (Tool 1.7)

To be used with the experts and department of the agriculture sector at federal & city levels:

- MoE: experts
- Sub-city/woreda level structures
- Schools with and without urban farms

Information and consent:

Introduction and propose of the study: good morning/Good afternoon. Thank you for the interest to discuss with me today. My name is _____ and I'm working for School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University. Addis Ababa University received grant for conducting "Assessing the situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (SFP)" from International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada and as part of this research, we are undertaking a qualitative study. The study will help us to understand the existing situation and feasibility of integrated urban agriculture with selected social protection programs such as school feeding program. You are selected for this interview purposely based on your expertise in the area. We would very much appreciate your participation in this study.

Procedures: if you agree to take part in this study, we will discuss about the aforementioned issue for about 50-60 minutes. I will also audio record the interview so that I will be able to transcribe it later on.

Risks and Benefits: we believe there are no risks to you from participating in this study. You will not be directly benefited from taking part in the study. However, your participation will help us to better understand the circumstances around the existing situation and the feasibility of integrated urban agriculture. It will also help us to and may help to design programs and interventions to address the bottlenecks of the urban agriculture.

Compensation: you will not be paid for participating in this study.

Confidentiality: we will keep your answers confidentially. We will not share your answers with others who are not member of the research/situational assessment team. Your name and other facts that might help people recognize you will not appear when we present this study to others or publish its results. Your recorded voice will be stored on password-protected computers.

Voluntary participation and withdrawal: Taking part in this study is voluntary. You can choose not to take part in the study or ask us to leave, and if you do agree to participate, you can stop the interview at any time or skip any questions that you do not want to answer. In addition, after finishing the interview, you can refuse to have your answers included in the study.

Contact person: if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them. Moreover, in case you ever want to contact the principal investigator, you should call +251916822815 and ask for Dr. Samson Gebremedhin. You can also contact the ethics committee that approved the project through: tel _____.

Comprehension: Do you have any questions about the interview? If so, I will be glad to explain.

Consent: if you wish to participate in this study, please sign here: _____ Date: _____

Reminder for the interviewer: *If written consent is given, proceed to the interview. If she/he is not willing to take part in the study, thank her/him and discontinue the interview.*

Basic information about the key informant interview

Name of the interviewer: _____

Name of the note taker: _____

Locality (federal, AA city): _____ / _____

Date of interview: _____

Venue of interview: _____

Beginning and ending times of the interview: _____ / _____

Basic profile of the respondent

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Education: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____

Interview guide questions

1. How do you describe the existing situation of school feeding program in the city/school? (what is status of program implementation, school coverage in the cities, existing of school farm)
 - Probe: What is status of program implementation?
 - Probe: Type of SFP and meals prepared to students
 - Probe: institutional arrangement and partners
 - Probe: What is the level of school coverage in the cities?
 - Probe: effectiveness and efficiency of SFP
2. How do you describe the financial and technical support being provided to SFP in the city or to your school?
 - Probe: Would you tell us the support you provide/receive to strengthen school feeding program?
 - Probe: How do you evaluate the adequacy of support extended to SFP?
 - Probe: What are the hindrances and drawbacks related to the service/support provided?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that positively affect support to SFP?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that negatively affect support to SFP?
3. Can you tell us the strength and weakness of the SFP being implemented in AACAA or in your school?
 - Probe: The presence/absence of established office and structure in the city.
 - Probe: The presence of technical support for SFP
 - Probe: Effectiveness of school feeding program in achieving intended goal.
 - Probe: Are the help from school staff realistic?
 - Probe: The support from school administration
 - Probe: Poor coordination of the program and school workload.
 - Probe: what are critical areas of deficiencies or weakness in systems and controls that need recommendations for their improvement?
4. How do you describe the current challenges school feeding program and its market linkage in Ethiopia?
 - Probe: What are the challenges that you faced in implementing school feeding program?
 - In tracking program users and complexity and food distribution.
 - In getting sustainable funding sources
 - In ensuring sustainability of the program
 - Probe: What are the gaps and challenges you have noticed in terms of market linkage and access?

- Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address the existing challenges?
 - Probe: What need to be done to anticipate the future similar and related challenges?
5. As an expert working here, what are the major opportunities and threats to the SFP in the city/ to your school?
- Probe: Policy environment, increasing political attention
 - Probe: food safety and dietary quality concerns
 - Probe: presence/absence of partners, stakeholder's engagement in the SFP? Adequacy of support from partners
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to sustain existing opportunities and make use of them? Financial sustainability
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address and reduce these threats?
 - Probe: Which specific areas need support to improve the program?
6. Based on your expertise, how can we improve the access of SFP beneficiaries to healthy foods (fruits and vegetables)
- Probe: What is working well and what is not to increase access to healthy food?
 - Probe: Is there a facilitated market linkage between producers and schools?
 - Probe: What are the other innovative ways to increase access to healthy food?
 - Probe: what are the influencing factors to improve the SFP and access to healthy food?
 - Probe: What is the opportunity that helps to increase coverage of school feeding program?
7. Do you think that SFP can be linked with UA to improve access to food supply or dietary quality of school meals?
- Probe: linking urban agriculture producers with HGSFP
 - Probe: do you think such linkage is financially feasible?
 - Probe: what are the relevant stakeholders/partners, what would be the perception and prerequisite of the partners including your office?
8. Can schools be engaged in agricultural production activities to support SFP? How is your experience so far?
- Probe: What is working well and what is not to produce food in the school environment? What challenges have you encountered
 - Probe: How do you describe the financial and technical support you received to start school gardens
 - Probe: Importance of such practice (school gardening) to improve dietary quality and food supply to the SFP
 - Probe: What other innovative ways do you recommend increase access of SFP beneficiaries to healthy foods
 - Probe: How can these best practices be scaled to other schools?
9. How do describe the role of urban agriculture in improving the implementation of school feeding program and ensure sustainability the program in Addis Ababa city?
- Probe: Would you describe the role of urban agriculture to enhance school feeding program?
 - Probe: What is role of urban agriculture to improve HGSF Program?
 - Probe: what is the role of urban agriculture in reducing cost of providing school meals?
 - Probe: What is the role of urban agriculture in improving access to food materials?
10. How do describe the current/existing market linkage of between schools that implementing school

feeding program and urban agriculture in improving access to food materials in Addis Ababa?

- Probe: What are existing market linkages?
- Probe: How the existing market linkage are functioning?
- Probe: any other related market related issues?

11. Before I conclude, is there anything you would like to add or recommend?

<p align="center">Assessing the Situational analysis and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association)</p> <p align="center">Key informant interview guide for assessing situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with SFP (Tool 1.8)</p>
<p>To be used with the experts and department of the agriculture sector at federal & city levels:</p> <p>- NGOs supporting SFP</p>
<p>Information and consent:</p>
<p><u>Introduction and propose of the study:</u> good morning/Good afternoon. Thank you for the interest to discuss with me today. My name is _____ and I'm working for School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University. Addis Ababa University received grant for conducting "Assessing the situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (SFP)" from International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada and as part of this research, we are undertaking a qualitative study. The study will help us to understand the existing situation and feasibility of integrated urban agriculture with selected social protection programs such as school feeding program. You are selected for this interview purposely based on your expertise in the area. We would very much appreciate your participation in this study.</p> <p><u>Procedures:</u> if you agree to take part in this study, we will discuss about the aforementioned issue for about 50-60 minutes. I will also audio record the interview so that I will be able to transcribe it later on.</p> <p><u>Risks and Benefits:</u> we believe there are no risks to you from participating in this study. You will not be directly benefited from taking part in the study. However, your participation will help us to better understand the circumstances around the existing situation and the feasibility of integrated urban agriculture. It will also help us to and may help to design programs and interventions to address the bottlenecks of the urban agriculture.</p> <p><u>Compensation:</u> you will not be paid for participating in this study.</p> <p><u>Confidentiality:</u> we will keep your answers confidentially. We will not share your answers with others who are not member of the research/situational assessment team. Your name and other facts that might help people recognize you will not appear when we present this study to others or publish its results. Your recorded voice will be stored on password-protected computers.</p> <p><u>Voluntary participation and withdrawal:</u> Taking part in this study is voluntary. You can choose not to take part in the study or ask us to leave, and if you do agree to participate, you can stop the interview at any time or skip any questions that you do not want to answer. In addition, after finishing the interview, you can refuse to have your answers included in the study.</p> <p><u>Contact person:</u> if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them. Moreover, in case you ever want to contact the principal investigator, you should call +251916822815 and ask for Dr. Samson Gebremedhin. You can also contact the ethics committee that approved the project through: tel _____.</p> <p><u>Comprehension:</u> Do you have any questions about the interview? If so, I will be glad to explain.</p> <p><u>Consent:</u> if you wish to participate in this study, please sign here: _____ Date: _____</p> <p><i>Reminder for the interviewer: If written consent is given, proceed to the interview. If she/he is not willing to take part in the study, thank her/him and discontinue the interview.</i></p>

