

*Resilient Agriculture and Livelihoods Initiative for  
Socio-economic Empowerment (REALISE)*

**Final Evaluation Report-2018**

ACTIONAID, AFGHANISTAN



*Study conducted and report produced by Chidambaram. CT and Sevinc DEMIRCI  
Independent consultants*

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## Content

Chapter	Details	Page No
	Abbreviations used	3
	<b>Executive Summary</b>	4
1	<b>Project description</b>	5
2	<b>Context and changes during project life</b>	6
3	<b>Alignment of needs and aspirations of key stakeholder</b>	8
5	<b>Methodology overview</b>	9
	5.1. Objectives, outcomes and theory of change	9
	5.2. Methodology	1
	5.3. Limitations of the study	12
6	<b>Evaluation of results</b>	
	<b>6.1. Relevance</b>	14
	<b>6.2. Efficiency</b>	17
	<b>6.3. Effectiveness</b>	19
	6.3.1 Food and nutritional security	20
	6.3.2. Economic asset base of participation HHs	21
	6.3.3. Influencing decision making on FSL	22
	6.3.4. Increased income diversification	24
	6.3.5. Increased crops, vegetable and livestock production	26
	6.3.6. Enhanced food and non-food sales	26
	6.3.7. Vulnerable groups mobilise collectively	27
	6.3.8. Vulnerable group use development plans and evidence to influence decision making	27
	<b>6.4. Sustainability</b>	
	6.4.1. Community consultation	28
	6.4.2. Institutions and institutional capacity building	29
	6.4.3. Project actions based on needs	30
	6.4.4. Social and cultural acceptability	30
	6.4.5. Economic Sustainability	30
	6.4.6. Appropriate technologies used	31
	6.4.7. Gender equality, environmental impact and good governance	31
	<b>6.5. Impact</b>	
	6.5.1 Enhanced food security and livelihoods	31
	6.5.2. Women empowerment	31
	6.5.3. Pro-poor development	32
	6.5.4. Economic and social development	32
	6.5.5. Unplanned impact	33
	6.5.6. Improved social status of the communities	33
	6.5.7. Impact on cross cutting issues	33
7	<b>Other Specific aspects of the project</b>	
	7.1. Quality of the project	34
	7.1.1. Activities to increase of crop and vegetable production	34
	7.1.2 Activities that improved food sufficiency and nutritious food	
	7.1.3 Activities that improved Sales of food and non-food items	35
	7.1.4 Activities that lead to Income diversification	36
	7.1.5. .Activities that helped collective mobilisation of vulnerable groups	37
	7.1.6. Activities done to support use development plans and	37

	evidence to influence decision-makers by vulnerable groups	
	7.2. Time line of the project implementation	37
	7.3. Adequacy of participant selection	38
	7.4. Adequacy of planned interventions	38
	7.5. Interference in selection of project location and participants	38
	7.6. Analysis of transparency and leakage	39
	7.7. Adherence to guidelines, rules and regulation	39
8.	<b>Inferences</b>	
	8.1. Positive outcomes	39
	8.2. Outcomes that needs improvement	40
9.	<b>Lessons learned</b>	
	9.1. Outcome 1	40
	9.2. Outcome 2	41
	9.3. Outcome 3	41
10	<b>Recommendations</b>	42
	References	46
	Annexes	47
	Annex 1: List of villages for HHs survey standards being used during the evaluation	47
	Annex 2: List of persons interviewed in KII interview	48
	Annex 3: List of persons who participated in FGD	49
	Annex 4: Evaluation questionnaires used	53
	Annex 5:Case study	76
	Annex 6: Disclaimer: Declaration that ethical	77

### Abbreviations used

AAAf	ACTIONAID Afghanistan
CDC	Community development council
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, irrigation and Livestock
FGD	Focus group discussion
FSL	Food security and livelihoods
FSN	Food security network
KII	Key informant interview
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, irrigation and Livestock
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
M & E	Monitoring and evaluation
RC	Reflect Circle
REALISE	-Resilient Agriculture and Livelihoods Initiative for Socio-economic Empowerment

## Executive Summary

ACTIONAID Afghanistan implemented REALISE project funded by Australian Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme (AACRS) through ACTIONAID Australia from 2014 to 2018. The final evaluation of this project was initiated and TOR in this regard was generated by both ACTIONAID Afghanistan and ACTIONAID Australia in Oct 2018. This report summarises the results of this evaluation. The project aimed to enhance the resilience of rural communities to shocks and seasonal constraints to achieve food and livelihoods security of vulnerable families living in 97 communities in 6 districts of 3 provinces of Afghanistan namely Balkh (Kaldar, Dawlatabad districts), Jawzjan (Shibergan and Khammab districts) and Bamyan (Yakawalang and Punjab districts).

Expected outcomes of this project were 1. Improvement of food and nutritional security of the targeted vulnerable households 2. Increase in economic asset base of these families 3. Enhance ability of vulnerable groups to influence the decision making regarding food security and livelihoods at village, district, provincial and national level.

To understand the achievements of this project the two consultants planned and executed a research plan which consisted of qualitative and quantitative assessments. The quantitative assessment was conducted in 39 communities with 244 project participants using the structured questionnaire. Focus group discussions, Key informant interviews and group discussions were held with different stakeholder of the project.

The analysis of the information collected from different stakeholder of the project including the project participants reveals the following. The project activities are **relevant** to the context and the selected project participants and it enhanced the food and nutritional security of the targeted vulnerable families. It is revealed by the HH survey that 82 % of the farmers covered by the project informed of increased agricultural production and 59 % of the livestock owner informed increase in the livestock productivity because of the different actions of the project such as training and supply inputs and animals. Increase in farm income of the vulnerable families after the project intervention by farm activities is reported to be 65 % and that of non-farm income is 49%. 88% of the respondents informed that they had sufficient food on their table after this project. **Efficiency** of the project activities were measured using cost benefit analysis. According to this analysis backyard vegetable gardening is found to give the maximum benefit to the Project participants followed by certified wheat seed production and livestock farming. The project has targeted mostly women for the distribution of livestock and hence has a telling effect on the household economy and asset building. **Effectiveness** of the project is pronounced as the 94 % of the HH survey informed improved food security of which 88% informed switch over to better coping system. All the focus group participants agreed that after the project intervention they have invested in new assets such as saving, renting land, new orchard plantation, buying new animals etc., 66% of respondents reported diversification of income sources. Hence their resilience capacity to shocks has been enhanced considerably. The effects of the project are **sustainable** and will have effect beyond the project period because it has built institutions such as associations and the project activities were done with community consultation and have social and cultural acceptability. The project has **impact** on the community as a whole because of lateral learning and diffusion of technologies.

The assessment had different limitations such as the communities were not able to clearly demarcate activities of REALISE project with that of other projects such as Local rights programme, there were security problems during the assessment that our team was caught in the main road when fighting started between Taliban's and government forces, restricted period 22 working days of office (though we worked in those days but our work was affected) and the remaining day the government offices and ACTIONAID offices are not working which put pressure on consultants, Period of assessment coincided with parliamentary elections in the county and cultural and language barriers too caused constraints.

There were many lessons learned from the project. Selection of Project participants needs refinement. Breeds suitable for the region should be selected. More lead farmers should be selected in each district. The study recommends setting up Participant (beneficiary) feedback and complaint system, internal monitoring and evaluation system and third party monitoring and market study before conduct of vocational training. More efforts need to bring in the voices of persons with disabilities in the decision making process.

## 2. Project Description

Resilient Agriculture and Livelihoods Initiative for Socio-economic Empowerment (REALISE) has directly supported 12,269 HHs across 97 villages in Six districts of Panjab and Yawkalang (Bamyan), Sheberghan and Khamab (Jawzjan), and Kaldar and Dawlatabad (Balkh), since June 2014 to May 2018 with an extension period of June to August 2018.

This evaluation focuses on the results achieved in this project.

### Activities undertaken

Activities undertaken under each of the expected outcomes are listed below;

Outcome 1: Increased food & nutritional security for vulnerable men, women and children in participating households

- Backyard gardening training
- General agricultural and livestock training
- Nutrition training
- Provision of seeds and other inputs
- Irrigation improvement and small scale infrastructures
- Provision of livestock
- Demonstration plots
- Seed production
- Establishment of Drip-irrigation
- Establishment of Rain water harvesting
- Animal fodder distribution
- Extension worker training

Outcome 2: An increased tangible (asset transfer) and intangible (skill transfer) economic asset base for vulnerable men and women in participating households

- Value chain and market analysis
- Establish temporary training centres
- Business development training
- Establish market linkages
- Establish storage facilities
- Establish and strengthen cooperatives
- Management training for coops
- Support for cooperative activity
- Training in post-harvest handling and processing
- Exposure visits

Outcome 3: Participating groups of vulnerable men and women influencing decision-making, service provision and policies affecting their food and livelihood security

- ❖ Establish FSNs
- ❖ Strengthen FSNs
- ❖ Form district farmer federations
- ❖ Community development plans
- ❖ Groups training on FS issues
- ❖ Engagement and influencing training for groups (including tracking of government budget allocations)
- ❖ Support for influencing and engagement
- ❖ Literacy training

- ❖ Human Rights Training
- ❖ Network/alliance analysis
- ❖ Alliance/network building events
- ❖ District NGO coordination meetings
- ❖ National learning workshops
- ❖ Staff training

### 3. Context and changes during project life

At the end of 2014 the NATO forces were withdrawn and many of the areas in Afghanistan went into insecure status. Many provinces and districts came under Taliban rule though there was cursory presence of government offices in the province and district centres. Taliban appointed 'Shadow' governors for all the provinces except a few such as Pancher, Bamyan and Kabul. Due to security spikes most of organisations restricted their operations. The lives of most of Afghan people came under threat. Number of civilian deaths and number of seriously injured during the period is an indicator of the deteriorating security situation.

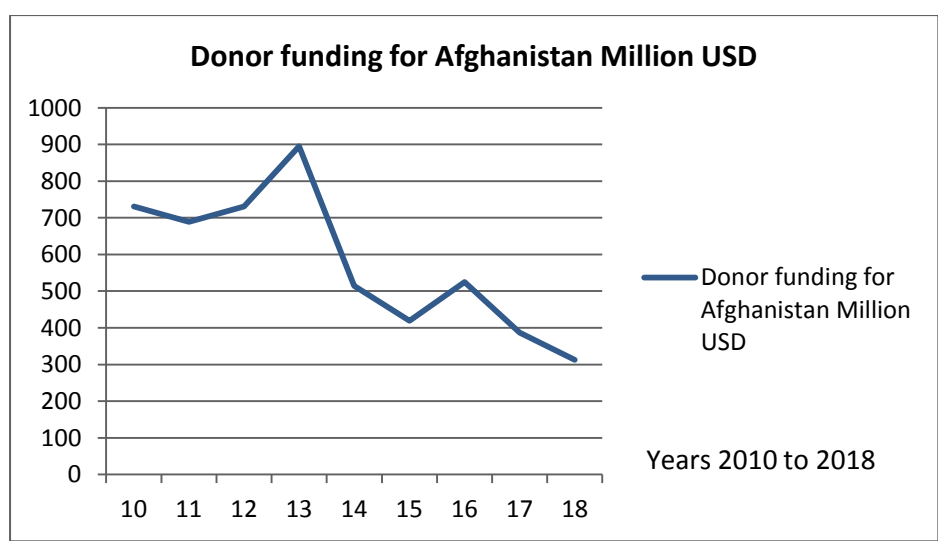
REALISE project was initiated in 2014 at the time and was able to support the communities to raise their capacity to withstand shock and stress. It supported the most vulnerable families of the selected communities and supported them in building their resilience capacity. Resurgence of Taliban rule led to the condition of US President Barack Obama announcing the halt of troops' withdrawal in March 2015. In mid-2016 UN OCHA announced that more than one Million Afghan nationals are displaced due to war and forced repatriation from Pakistan, Iran and European Union. In July that year the then US president Barack Obama informed that 8400 US troops will remain in Afghanistan beyond 2017 in the light of precarious security situation faced by that country. NATO countries too alluded to his views and agreed to maintain their troops. Both agreed to stand by their promise to fund Afghan Security forces till 2020 which is a breather to the cash starved Afghan government. In Oct. 2016 Taliban took over the Northern city of Kunduz which sent shock waves across the government and NATO forces. There was large scale displacement throughout Northern Province especially to Balkh, Takhar and Baghlan. Though with the support of NATO and UN military support Kunduz was recovered within month of its fall to Taliban, the damage had already been done. Livelihoods of vulnerable displaced families in Balkh and Jawzjan were severely affected. The host communities were overstretched in the use of their resources.

From Feb 2017 there was rise in Islamic state activities in the Northern provinces. The sporadic incidents caused by them created insecurity in Balkh and Jawzjan provinces which affected the normal lives of people living in these provinces. The asset building actions of the REALISE project was the boon to the vulnerable families living in the targeted communities. In Aug 2017 Donald Trump, US President pledged more US troops to fight Taliban's. This was interpreted as continued presence of Puppet government in Kabul by the Taliban's who increased their attacks in various parts of the country including in Kabul where they killed more than 100 Civilians in the road in Feb 2018 by an Ambulance laden ammunition bombing in a crowded street. As per independent research done by BBC in Jan 2018, about 70% of the area of Afghanistan have active presence of Taliban's. This shows the weak government and their activities in many parts of the country to support or facilitate livelihoods of people. Despite these drawbacks on the government side ACTIONAID was able to implement the resilience project in such trying circumstances and bring changes in the lives of the

most vulnerable. One good example of such good efforts is the remote managed through Local Partner PAC, REALISE project components have been implemented in Khammab District of Jawzjan province. Our team was unable to reach this district in person since it was under complete control of Taliban's. From the information collected from the DAIL staff, community members, AAf former staff and NGO partner of AAf for this project we got the following information. The Taliban have closed down all the government offices in the district centre. But they allowed distribution of crop inputs such as seeds to the farmers. Taliban have established check points at strategic locations and screen all those who enter and exit of their territory. Taliban have their own justice system and have established Sharia courts and dispense justice. The people from that area are allowed to travel to other areas after informing them. They cross check the permission details when they come back. The DAIL staff of the district receives their salary even though they work remotely from Shibergan. They call the famers over phone and inform them about programmes. Taliban have appointed a shadow governor for the district and all the actions of the communities has to go through him. The government appointed governor has never reached the district centre.

But we were able to collect and discuss with the community members who benefitted by the project, the Association members and government staff (DAIL). The critical needs of these communities affected by recurrent drought have been the recovery assistance. Though the project did not directly address this aspect, it has facilitated the process by its advocacy action. The community people who have been trained in advocacy have used the skills acquired to approach the government for assistance for recovering from drought. The community members have made several visits to follow up at the Provincial and at Kabul Ministry of Agriculture, irrigation and livestock level because of their efforts the 400 farmers of the region were able to get 50 Kg seeds at 70% subsidised price. They also got free pesticides under government programme. Beside that the vulnerable community members especially women empowered by the information, knowledge and skills by the REALISE project and able to use them effectively in the advocacy to build resilience of shocks.

The donor funding over the 3 years period of the project has declined significantly as per Financial tracking report of UN OCHA. From 525 Million USD in 2015, it decreased to 387 Million USD in 2016 (decrease of 36 %). It further went down in 2017 to 313 Million USD a decline of 24 %. The trend in donor funding is given in the chart below



Source: UN OCHA Funds tracking system information



In the climate of dwindling donor funding during the project period, REALISE project was able to offer the critical support to the most vulnerable families to build their resilience.

The Key informant from the MAIL that we interviewed informed us about the poor financial condition of their department for supporting the farmers. Their department was not able to conduct much technical or management training by calling resource persons from outside in the past 4 years due to paucity of funds. The technical trainings conducted by REALISE project were able to equip the extension workers of agricultural department with latest knowledge and skills which they were able to use to help the farmers. REALISE project was able to fill that critical gap and help vulnerable farming community in the project area at the critical period of drying up foreign funding to development projects and on budget projects of government.

#### 4. Alignment of project with the needs and aspirations of the key stake holders

- **Community members:** The project targeted vulnerable and poor families to support building their resilience to shocks and seasonal turbulence. These families were looking for support in terms of asset transfer or skill transfer to stable their livelihoods for face such acute critical situations. The project is able to meet their needs by providing them assets such as sheep, goat and Vegetable seeds. These project participants also received training on vegetable cultivation and animal husbandry conducted by REALISE project. They also chose the animals that were given to them. Also vocational trainings were conducted in temporary vocational training centres organised in the select community places. The skill transfer of vocations such as beauty parlour, bike repair were able to provide good income sources for the vulnerable families selected by the project. The land holders were able to get training on scientific cultivation and able to get good yield. Livestock owner also picked up various new techniques from the training conducted by REALISE project and were able to obtain good income from livestock production.
- **CDCs and CCDCs:** The advocacy trainings conducted by ACTIONAID have triggered the community members to knock on the doors of CDCs to take up issue related to the community with the governor at district and at provincial level. We have come across many successful advocacy actions which we will describe in later part of this report.
- **Provincial and district plans:** The discussion with district governor's representatives shows that significant inputs have been received from Food security network and Reflect Circle organised and facilitated by ACTIONAID. The advocacy training conducted under REALISE project has immensely helped FSN and RC in their advocacy action. In many places we found evidences of strong advocacy action to bring changes in district and provincial governance plans to address the needs of the vulnerable families of the community.
- **Beyond Provincial level effect of REALISE:** In this evaluation we could not find any influence of REALISE project on national level particularly at the ministry of agriculture, irrigation and livestock level.
- **Contribution of REALISE to national agenda:** Afghanistan National development strategy (ANDS) developed by the Kabul Process in 2010 has listed 22 national priorities programmes ((NPPs) and had mandated that the donor priorities to be aimed at these priorities. Based on the priorities the strategy has advised to go far 1. Brining about reforms 2. Build



institutions and 3. To provide services to enhance standard of living of Afghan population. REALISE project was able to contribute effectively to this national agenda. REALISE project has facilitated formation and effective functioning of many community members led institutions such as Dairy associations, Cotton association, Beekeeping association etc. One of the objectives with the NPP clusters is to increase the productivity of agriculture in rural areas for inducing economic growth and to reduce poverty. Evidences collected by this evaluation shows that the project REALISE has improved the productivity of staple crop and livestock by imparting quality training in local language to the member of the vulnerable families. The presentation of quantitative assessment corroborated by the qualitative assessment would be presented later in this report. Here we want to emphasise the point the project has effectively addressed the national agenda given under NPP effectively.

## 5. Methodology Overview

### 5.1 Objectives, expected outcomes and Theory of Change

The prime objective of this project is to enhance the resilience of rural communities of Jawzjan, Balkh and Bamyan provinces of Afghanistan to shocks and seasonal constraints to achieve /realise food and livelihood security.

Specifically this project is aimed to develop resilience of the 97 rural communities to shocks and seasonal fluctuations in food and livelihood security. Hence the study will concentrate its focus to these targeted communities.

#### Expected outcomes

**Outcome 1:** Improved food & nutritional security for vulnerable men, women and children in participating households.

**Outcome 2:** An increased economic asset base for vulnerable men and women in participating households.

**Outcome 3:** Participating groups of vulnerable men and women able to influence decision-making, service provision and policies affecting their food and livelihood security at village, district, provincial and national level.

#### Theory of change

Before the implementation of the project the selected rural communities were not resilient to shocks such as drought, flood and other natural disasters and seasonal factors. They are dependent on external agencies and government to save their lives and come back to normalcy in shorter period of time. This project has built the resilience to natural shock and seasonal constraints by improving their tangible and intangible assets. The vulnerable families were able to expand their income sources by improved asset base or acquirement of vocational skills for one of their family members. The study shows there are ample evidences of improved coping mechanism due to improved economic status of vulnerable families selected for assistance by the project. Also the selected population also show effects of nutritional improvement in their food intake. 90 % of respondents in the House hold survey informed improved use of vegetables in their diets as the result of nutrition training and back yard gardening which are components of REALISE project. Anecdotal as well as empirical evidences show marked improvement in agricultural and livestock

production. In fact 82% of the respondents of HH survey who cultivate primary crops such as Wheat and potato have informed that they have reaped increased agricultural production due to learning and support from the project. 59% of the chicken and 62 % sheep owner respondents have informed increase in livestock number which is the productivity of livestock. We will discuss these in details in the subsequent chapters of this report.

## **5.2 Methodology**

### **5.2.1 Qualitative**

#### ***5.2.1.1. Desk review and secondary data collection***

The below project documents have studied for the evaluation;

- REALISE Project proposal and M&E framework (including AACRS common indicators)
- M & E indicators comparison ARCS and AAA
- Project theory of change
- Baseline report of the project
- Progress/implementation reports
- Progress update till Dec 2017
- Annual progress report – July 2016 to June 2017
- Annual progress report – July 2017 to Dec 2017
- Value chain analysis – Jawzjan
- AA and ICARDA business training report

We had detailed discussion with the Head of program and Project Co-coordinator and collected various information related to the physical target achievements. We also discussed the problems and challenges of the project. These secondary information were useful to relate to the actual activities implemented in the field. Secondary data were also collected from the DAIL regarding the productivity of different crops grown in their region.

### **5.2. 2. Qualitative field assessment**

#### ***1 Focus group discussion***

For Focus group discussion we have given training to the research assistants and the field assistants to select the suitable members who have good knowledge of the project activities and able to communicate effectively individually and at group level. The members for the focus group discussion were selected based on these set criteria after discussion with the community leaders and CDC members. We conducted 12 focus group discussion (7 men group 3 women groups and 2 mixed group) with FSN members and 3 with reflect circles (137 Project participants 95 men and 42 women). 2 of them were organised at district level and we paid the transport charges for the participants travel. Remaining focus group discussions were held in the community level. We also conducted focus group discussion with members of associations formed and registered in the ministry of justice by the project.

## **2 Key informant interviews**

Key informants were listed and the research assistants engaged for the study arranged the meeting with them. Key informants interviewed for this study were former staff of ACTIONAID who worked for REALISE project, District and provincial head of agriculture, irrigation and livestock, local partners engaged for the project, CDC members, district governor's representatives. Due to security reasons the presence of district governors in their offices were unpredictable and given the short duration of the study time we could not wait to meet these governors. Instead we met the next in line of governor who is in management team of policy and planning team of the district governor and provincial governors. In total we interviewed 19 key informants (16 men and 3 women).

## **3. Group interview**

We also conducted group interview with Persons with disability and elders for eliciting their views on the project and their participation in decision making process. We conducted 3 group interview with persons with disability Men and women (2 mixed group and 1 men only group, 21 men and 18 women) and 3 group interview with members of community development councils (all were men) to understand the decision making process and the involvement of various people from the community and their relative influence in the decision making process that affects their lives.