Basic information about the key informant interview

Name of the interviewer: _____

Name of the note taker: _____

Locality (federal, AA city): _____ / _____

Date of interview: _____

Venue of interview: _____

Beginning and ending times of the interview: _____ / _____

Basic profile of the respondent

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Education: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____

Interview guide questions

1. How do you describe the existing situation of school feeding program in the city/school? (What is status of program implementation, school coverage in the cities, existing of school farm)
 - Probe: What is status of program implementation?
 - Probe: Type of SFP and meals prepared to students
 - Probe: institutional arrangement and partners
 - Probe: What is the level of school coverage in the cities?
 - Probe: effectiveness and efficiency of SFP
2. How do you describe the financial and technical support being provided to SFP to your school by your organization?
 - Probe: Would you tell us the support you provide to strengthen school feeding program?
 - Probe: How do you evaluate the adequacy of support extended to SFP?
 - Probe: What are the hindrances and drawbacks related to the service/support provided?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that positively affect support to SFP?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that negatively affect support to SFP?
3. How do you describe the strength and weakness of the SFP being implemented in AACAA or the schools?
 - Probe: The presence/absence of established office and structure in the city.
 - Probe: The presence of technical support for SFP
 - Probe: Effectiveness of school feeding program in achieving intended goal.
 - Probe: The support from school administration
 - Probe: what are critical areas of deficiencies or weakness in systems and controls that need recommendations for their improvement?
4. How do you describe the current challenges school feeding program and its market linkage in AACAA/Ethiopia?
 - Probe: What are the challenges in implementing school feeding program?
 - In getting sustainable funding sources
 - In ensuring sustainability of the program
 - Probe: What are the gaps and challenges you have noticed in terms of market linkage and access?
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address the existing challenges?
5. As an organization supporting the program, what are the major opportunities and threats to the SFP

in the city/ to your school?

- Probe: Policy environment, increasing political attention
- Probe: food safety and dietary quality concerns
- Probe: presence/absence of partners like your organization? Adequacy of support from partners
- Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to sustain existing opportunities and make use of them? Financial sustainability
- Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address and reduce these threats?

6. Based on your expertise, how can we improve the access of SFP beneficiaries to healthy foods (fruits and vegetables)

- Probe: What is working well and what is not to increase access to healthy food?
- Probe: Is there a facilitated market linkage between producers and schools?
- Probe: What are the other innovative ways to increase access to healthy food?
- Probe: what are the influencing factors to improve the SFP and access to healthy food?
- Probe: What is the opportunity that helps to increase coverage of school feeding program?

7. Do you think that SFP can be linked with UA to improve access to food supply or dietary quality of school meals?

- Probe: linking urban agriculture producers with HGSFP
- Probe: do you think such linkage is financially feasible?
- Probe: what are the relevant stakeholders/partners, what would be the perception and prerequisite of the partners including your office?

8. How do describe the role of urban agriculture in improving the implementation of school feeding program and ensure sustainability the program in Addis Ababa city?