### **5.2.3. Quantitative Field assessment**

#### **5.2.3. 1. Selection, raining and deployment of staff**

We engaged 3 research assistants (2 women and 1 man), 3 field assistants (all men) and 12 enumerators (6 female, 6 male) for this study. All of them were Afghan nationals except one who was a dual citizen of Afghanistan who held US citizenship. The Research assistants assisted us in conduct of qualitative assessment, translation and data entry. Field assistants arranged the gathering and looked after the logistics. We gave them training on the back ground and aspects of the project, technical aspects of the evaluation, methods of collection of data and data entry. Since many of the area that we had to survey fall under non coverage area of Cell phone we used paper form to collect the data. We have given good training on how to administer the questionnaire and do and do not of survey. We also emphasised on the ethical principles to follow during survey such as maintenance of confidentiality and seeking consent for collecting information for our research purpose. Research assistants were given special training regarding facilitation process for conduct of focus group discussions. Research assistants also served as translators for the consultants in the conduct of focus group discussions and key informant interview. Field assistants recruited the members and arranged the placefor focus group discussion. They also arranged the logistics of the gathering such as place, lunch and transport. Field assistants decide the route plan for the enumerator after assessing the security situation of the area. They also contact the CDC members of each of the community to be visited by the enumerators and inform them about the visit of the enumerators and seek their co-operation. The information about the CDC person or contact person each community selected for enumeration are given to the enumerators before they depart for the place of assessment. Field assistant keep track of movement of field assessment team through different modes. In case of emergency or security spikes, he informs the assessment to evacuate to safe places. Once during our assessment it happened in Jawzjan province.

### **5.2.3. 2. Selection of communities**

Of the 97 communities 39 communities were selected for this study which represents 40 % of the total communities of the project. We considered the geographical spread of the communities to avoid overcrowding of respondents from any particular area.

The selection of communities for the study of the project action was done by random method to avoid any bias in the selection of communities for the study. Since there was no access to communities in Khammab district of Jawzjan we only used the communities list of remaining 5 districts for this process of selection of communities for the HH study. But we have done qualitative assessment in all the districts.

### **5.2.3. 3. Selection of respondents**

Since we are unable to get the list of Project participants of different components of the project, we approached the Community development Councils and former staff of REALISE project to identify the respondents. After identifying the Project participants from each of the target communities we randomly selected 4 to 5 Project participants from each selected community as respondent for the structured questionnaire administered by the trained enumerators and conducted the quantitative assessment. In total we have collected information from 244 respondents (129 Female and 115 Male) for the quantitative assessment.

### **5.2.4. Informed consent for data collection**

Before conducting an interview or discussion our team members introduce themselves and explain the purpose of the exercise seeking their informed consent for gathering the information. The participants are informed about the confidentiality of information collected and data protection principles taking into consideration the DO no harm principle. If at any part of time the participant(s) feel uncomfortable to answer a question or do not want to continue they are free to remain silent, not answer the question, and also can leave the exercise at their own volition. Thus oral consent is obtained before the start of any exercise. Also oral permission is sought from the participants to snap photos during the work.

## **5.3 Limitations of the study**

### **1. Demarcation of effect of project**

ACTIONAID has implemented and is still implementing many projects in the same area where REALISE project was implemented. In the project districts Local rights project has been implemented by AAf which has rights education and training components. In Kaldar district of Balkh province SRACARD project is implemented and it has training on agriculture and tree planting. In Khammab district of Jawzjan province Linking relief to recovery and development project has been implemented during the same period which also has the same agricultural training component. In Shibergan of Jawzjan also Local rights project and the LRRD project have been implemented during the REALISE project time. In Bamyan too SACARD and LRP projects were implemented during the project time. Bee keeping activities were also done under these projects.

The respondent in many instances could not really clearly indicate the effect and actions of REALISE project. In many instances we had to spend extra time to dig deep to find

whether the effect or result was because of REALISE project. This took bit of our time and restricted the time availability for deep discussion at Focus group discussion.

## **2. Insecurity**

The access to some of the areas for household survey was restricted by security consideration and remoteness of access. We took the security advices of various organisations working in the area as well as the former ACTIONAID staff to decide on the route map of the assessment team every day. Many of the areas that we surveyed in Bamyan did not have cell phone coverage which made our task more dangerous and unpredictable. Duty of care for the staff engaged for the study kept us in tender hooks. In instance when we started our travel from Shibergan to Mazar Sharif fighting started between Taliban fighters and the government forces in the artery road which we were travelling. So we had to rush back to Shibergan city of Jawzjan province in a hurry. This brought about a disturbance in our scheduled works. Insecurity prevented us from visiting Kammab district of Jawzjan province. We were able to reach the community members through cell phones, since the local partner working for the project was able to facilitate that process of selection of respondents for the focus group discussion and Key informant interviews.

## **3. Restricted period of assessment**

Project of this scale and diversity needs at least 40 days of field assessment and 10 days of non-field work (desk work). Unfortunately due to budget restriction and upcoming priorities the field assessment was restricted to 3 weeks and desk work to 2 weeks. Given the holidays and other disturbances during the study, the task has put severe strain on the consultants in terms of time. But the situations were managed carefully to avoid any escalation.

## **4. Period of assessment coinciding with parliamentary election**

Period of assessment coincided with the peak campaigns and political rallies conducted by various political parties of parliamentary election. We noticed rigid context in Balkh and Jawzjan provinces. The party belonging to the present president and the CEO of parliament are in fierce competition in these areas. The ethnicity affiliation and former war lord influences are playing their role. Under these circumstances we had conducted the Key informant interviews with the CDCS members and the provincial authorities. To show their loyalty to the parties these people were also part of many of the political meetings. So fixing appointment with the key informant and gathering respondents for the focus group discussions were major challenge.

## **5. Non availability of some information**

The list of Project participants for each activity was needed for conduct of this assessment. Unfortunately only the numbers were available and not the name and other details of the Project participants to trace them. Because of this we had to find the Project participants through CDC members of the area. But problem was they are unable to distinguish between different donors and different NGOS working in their area. In some communities we found less the number of Project participants were less than the numbers indicated by ACTIONAID Afghanistan. In some of the focus group discussion we found that the Project participants were from non-target villages. So it took considerable amount of our time to find the right Project participants.

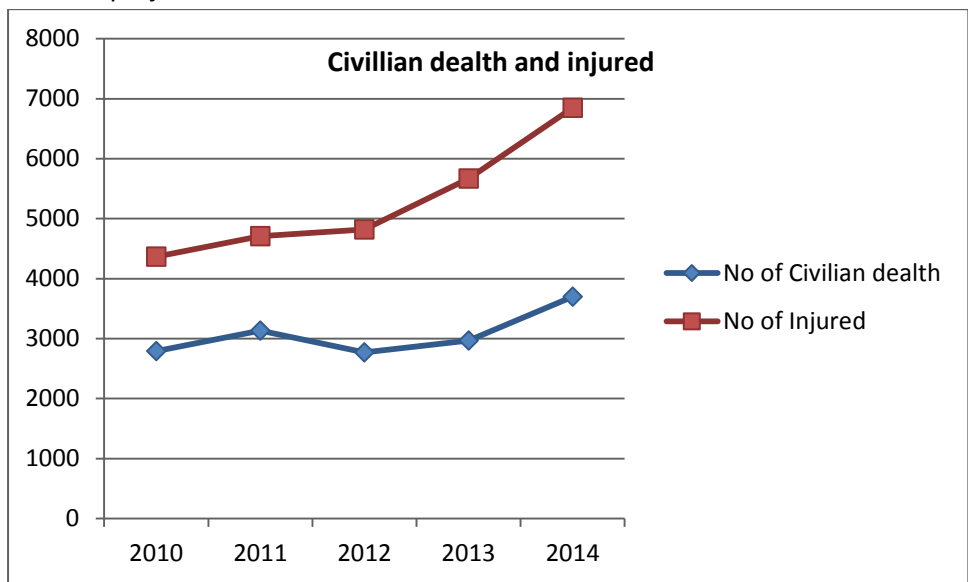
## **6. Engagement of Afghan National**

We had to engage Afghan national who know the area for our study. Given the severe time constraint we struggled to get persons with good communication skills in English and local language and who are familiar with the area. Especially finding women staff who can visit house to house for HH survey that too under severe security constraint was a challenge. As per Afghanistan custom women cannot visit other places without their male companion. The approach and mobility of women for our assessment in different provinces differed. It was relatively easy in Bamyan but it put severe strains in Jawzjan, We managed the situation by engaging the couples. ACTIONAID Afghanistan did suggest to engage former REALISE project staff whose term has expired and now jobless. We did engage them in some places, but we found that the answers we got in the presence of these former project staff were coloured and biased. The Project participants depicted a rosy picture of everything in the project on their presence. Sometimes it looked like tutored interview and group discussion. So we avoided engaging the REALISE project staff for assessment and engaged them for arranging the logistics.

## 6. Evaluation of Results

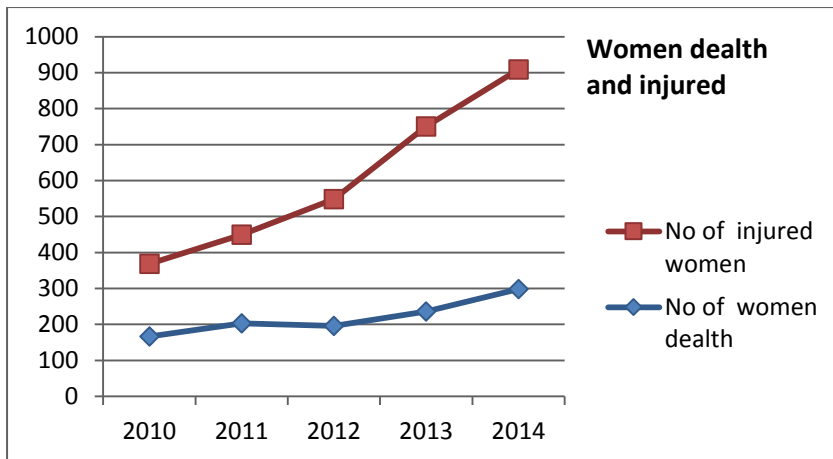
### 6.1 Relevance

Relevance of the project can be examined for two factors. 1. Time in which this project was initiated and implemented 2. Whether or not the activities undertaken were based on needs of the target communities. Years preceding the REAALISE project initiation we have seen increasing trend of civilian deaths. From the graph below we understand the security trend in situation when the REALISE project was initiated in 2014



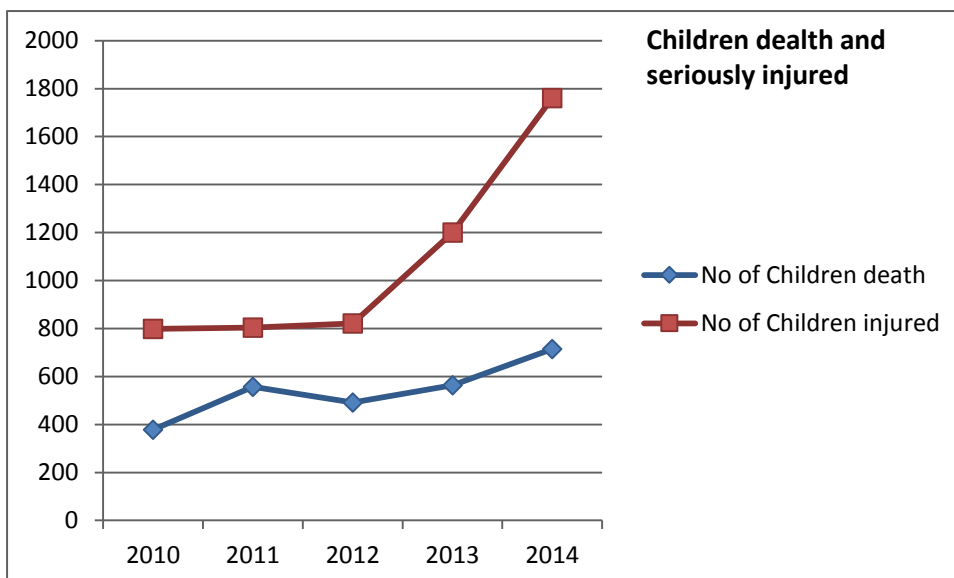
Source: UNAMA annual report 2014

Death and serious injuries of innocent women and children caught in war and fight between the government forces and the insurgents is another indicator of how grim the security situation was before the project REALISE



Source: UNAMA annual report 2014

Violent conflict in the years before the project REALISE was initiated shows increasing trend of death of innocent children. Details of death of children years preceding the initiation of realise project is given in the graph below



Source: UNAMA annual report 2015

From the above details one can understand the project was initiated at a time when the numbers of innocent lives are lost in security incidents and livelihoods had become hard in most parts of Afghanistan. This project is a timely action and hence relevant in terms of time.

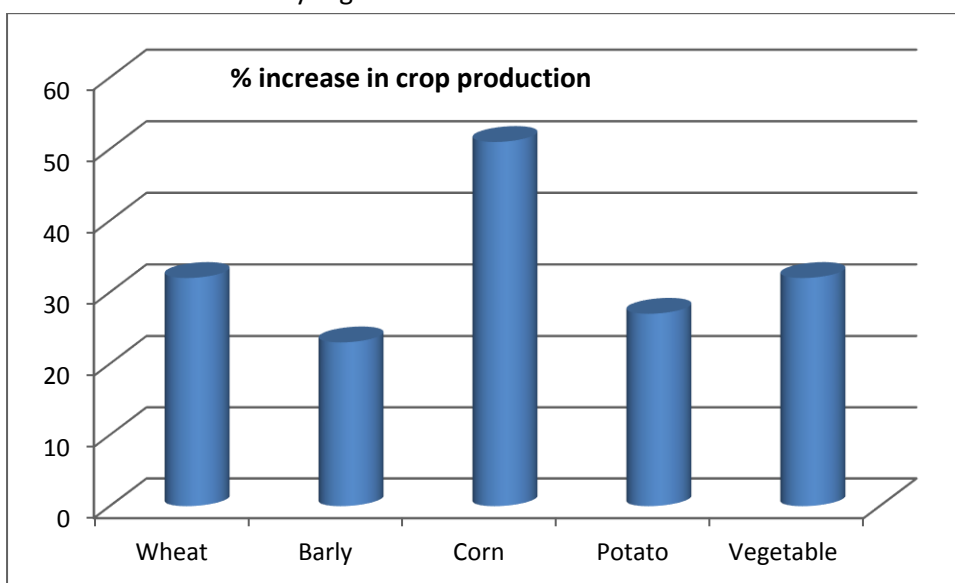
The project supported the primary stakeholder's namely vulnerable families of the selected communities which includes women (Women as head of household, never married, women with disabilities, deserted, or those functionally heading the households because their husbands migrated, widows,, elderly, persons with disabilities and men. They are able to exercise their right to livelihoods and food through various activities of the project. From the analysis of HH survey of Project participants the following facts are established.

- Increase in Agricultural production 32% (Wheat)
- Increased in Livestock production (small 31%,

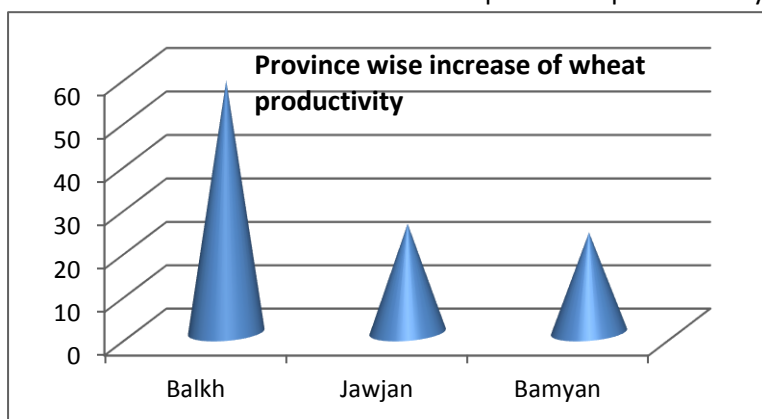


- ruminants )
- Increased in Livestock production (Cow) 47%
- Increase in Poultry 65 %
- Farm income increase 65 %
- Non-farm income increase 49 %

The project has conducted various specialised training for agricultural production enhancement such as specific crop production technologies, dry land management, water harvesting, designing of orchards, drip irrigation, line sowing, soil preparation, trees pruning etc., from the analysis we note that 80% of the respondents (106 men and 91 women) have informed that they followed the improved technology taught in the training. Because of following these improved scientific technologies 84 % of the farmers were able to increase their crop production thereby their income has increased. Crop wise increase of production before and after project intervention as per the information of HH survey is given in the below chart



Province-wise increase of staple crop namely Wheat is given below



Non-farm income were also obtained from vocations that were taken up after the vocational training such as tailoring, bike repair, mobile phone repair etc. 49 % of respondents have informed increase in non-farm income. So they are able to achieve their right to livelihoods and food which is also revealed from the fact that 88 % of the respondents (86 % men and 91% of women) informed

that they (91% in Bamyan, 93 % in Balkh and 80 % in Jawzjan) have sufficient food after participation in the project activities.

The increase in agricultural production in rural communities is one of the NPP cluster objective aimed at reducing rural poverty and to support economic growth. Through the increased productivity of primary crops and livestock REALISE project is able to contribute to the national priority of food production and poverty reduction by increased farm and non-farm productivity. Though this helped the government in its efforts in poverty reduction, it forms only a minuscule percentage of the families below poverty line. From the FGD we understood that out of the total poor families about 20 to 30 % have been covered by this project which leaves huge gap in terms of needs in their society. It also leaves some hard feeling among those poor families who deserve the assistance but unable to make it to the list of Project participants of REALISE project. Actually the poor do not have land and are not benefiting from crop production support. The increase in crop production gives them more wage employment in the farms which also adds to the poverty alleviation efforts of the government.

## 6.2. Efficiency

Under efficiency we are considering the various activities and the cost involved and the benefit reaped by the Project participant. Here below we have analysed the cost benefit ratio of some of the activities:

S. No	Activity	# of participants	Total cost (Afgs)	Cost per beneficiary (Afgs)	Additional income or cost saved (Afgs)	Benefit/Cost(times)
1	Backyard gardening training	970	2534525	2613	27087	10.6
2	Agriculture training reflected in increased yield of primary crops	100	1869539	18695	86909	4.6
3	Livestock training reflected in increased no	100	1869538	18695	136105	7.4
4	Asset transfer – Sheep/ Goat	388	9730483	25079	101345	4.9
5	Asset transfer (Poultry)	485	465000	1000	6555	6.5
6	Wheat seeds (Certified )	12	497088	41424	369092	8.9
7	Vocational training					

	a. Bike repair	80	4530050	56626		
	b. Nobile repair	80	4530050	56626		
	c. Tailoring	80	4530050	56626		
	d. Beauty Parlour	80	4530050	56626		
	e. Carpentry	80	4530050	56626		

*\* The Cost of the vocational training was not made available from AAf and hence the CB ratio could not be calculated for Vocational courses*

In focus group discussion we enquired about the timeliness of the supply of materials and goods including the livestock, 14 out of 16 groups (88%) from all the 3 provinces of the project informed that they received the materials and livestock in time. Where as in HH study to the question whether they used the input they received 45 % from Bamyan, 85 % from Balkh and 96% from Jawzjan respondents gave a positive answer. Further enquiry on this matter in the focus group discussion revealed that in some area the wheat seeds were received a bit delayed in Jawzjan, whereas Livestock in Bamyan were received during autumn in and were given fodder. Poultry were received in time with feed.

From the focus group discussion with Cotton association (Kaldar, Balkh), Dairy association (Siberian, Jawzjan) and Beekeeping Association (Punjab, Bamyan) we understand that they have established effective back ward and forward linkages. As a group they are able to source inputs at lower cost without compromising on the quality. They have acquired collective bargaining power because of their association and are able to get better price for their products. Most of the key members of association have attended the business, marketing and management training. In the focus group discussion they informed how they changed their sales methods after the training. Kaldar cotton association farmers told us that they have learned about sampling and use of sample to collect price information and later decide on the sales. Dairy association members informed about the value addition process and the ability to gain more profit by value addition.

Technical assistance has been given for the increase in income from crop and livestock activities in the form of training. All the FSN focus groups (100%) conducted for this study informed that they received training on scientific cultivation from different sources such as from extension workers of the department of agriculture or from AAf organised training. Similarly the Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock too has organised livestock related training for women which has resulted in productivity increase. In the focus group discussion it was informed by many that farmer field schools were very effective methods that improved their knowledge. Unfortunately there were no women livestock trainers. For effective outreach women trainers in livestock are very much needed according to views of reflect groups.

In 3 Focus groups it was mentioned by participants that the goat/sheep distributed to them was not suitable to their region. In one particular instance in Shiberghan the hens did not lay eggs in the second year, so the Project participants sold off their chicken.