- Probe: Would you describe the role of urban agriculture to enhance school feeding program?
- Probe: What is role of urban agriculture to improve HGSF Program?
- Probe: what is the role of urban agriculture in reducing cost of providing school meals?
- Probe: What is the role of urban agriculture in improving access to food materials?

9. How do describe the current/existing market linkage of between schools that implementing school feeding program and urban agriculture in improving access to food materials in Addis Ababa?

- Probe: What are existing market linkages?
- Probe: How the existing market linkage are functioning?
- Probe: any other related market related issues?

10. Before I conclude, is there anything you would like to add or recommend?

<p align="center">Assessing the Situational analysis and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs (uPSNP, SFP, urban consumers association)</p> <p align="center">Key informant interview guide for assessing situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture (Tool 1.9)</p>
<p>To be used with the agency and bureau expert, and consumers association at federal & city levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federal Cooperative Agency (FCA): experts - AACA Cooperatives Bureau: experts - Sub-city/woreda cooperative structures - Urban consumers associations
<p>Information and consent:</p> <p><u>Introduction and propose of the study:</u> good morning/Good afternoon. Thank you for the interest to discuss with me today. My name is_____ and I'm working for School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University. Addis Ababa University received grant for conducting "Assessing the situational context and feasibility of integrating urban agriculture with selected social protection programs in the perspective of urban consumers association" from International Development Research Center (IDRC) Canada and as part of this research, we are undertaking a qualitative study. The study will help us to understand the existing situation and feasibility of integrated urban agriculture with selected social protection programs such as school feeding program. You are selected for this interview purposely based on your expertise in the area. We would very much appreciate your participation in this study.</p> <p><u>Procedures:</u> if you agree to take part in this study, we will discuss about the aforementioned issue for about 50-60 minutes. I will also audio record the interview so that I will be able to transcribe it later on.</p> <p><u>Risks and Benefits:</u> we believe there are no risks to you from participating in this study. You will not be directly benefited from taking part in the study. However, your participation will help us to better understand the circumstances around the existing situation and the feasibility of integrated urban agriculture. It will also help us to and may help to design programs and interventions to address the bottlenecks of the urban agriculture.</p> <p><u>Compensation:</u> you will not be paid for participating in this study.</p> <p><u>Confidentiality:</u> we will keep your answers confidentially. We will not share your answers with others who are not member of the research/situational assessment team. Your name and other facts that might help people recognize you will not appear when we present this study to others or publish its results. Your recorded voice will be stored on password-protected computers.</p> <p><u>Voluntary participation and withdrawal:</u> Taking part in this study is voluntary. You can choose not to take part in the study or ask us to leave, and if you do agree to participate, you can stop the interview at any time or skip any questions that you do not want to answer. In addition, after finishing the interview, you can refuse to have your answers included in the study.</p> <p><u>Contact person:</u> if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them. Moreover, in case you ever want to contact the principal investigator, you should call +251916822815 and ask for Dr. Samson Gebremedhin. You can also contact the ethics committee that approved the project through: tel _____.</p> <p><u>Comprehension:</u> Do you have any questions about the interview? If so, I will be glad to explain.</p> <p><u>Consent:</u> if you wish to participate in this study, please sign here: _____ Date: _____</p> <p><i>Reminder for the interviewer: If written consent is given, proceed to the interview. If she/he is not willing to take part in the study, thank her/him and discontinue the interview.</i></p>

Basic information about the in-depth interview

Type of discussants: _____

Name of the interviewer: _____

Name of the notetaker: _____

Locality (federal, city): _____/_____

Date of interview: _____

Venue of interview: _____

Beginning and ending times of the KII: _____/_____

Basic profile of the respondent

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Education: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____