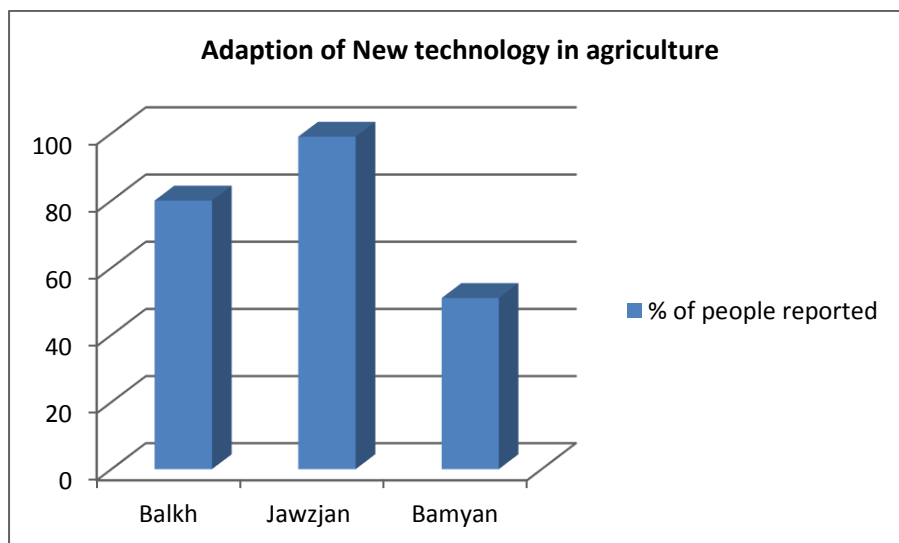
### 6.3. Effectiveness

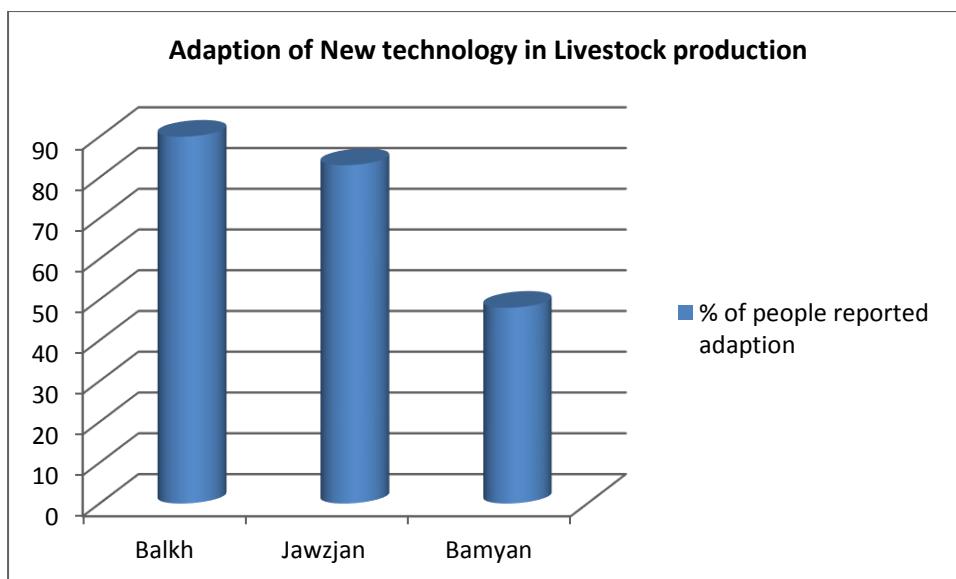
From the focus group discussion it is understood that a community lead process of Project participant's selection has been done in a transparent manner. Community meeting was organised in the presence of AAf staff to select the Project participants where in all the community members have equal chances of being selected as pre selection criteria such as family is resident of the community and are poor.

It also came out in the key informant interview with CDC members that vulnerability criteria such as women, disabled and extremely poor has been taken into consideration for selection of Project participants .AAf have facilitated wide publicity in the community regarding selection of Project participants by effective and inclusive process. Though not all women are vulnerable, Women headed families are vulnerable to food insecurity. In some cases the husband deserted the families, in some cases he migrated to other places and did not communicate for long time, some women are widows. So culturally these women could not work outside their houses to earn income to run their families.

There were also some opposite view of this selection process. In one reflect circle in Jawzjan and one in Bamyan there were dissenting voices that this selection process needs to be refined since the relatives of the staff and CDC members who are not eligible were selected leaving out another deserving families. The issue of exclusion and inclusion error has been pointed out in the lesson learned workshop of the project conducted in Kabul in Aug 2018. But in all the focus group discussion the Project participants informed about their knowledge of selection criteria and had agreed to stick to the criteria during selection process. Thus all the eligible Project participants have been selected as per their claims to benefit (right).

In all the focus group discussion the Project participants informed about receipt of the benefits such as seeds, livestock, poultry and trainings. However regarding adaption of new technologies after the training the HH survey results inform that 51 % of respondents (agricultural Project participants) in Bamyan, 99% in Jawzjan and 80 % in Balkh province and of livestock Project participants 48% from Bamyan, 90 % from Balkh and 83 % from Jawzjan have expressed that they followed new technology taught in the training.





From the charts we understand that adaption of new technologies in agriculture is more in Jawzjan whereas Balkh stands first in the adaption of new technology in livestock production

Outcomes of the project are examined and effectiveness was studied. Here are some of the results of HH survey assessment results and their interpretations.

### 6.3. 1. Food and nutritional security of the participating households

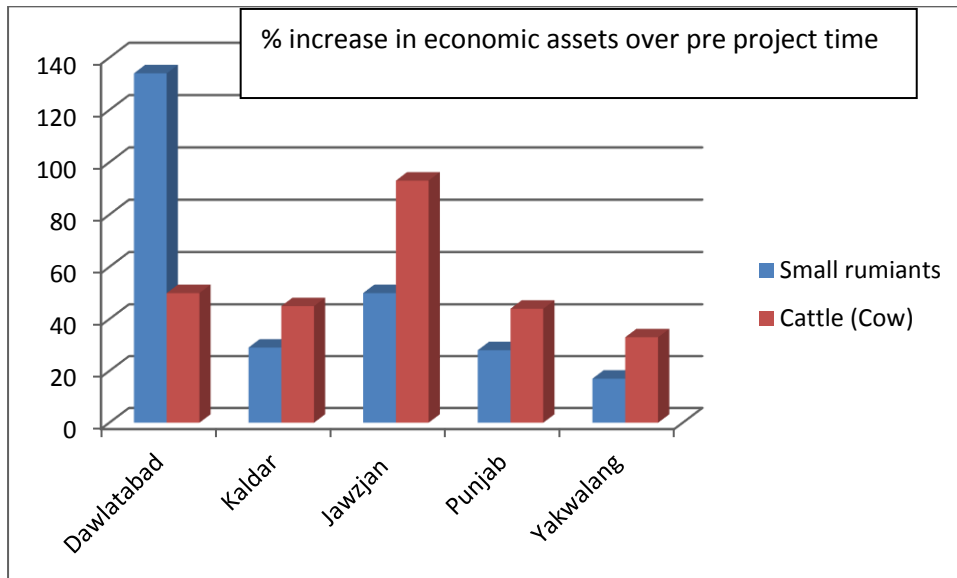
94 % of the respondents have informed that their food security has improved. This fact was further triangulated in the focus group discussion and found to be true and correct. But regarding the degree of success in terms of grading differs in different focus groups ranging from moderate to good. In the scale of 10 it scores 7 (1 is minimal effect and 10 maximum effect).

88% of the respondents in HH survey informed following less severe coping system after the project intervention. In the focus group discussion we explored the different coping system to food insecurity. Women in reflect groups informed that they changed coping such as skipping meals to buying less costly food items, reduced portion of eating etc. In one of the reflect group a women wept and on enquiry she informed due to severe food insecurity she was forced to marry her 13 year old daughter. She informed had she been able to get the benefit of REALISE project 2 years ago, she would not have done that grave mistake which she regrets.

### 6.3.2. Economic Asset base of participating households

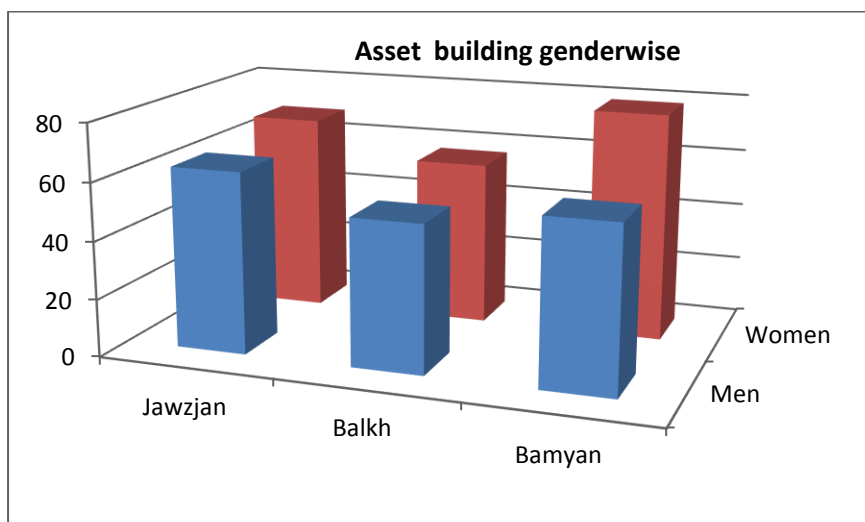
From the HH survey results we understand that the food and education expenses have increased where as health and shelter expenses have been same or decreased a bit. The possible explanation for this that we got from the Focus group discussion was that people have moved from higher quality food items which increased their expenses in food and provided required school items to school children, also sent their children to school especially girl children who were not sent earlier, also sent their girl children to higher education to college or high schools which increased these expenses in education In the FGD the Project participants informed that the doctors in the neighbourhood of the Project participants used to advice about the importance of taking nutritious foods for recovery from illness and for maintaining good health. After the nutrition training many of

participants have become aware of food items to cook for the health and well-being of their family members and even during visit to doctors they inform them about it. This fact was further corroborated by the Key informant interview conducted with former AAAf staff of REALISE project.



The above chart explains the increase in economic assets of the participant families compared to pre project period as informed by the HHs during the survey.

In all the 12 communities in the 3 provinces where we have conducted FGDs, the Project participants informed that they have made investments for acquiring assets and other income generating actions for their families. 66% of the respondents in the HH survey have informed increased investments. 57 % of men and 73 % of the women respondents informed increase in asset, which indicates more assets were built by and for women. Province wise gender wise asset building details are given in the chart below



To our surprise in the focus group discussion with reflect circles we found that the women have added an expense item saving. During conduct of participatory exercise we asked the participants to list the important expenses items in their homes ( not leading question but open ended without lead) to know the expenditure pattern and to know the changes over time. In this excise that we

conducted on Jawzjan and Bamyán we found that women added saving as one of their expense item which was not the case of men's group who said they have nothing to save. There were lot of discussion around the point. Finally it was revealed that after the project intervention they were able to save 15% of their family income in in-kind saving as food stuff which they could not do earlier before the project. Because saving in terms of food are considered safe by women. If saving happens to be in cash, it is taken away by their husbands or male relatives to meet other expense with the result they suffer to buy food and compensate to buy poor quality food items. Some of the community members have bought additional livestock, rented lands, established new gardens (Pistachio, grapes etc.), new bee boxes, extension of small shop, repair and use of abandoned greenhouses etc., Some of them have given loan to their relatives which they call it as saving because they can get it back in times of need in future.

### **6.3.3. Influencing decision making on food and livelihoods security by participating households**

In all the FGDs we found sufficient evidence to show that the advocacy action of the project has brought out significant results. The empowered communities have been able to bring changes by exercising their rights. In the reflect group discussion women informed that they still face restrictions in their ability to contribute effectively to the decision making process at CDC level. But the definitely they feel better equipped now after the advocacy and human rights training. In the key informant interview with the CDC members and the former AAAF staff and FGDs with FSN we came across 31 issues raised with the government at different levels such as district, provincial and national level. Some of them were successful and many were not successful. When asked about the unsuccessful bid, the women told us that they will continue to bang the doors of CDC members and will never give up till it is done. CDC members also expressed the view that they also feel the pressure to get things done. In all these focus group the members informed that because of the pressure received from their community members, CDC members spent their own money to go to Kabul represent their case with the concerned department Minister and Head of the department.

From the discussions with FSN and Reflect groups and Key informant interview we came to know as many as 31 issues have been raised with the government by the communities lead by CDCs. They are

1. Electricity supply for their community from the grid
2. Drinking water supply
3. Free wheat seeds for farmers affected by dryness and drought
4. Free food items for vulnerable families
5. Irrigation infrastructure for getting more land under irrigation and to avoid crop failure
6. Flood control diversion canal construction
7. Deep bore well for veterinary clinic in their area
8. Land for establishing tree seedling nursery
9. Protection fences for their association buildings
10. More police check post to keep their community safe
11. Digging of bigger water storage structures (Ponds and tanks)
12. Drip irrigation equipment on subsidy
13. Arrangement of distribution of good quality seeds (Certified seeds)
14. Capacity building of community members (Literacy classes and rights training)

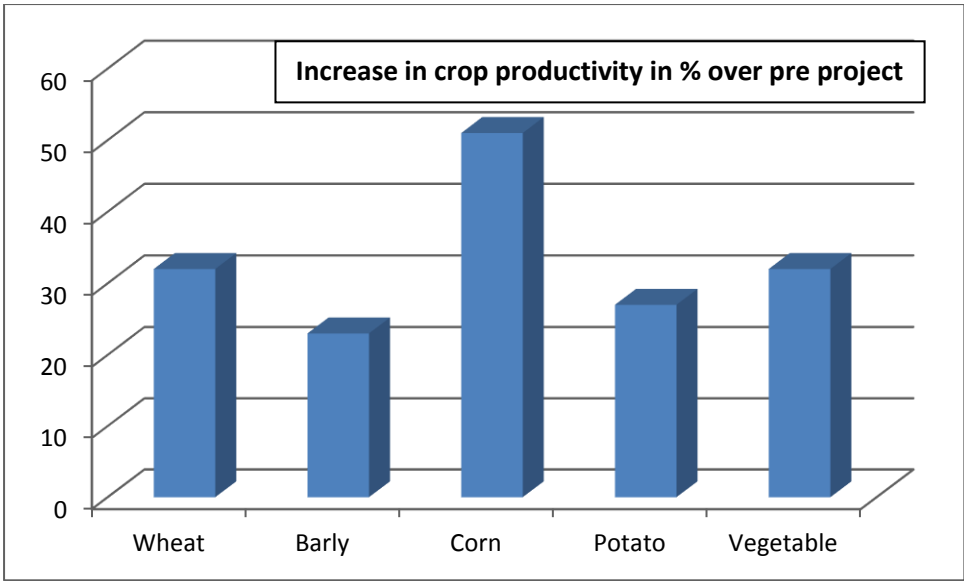


15. Specialised training in their required activities such as tree pruning
16. More institutes of higher learning at provincial level funded by the government (free education)
17. Artificial insemination facilities at the district and community level
18. More opportunities for vocational training (Beautician, bike repair, electronic gadget repair, mobile phone repair etc)
19. Goat and sheep for vulnerable families
20. Free fodder for animals and poultry for families affected by drought and poverty
21. Flood protection walls
22. Veterinary field units at district and community level with wide paravet and vaccination coverage to prevent animal and poultry diseases
23. Emergency response assistance for drought affected families
24. Distribution of better quality livestock
25. Drinking water facilities for animals
26. Primary and higher class schools in their communities
27. Clinic with ample free medicines and trained staff
28. Literacy and numeracy classes for women with women teachers
29. Culverts and small bridges
30. Listing of vulnerable families by the government with the help of communities as done by the Citizen's Charter program of the World Bank
31. More service from the co-operative such as Tractors and Sprayers on rent

We explored the accountability of the elected members of CDCs in the FGD and key informant interview with CDC members. It was revealed that the communities earlier during National solidarity programme have used participatory monitoring and evaluation process. In the National Solidarity programme during the process of construction of any infrastructure selected by the community, the community members elect two community members as their community monitors for the work. These two persons will be part of all the processes of the construction work such as selection of tender, inspecting quality of materials used for construction and reporting if there is any lacuna in the work. At the end these two persons sign the certificate of completion. Like this each and every activity of NSP has a community monitors at the end of the year social audit is conducted by the CDC where all members of the CDC are called for meeting conducted by the CDC. The Chief or CDC will list the activities done by the CDC in the completed year and also submit the expenses list. Also they explain the plan for the ensuing year and seek approval. At end of this meeting a voting either open way by raise of hand or in a secret way by use of ballot the CDC members view in known whether they are satisfied with the action of CDC or not. They also conduct an open house to get suggestions for improvement of actions of CDC. They do not have any community score card. When asked to rate the functioning of CDCs in terms of advocacy action the members of most the focus groups refused to do it. So we presume that more awareness and training is required in this area.

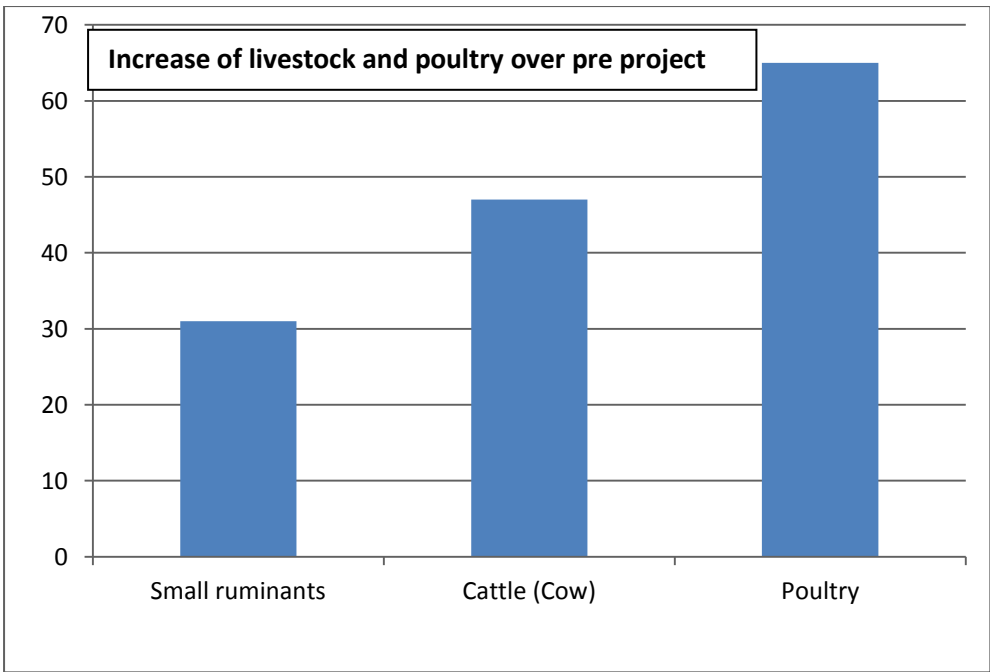
#### **6.3.4 Increased Field crop, vegetable and livestock production of men and women farmers**

From the HH survey of the REALISE Project participants it is found that the crop yield have increased compared to that of before the project implementation. Similarly the production from Livestock has increased compared to pre-project period among the Project participants. The details are given chart below



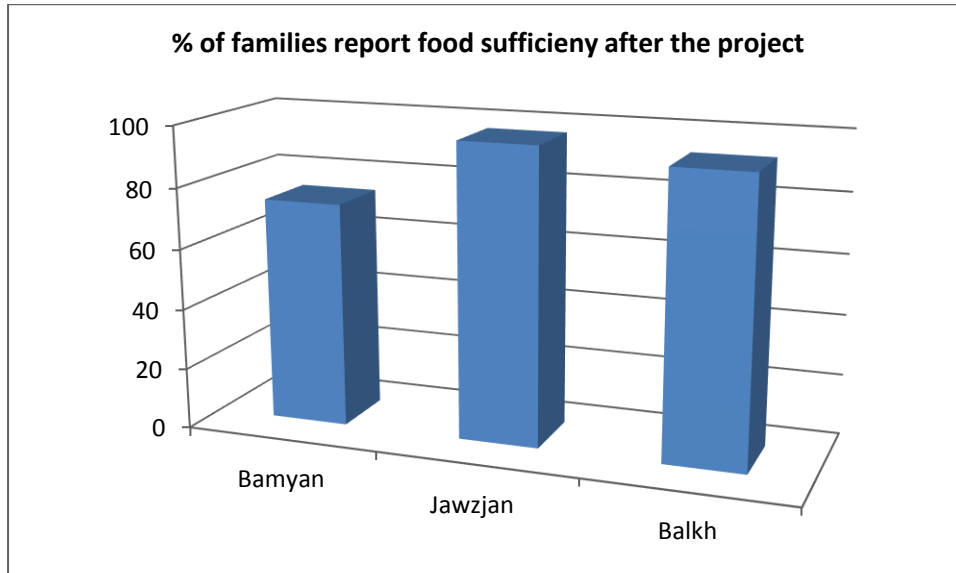
85% of the women (70% in Bamyan, 100% in Bulkh and 84% in Jawzjan) who took up back yard gardening have informed that their vegetable production has increased. However during FGD it was found that some of non-Project participants have also cultivated the vegetable seeds which they got from the Project participants and some even purchased from the market last year only, hence yet to see the result of subsequent years. Lateral learning has taken place from those who undergone training and cultivation.

Regarding livestock production the details are given below



#### 6.3.4. Increased and diversified food consumption by participating households

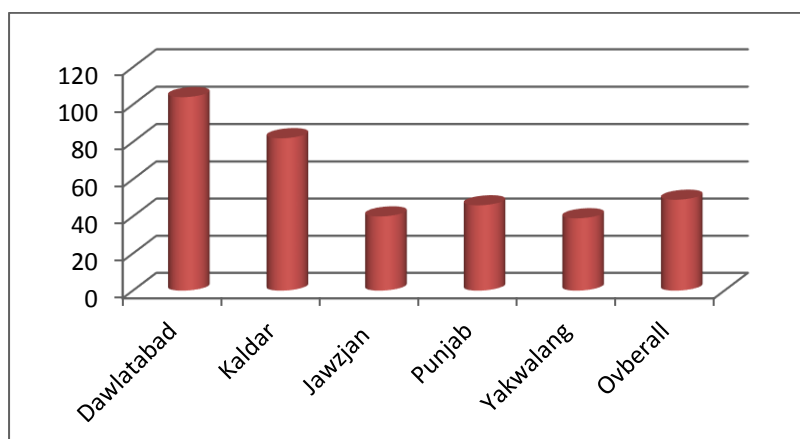
88 % of the respondents (74% in Bamyan, 93% in Balkh and 97 % in Jawzjan) in the HH survey informed that they have sufficient food in their table as result of the project. Province wise details are given in the chart below



In the focus group discussion we found the definition of sufficient food. The women in reflect group informed that sufficient food does not mean quantity but it means nutritious food. Nutritious food means they need to purchase different food items that have minerals, vitamins. Some in the group also opined that it also means buying good quality food items. 90 % of the HH survey respondents informed that the number of items in the meal has been increased because of their awareness about nutrition and also because their economic conditions have improved due to asset transfer, skill transfer and advocacy actions of the project. In the FGD men and women told increased use of vegetables in their diet, also other items such as eggs, meat, rice, and oils.

#### 6.3.5 Enhanced food and non-food sales of men and women in participating households.

Even though the production of crops has increased by 50 to 80 %, all the production does not turn up for sales. From the HH survey we found that there is 49 % increase in sales of farm production. District wise increase in non-farm income is shown in the graph below



From the FGD we have come to know that there is a barter system of exchange of grains for other food items in the community. Also the farmers keep some quantity of the production as seeds and food. The remaining quantity of the farm output called marketable surplus is only put up in the market for sales.

It is also to be noted that there is 49% increase in non-farm income. This adds value for building resilience, since the agrarian society increase of income from sector that is not dependent on rains and precipitation is good for the families and the community.

#### **6.3.6. Increased income diversification of men and women in participating households**

Income diversification has happened in the communities and families that has participated in the project. From the HH survey we found that 66 % of the respondents have informed that the number of income sources in their families has increased. 87 Out 244 were women headed which is 36 % of total respondents.