1. How do you describe the existing situation of urban consumers association in Addis Ababa?
 - Probe: policy environment
 - Probe: institutional arrangement
 - Probe: roles, responsibilities and mission
 - Probe: products distributed through urban consumer association
2. How do you describe the support being provided/received to urban consumers association to achieve their roles and responsibilities?
 - Probe: Capacity building, credit and saving, market linkage, subsidy, infrastructure
 - Probe: Support in creating the enabling environment and institutional development.
 - Probe: Support to improvement leadership capacity and association autonomy?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that positively affect support being provide to urban consumers association?
 - Probe: what are the major factors that negatively affect support being provide to urban consumers association?
 - Probe: what do you think should be done to address those factors that either positively or negatively affect the support being provided?
3. How do describe the role of urban consumers association in improving the availability, and access to diversified food items for urban consumers in Addis Ababa city?
 - Probe: have they been effective? Why or why not?
 - Probe: What is the roles your association in monitoring distribution malpractice?
 - Probe: Role in consumer education and information provision
 - Probe: Role in facilitating cooperation to strengthen capacity in sustainable consumption?
4. Can you tell us the strength and weakness of the urban consumers association in the Addis Ababa city?
 - Probe: Effectiveness the association in facilitating market linkage.
 - Probe: Effectiveness in ensuring access to market farmers and consumers.
 - Probe: What are the gaps you have noticed in terms of association activities performance and process?
 - Probe: what are critical areas of weakness that need recommendations for their improvement?
5. How do you describe the current challenges that have been facing urban consumers association in

Ethiopia/Addis Ababa city?

- Probe: What are the challenges that you faced in your association or association under your supervision?
 - In tracking association members and food distribution.
 - In ensuring sustainability of the urban consumers association
 - Probe: What are the challenges you have noticed in terms of market linkage and access?
 - Probe: What are the challenges in creating the enabling environment for the association?
 - Probe: What are the challenges in getting access to credit?
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address the existing challenges?
 - Probe: What need to be done to anticipate the future similar and related challenges?
6. As an expert working here, what are the major opportunities and threats to the urban consumers association and their function in the city?
- Probe: Conducive policy environment
 - Probe: Availability of financial resource and credit service
 - Probe: Presence/absence of market linkage and technical supports
 - Probe: Presence/absence of capacity building.
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to sustain existing opportunities and make use of them?
 - Probe: what is being done and what needs to be done to address and reduce these threats?
7. How can urban consumer's association platform be used to improve the access of urban food to healthy foods?
- Probe: if urban consumer associations have to be engaged in marketing of fruits and vegetables, what challenges do you anticipate? Is there any such experience before?
 - Probe: discouraging of unhealthy foods consumption
 - Probe: encouraging consumption of healthy foods like fruits and vegetable
8. Would that be possible to create linkage between urban consumer association and urban farmers in Addis Ababa context?
- Probe: Establishing market linkage between urban agriculture producers and with urban consumer associations
 - Probe: Do you think such linkage is financially feasible?
 - Probe: What are the relevant stakeholders/partners, what would be the perception and prerequisite of the partners including your office?
9. How do describe the existing market linkage between urban consumer's association and urban agriculture increase the access to food items to consumers in Addis Ababa?
- Probe: How the consumers association get access to agricultural production?
 - Probe: Does your cooperative/associations link with PSNP beneficiaries?
 - Probe: Existing and form of market linkage (through retailer, leading farmer, cooperatives, private sector etc.)?
 - Probe: What are the factors that either positively or negatively influence the market linkages?
10. Given the situation discussed above, how can the urban consumers association of the city and access of the food product to be improved?
- Probe: What is working well and what is not in urban consumer's association performance?
 - Probe: Is there a smooth market linkage between producers and urban consumers association?

- Probe: Who is responsible to enhance urban consumer's association capacity?
- Probe: What are the innovative modalities you think to improve their performance?
- Probe: What is the opportunity that helps to improve the consumer's association performance?
The role of urban residents?

11. How do you describe the gender and social inclusiveness of the urban consumer association in Addis Ababa?

- Probe: what is being done to ensure equitably benefit men and women in urban consumers association?
- Probe: What is being done to make the urban consumers association activities pro-poor?
- Probe: how the activities of urban consumers association respond to the unique needs of farmers displaced by the expansion of cities?
- Probe: Social equity in terms of access to resources and market linkage.

12. Before I conclude the discussion, is there anything you would like to add or recommend?