In the FGDs the men and women agreed that there is increase in number of income sources in the vulnerable families. Here vulnerable means prone to food insecurity. Due to lack of sufficient income sources the families were not able to consume enough and nutritious food, because earlier they used to rely on unpredictable wage income of one of the family members in most cases. Now the incomes are supplementing each other. Some income sources were Income from farm, income from self-employment after vocational training (beauty parlour, bike repair), income from sales of vegetables from backyard gardening, income from sales of livestock products such as milk. Many of these income sources are women centred and the income directly feeds into family's essential needs.

#### **6.3.7. Vulnerable groups mobilise collectively to influence service provision and policy**

The vulnerable groups are women (Widows, deserted, head of households whose husband migrated and not traceable for long), persons with disabilities and the elderly. We have conducted separate focus group for Reflect Circles which consist only of women. From different places where we conducted the exercise we found that in some places women have organised themselves very well to collectively influence the service provisions of the government and CDCs. For example in Shiberagan, Jawzjan, even though they refused to allow men to participate in their discussion, they have taken up the case of drinking water and have successfully advocated and followed up and got their requirement met. In Bamyan they allowed men to participate in Reflect Circle meetings, but when asked about their influence on service provision and policy of government and CDC, they said they have negligible effect. In fact during the meeting heated argument took place between CDC members and the Reflect Circle members. From the key informant interview with the CDC members and from focus group discussion with persons with disability we (mixed gender group) found that they do not have any significant role in participating in any meeting in which decision related to their food security and livelihoods is taken. There is no forum or group that represents their interest in the CDCs or in the government. There is a particular case of AAf through this project has supported two persons with disability to participate in vocational training. The CDC members told that in terms of selection of Project participants for any relief work they consider the families with person with disability. Elders are already in the decision making positions. The male elders are part of traditional

Shura in the community. Unfortunately elderly women are not part of any decision making bodies. Decisions taken in these traditional elders Shura are endorsed by the elected CDCs.

### **6.3.8. Vulnerable groups use development plans and evidence to influence decision-makers**

Among the 3 reflect circles that we conducted only one (means 33%) has a group strategy to influence the decision of community development plans. The concerned reflect circle has taken up the road cleaning by construction of culverts and water dividers to be included in the community development plan. The women informed that the water in the canal overflows spoiling the road which is used by their children to go to school. They informed the CDCs to include their point. The CDCs included it in their plan and REALISE project has funded the water divider which has also diverted the water in two different directions. Hence water overflowing problem has been solved and the road is now useable at all times. There is no evidence of persons with disability as a group able to influence the communality development plans.

#### **Unplanned results**

From discussion with various groups and key informants we have come to know that there were some positive and negative consequences because of project activities which are listed below;

#### **Positive results**

- **Advocacy for other than Food security and livelihoods**: Originally the training and guidance for advocacy action of the Project participants are meant to bring changed in service provision, plan and policies of the government and other player. But these skills and knowledge was used for taking up other than FSL issues such as flood protection, increasing check points to enhance community security, bringing electricity, school or clinic to the community etc.,
- **Solved water disputes and restored peace**: We have found that the water dispute between two communities was solved when a water divider was installed by the REALISE project where by communities decided to share the water based on time. They decided on the timing in which each one of these two way would be open and other would be shut. For example from 6 am to 12 noon is the turn of Community A, 12 noon to 6 pm is the turn of Community B. So the community to which the water should flow appoint a person for shutting the water way of other community and open their waterway. These details of opening time of each water way is written and displayed near the water divider. This action has solved their water dispute and now the community feels at peace. The Reflect Circle and the district governor's representative informed us about this New found peace which is a by-product of original action of bringing more areas under irrigation by arranging to divert some over flowing water to water scarce areas.

#### **Negative results**

- **Expectation of freebies** (dependency syndrome) we have found that in some communities the dependency syndrome has cropped up. In these communities the CDCs follows a system of rotation. Means they make sure that all the families in the village get benefit by rotation. If one family get a benefit from a project say two sheep or goat, then it will not get another assistance or support in another program for example emergency food assistance. The people expect that another project from AAf or some other organization will come and

they can get free goods. For example many of the Project participants who are drought affected got seeds from the government reserves this year. In the FGD they informed that it is the duty of the government to support them and they will also approach all the NGOs working in the area for emergency assistance and early recovery.

#### 6.4. Sustainability

We have discussed the sustainability of the actions done under REALISE project in all our discussion with key stake holder in the FGDs and KIs. Following are some of our observations regarding sustainability.

##### 6.4.1 Community consultations

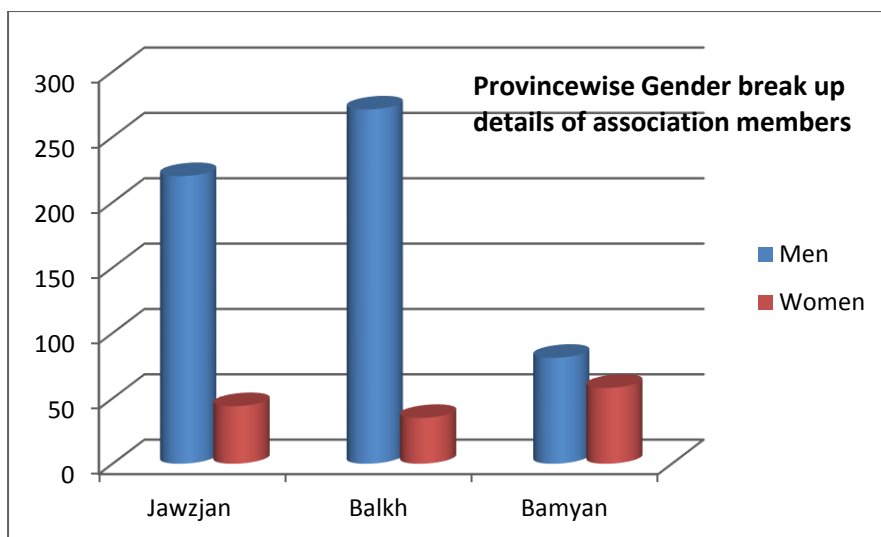
AAAf has done discussion with the communities to decide on various components of the projects. Though there were complaints of biased actions of favouring some individuals in the CDCs, in majority of the cases the community consultation had been successful. The decision taken in the meeting is approval of all community members in the presence of AAAf and government staff. Though the objectives and targets numbers were decided in advance by project documents, the decisions regarding who would be the Project participants , what type of infrastructure to be constructed, who would participate in training etc are decided in the community meeting in which all the members of community are invited. One person from each family participates and the decision taken in this community meeting is honoured throughout the project period.

##### 6.4.2. Institution and institutional capacity building

REALISE project has facilitated formation of 6 associations and 3 women working groups in its project districts. Details are given below

S. No	Association	Location	No of members		Type
			F	M	
1	AmoJawzjan Social and agri. Association	Jawzjan		40	Men only
2	Dairy/beekeeping groups of women	Jawzjan	24		Women Only
3	Turkistan Dairy& Agri. Association	Jawzjan	20	180	Mixed
4	Dawlatabad Almond support social association	Balkh		250	Men only
5	Dawlatabad women dairy processing group	Balkh	35		Women only
6	Cotton processing group	Balkh		21	Men only
7	Kaldar women dairy group	Balkh	21		Women only
8	Beekeeping agricultural association	Bamyan	27	3	Mixed
9	Potato agricultural association	Bamyan	10	20	Mixed
			<b>137</b>	<b>514</b>	

It is informed by the project staff that women formed only enterprise groups where as men formed associations. Province wise details with gender details are given in the chart below



Though we were unable to meet all the associations, we were able to meet a few, such as Dairy, Beekeeping and Potato associations. These associations are registered with Ministry of Justice as social organisations in the districts. All of them have an elected governance structure with a set of written by laws. Hence they are permanent people’s collective or local institutions with established procedures and policies. These associations have developed good relationship with the government bodies and are able to advocate on behalf of their members. The governing members informed that they received training on management and have put systems and procedures in place that will work even after the project. These associations have got physical infrastructures such as building and machineries from the REALISE project. With physical infrastructures, procedures and rules to operate and good linkage established, it is pretty predicible that these institutions would definitely operate even after the project. We saw them in good shape after the project during the evaluation.

#### 6.4.3. Project actions based on felt needs

During the FGDs we asked about their most felt need. We thought they will talk about lack of physical security and many other things such as connectivity. But 7 out of 12 focus group (58%) prioritized livelihoods as their number one need. This project has selected most vulnerable families and has supported them in building livelihoods through asset transfer and skill building. Since the core aspect of this project is based on the ‘felt’ need of the vulnerable families, the effect of actions of this project would outlast its project period.

#### 6.4.4. Social and cultural acceptability

Project activities have been considered well in the participating communities. The CDC is the first level of contact with the communities which is responsible from selection of beneficiary by community democratic process and to implement all the activities of the project. This same time tested administrative at community level is well respected and made use of in this project. The project did create or support change of this power sharing arrangement. Hence all the actions of the projects are accepted and respected by the community members. The CDC members organise meeting all of the community members when important decisions about the project is taken. All the community members send one representative from their family. The community members are given choice to select what type of infrastructures they need and are most appropriate for their pressing needs. From the FGDs we found that they are given full freedom to suggest topics of vocational



training, so that their youth would be gainfully engaged after the training period. AAf staff and CDCs have established excellent working relationship with external stake holders such as district governor, district department of agriculture and provincial governor office. This came out well in our Key informant interview with these staff. In the selection of Animal breeds the choice is given to the Project participants. After their selection of Sheep/Goat, quality assessment and price negotiations were done by the team consisting of AAf, CDC members and Government staff from Livestock department of DAIL.

#### **6.4.5. Economic sustainability**

The asset created and skill imparted by the project would outlast the project period. Using the vocational skills the youth have started their own business. During our work we met two bike mechanics and 3 beauticians who were trained by REALISE project support who are making good money, enough to support good standard of living for their families. Using these assets such as Sheep/Goats, the Project participants have stabilised their economic situation. From FGDs we found that within 2 years 2 animals have multiplied to 6 to 8, some of which the Project participants have sold and bought other productive assets. In two such cases in Jawzjan that we came across the Project participants were able to buy cows by selling the small ruminants and supply milk to the dairy association formed by REALISE project in the community from which they got regular income for their family on a daily basis. Thus we find evidence from our study that the asset building is on a pace up or up scaling stage and hence economic sustainability of asset building actions is assured.

#### **6.4.6. Appropriate technologies used**

From the HH survey we found that 100 % of the land owning respondents follow some of the new techniques taught to them in training or by observing in the demo plots. In the focus group discussion we explored what these new agricultural practices were and found line sowing, pruning, use of good quality seeds, and choice of good variety suitable for the region, irrigation method, orchard layout etc., since these technologies are good fit within their existing needs, indigenous knowledge level, resource availability and skill requirement. They are appropriate to the target Project participants and will have diffusion effect on the community by passive advocacy as a by-product. They did not say that did not like some. But due to cost factor and on availability of the input they were no able to use. For example they liked the drip irrigation and green house technology but for many of them it is costly and unaffordable. Some of them talked about treatment of seeds with seed treatment chemicals. But those chemicals explained to them were not available.

#### **6.4.7. Gender equity, environmental impact and good governance**

In terms of asset transfer such as small ruminant and seeds for back yard gardening the project has targeted women who are culturally bound not to move far or away from their residence. These activities that targeted women were well accepted by the communities as culturally appropriate. In the vocational training men and women have been given equal opportunities to participate. The vocational training suitable for women and men has been selected. Bike repair, Mobile repair and carpentry training for men and handicraft making, tailoring and beautician training for women 240 male and 240 female have taken up vocational training by REALISE project. The decisions and discussions have been made in the Foods security network which has only men members and Reflect circles which have only women members. Also in all the places where associations have been established one association is meant for men and one for women, for example Cotton grower

association for men and diary association for women. Three associations were formed by women which are Dairy and beekeeping group of Jawzjan, Dawlatabad Women diary processing group and Kaldar Dairy women diary Group. Also there were some mixed gender associations were formed. Turkmen dairy and agricultural association in Jawzjan, Bee-keeping/ agricultural association in Bamyan. Thus men and women had equal opportunities to participate in decision making process in their communities. The decision made by the women's group or Women Shura are informed to CDCs which are led by men. In our assessment we did not find any evidence of adverse environmental impact because of project actions. Environmental impact assessment has been done at the beginning of the project and there is no adverse observation. Democratic governance system has been established in all associations formed by the project. Good governance principles are followed in letter and spirit in all the associations that we had chance to visit (Potato association, Beekeeping association, Almond association, Dairy association) and make detailed focus group discussions. They are registered with ministry of justice and have written by laws and charter of association. All of them have elected bodies and have been given training in management functions.

## **6.5. Impact**

The purpose of the project is to enhance the resilience capacity of the targeted rural communities to shocks like natural disasters such drought, flood etc., and seasonal constraint so that it achieves and enjoys food and livelihood security. The project has selected 97 communities specifically from 6 districts of Jawzjan, Balkh and Bamyan provinces. The socio economic conditions of these three provinces are very different. Even the language spoken and demographics are different.

The project has specifically targeted families who are most vulnerable to food insecurity in the targeted villages of communities. From the FGD we found that there were much more eligible families in the communities who are not covered by the project due to financial constraints. The CDCs were the nodal point of selection of Project participants for the project activities. From KII interview of the CDC members we found that AAf has given them criteria for selection of Project participants. Women were the main targets for many of the activities such as asset transfer, literacy programme etc., But in skill transfer programme such as management training, agricultural training, livestock training and vocational training both men and women were participants.

Impact of the project on community as a whole could be analysed from various angles. Other than the direct Project participants of the project, there are many indirect Project participants. So impact here means the effect generated by the project in the sector, region and country as a whole.

### **6.5.1 Enhanced food and livelihood security**

All the Focus group discussions that we conducted 32 % of the people who participated are non-Project participants. All of them agreed that the food security situation in their families too improved which means the project objective of enhancing the food and livelihoods security has been achieved directly the action of the project such as back yard gardening and trainings. Though these non-Project participants did not receive the seeds for back yard gardening and did not participate in the training, they have learned many of these fruitful things from their neighbours and relatives and followed.

### **6.5.2. Women empowerment**

The project has good effect on empowering women for social actions. Empowerment here we mean equipping them with knowledge and skill, so that they are able to participate effectively in the

decision making process. The project has conducted rights training and advocacy training/guidance. Though extent of exercise of their rights differed between the targeted provinces, there is definitely greater degree of change. Changes have happened in the field of decision making at the community and household level. Community level changes regarding women's participation in public space in Jawzjan after the project actions is more pronounced. In Bamyan the communities allowed women participation in meeting long time before the project. But now because of the project they are guided regarding their way of participation to be effective. From discussion with Reflect circle we have found many of the women who never thought that they can and should participate in decision making process are now taking active part in the discussion in the decision making process. The women who have the support of their family members do participate. The members of associations give space for women who are educated to give their views in community decision making. Also the unmarried women and deserted women due to their status are not liked by men to allow in participation in public forum. Widows generally on their own do not participate in public meetings in Balkh and Jawzjan. But in Bamyan they do participate. In some places the women are organised into Women Shura where they discuss the important aspects that affect their lives and food security. But in some places such as Jawzjan Women Shura does not exist. They use the Reflect circle meeting to discuss such matters and inform the CDC members. In Jawzjan the women inform their view points to the CDC members through the CDC clerk whom they have employed in Balkh and Bamyan they inform their decision and viewpoints to the CDCs through their male relatives such as brother, father, uncle etc The project has supported the Reflect Circle and have contributed much to the women empowerment by providing the platform for women to discuss and contribute to the decision making process atleast at the CDC level. Another important impact of the project is that there is greater degree of community members understanding of human rights. Hence women's mobility outside their community has increased. They are able to go to distance places. This observation came out of discussion with the reflect circle. We conducted a participative exercise of decision making related to the household matters in the reflect group. These women informed that in many of their families the spending decisions are now delegated to women which was earlier done by men. Some women expressed that this is not universal phenomena (means followed throughout the community) but it is happening in many families after the project. They hoped it will have effect on other families too. In terms of participation in public space, women still face problems due to social opposition. They try to express their views through all the available means. In Bamyan the women are allowed to participate in community meeting organized for the project, where as in Jawzjan and Balkh they are not invited. So in terms of community acceptance of change differs from one province to another. We asked the women's group and men's group to chart the men's job and women's job in their household. We found that over a period of time child care has shifted to joint responsibility. Earlier it was the responsibility of women. In our study we are not able to locate whether this is only due to the project impact or it is happening due to general social change happening in their society.

### **6.5.3. Pro-poor development**

The project has also targeted the most vulnerable families of the community and thus contributing to the pro poor development agenda of the government. In the FGDs some of the members informed that pro-poor way of selection and involvement of target Project participants in all the project actions of REALISE is now being followed in other project and programmes of their area.

### **6.5.4. Economic and social development**

Besides the direct Project participants of the project, economic and social development as the result of the project has reached a wide range population of community. The skill transfer by vocational training has helped many more to learn from the trainees who set up shops after the training. In Kaldar in Balkh province, a vocational trainee of REALISE has established a workshop and has trained

9 other boys in his workshop. Two other bike repair mechanics have employed 2 boys each as their assistant which helped them to learn the skills. Many such examples are found throughout the project area. The advocacy training of the project has empowered the community for social actions. They have taken up advocacy for bringing drinking water, building flood prevention walls, and for drought relief etc.,

#### **6.5.5. Unplanned impacts**

We also found that there were also some unplanned impacts of the projects through our discussion with the Key informants and Focus groups. Water dividers constructed by the project to increase the area of irrigated agriculture in Dawlatabad district of Balkh has solved the water disputes of their area and have restored peace. This was mentioned to us by the DAIL officials with whom we had Key informant interview. The fact was also confirmed by our discussion with FGD with FSNs. The advocacy action of the project intended to address the food security and livelihood aspect was useful to the community to take up other pressing issues with the government. The non-Project participants have acquired the knowledge and skills for advocacy regarding how to approach and whom to approach and what to do regarding their common problems such as lack of clinic, school, problem of floods etc., The irrigation training inputs such as water harvesting technology are used by the community to improve the water availability in their community for longer times than before. The T system of grapes cultivation which were taught in the training by REALISE project has now been taken up by many more farmers of the area in Jawzjan. Overall these activities have a very positive effect on the community's welfare.

#### **6.5.6. Improved social status of the communities**

The project has improved the living conditions of the population to a greater extent. The associations have enhanced the livelihood opportunities for many non-target families. The improved businesses have employed more staff. For example in Cotton association now a set of logistics operators have emerged. These logistic operators contact the mill to inform the prices to the farmers and arrange to transport the produce to the ginning mill. Since the farmer's products in the area are aggregated or pooled by the association they are able to make arrangement to transport good quantity of cotton to the mill which reduced their cost and increased their profit by eliminating middle men.

Similar is the case of Dairy co-operative in Jawzjan. Because of improved economic conditions of many of the vulnerable families the education of women in the communities has increased which was reflected in our discussion with women in Reflect councils. As such the social status of the target communities has improved a lot because of various actions of the project. In some place the non-target villages and communities came to us with the request that project such as REALISE should take up other non-covered villages in the next phase. They informed that AAf has targeted some villages for their project for more than 10 years.

#### **6.5.7. Impact on cross cutting issues**

After being part of Reflect circles the women of the community have become more knowledgeable and confident on participation in decision making process that affect their lives. This is especially noted in the area of advocacy and approach to government service provisions. The project was able to inculcate the principles of good governance in the associations that were formed during the project period. Now the co-operatives which were operating in the area too have taken the governance system of REALISE project especially the book keeping system.

## 7. Other specific aspects of the project

### 7.1. Quality of the project

The quality delivery of the project are manifested in the various outcomes listed below

#### 7.1.1 Activities to increase of crop and vegetable production

##### 1. Adaption and use “new” technologies for cropping, livestock, water and soil management

All the FSNs that we contacted for the FGD informed that their members are following at least one of latest cultivation technology taught by the project through training and demonstration plots such as water saving techniques, soil moisture retention techniques, soil fertility management etc., there is also changes in cropping pattern to use less water consumptive crops. All the Reflect groups for which we conducted Focus group discussion informed that their members learnt new techniques from the livestock training and were following them to get better income. In the HH survey 80 % of the Project participants informed that they followed at least one new agricultural technology taught to them in the training organised by REALISE project. 74 % of the livestock growers informed that they benefited from the livestock training and follow many new technologies taught to them.

From the records of AAAf we found that 800 men and 200 women have visited the demonstration plots laid by AAAf in the lands provided by the DAIL in the district. We could not find out how many men and women received food security manual, since no records are available with AAAf. Only printing details are available. So we are not sure how many have reached the intended stake holders. From the HH survey we found that 64% of the Project participants have received the food security manual which means out of 1805 Project participants of the project 1155 Project participants have received the manual.

##### 2. Improved livestock and crop inputs use

From the HH survey we found that among the Project participants (men and women) 67 % received seeds (Vegetable and Wheat seeds) and 58 % received other inputs such as animal fodder, drip irrigation sets etc.

In term of number the details are given below

Type of input	No of men Project participants	No of women Project participants	Total
Vegetable seeds	-	970	970
Wheat seeds	12	-	12
Micro irrigation	60	-	60
Animal fodder		1940	

From the HH survey it is found that 75 % of the Project participants have used the inputs that they received. In the FGDs the issue of utilisation of inputs was discussed. Though majority of them informed that the inputs arrived in time, some participants informed delays and quality issues for not using the inputs supplied. In case of drip irrigation the water table went down and they could not pump enough water. So according to water table during summer months, deeper bore wells need to be dug which is more costly. Animal fodder is much useful and every one informed of using the fodder.

Each FSN selected one or two representative to meet with input supplier (Seed companies, fertiliser traders) to negotiate the price for the bulk supply to them members. On an average 12 such

meetings are held in a year and during sowing season they meet even 2 times in a week. Since the certified seed supply is controlled by the department of agriculture, irrigation and livestock, the FSN members had meeting with the Director of this department too.

But in some of the districts such as Punjab and Yakawlang of Bamyang the FSN does not take the lead in this matter.

### 7.1.2. Activities that improved food sufficiency and nutritious food

#### Strategies to balance diets across seasons, genders and age groups

170 men and 30 women have received theory and practical training in nutrition in Dawlatabad, Yakawlang, Punjab and Shibergan districts. From all the FSN and RC focus group discussions we found no evidence of them having any strategy to balanced diets. Most of them do not even know what a balanced diet is. Hence there is no report on balanced diet. Some in the focus group informed that they got details of nutrition during back yard gardening training. But even they were not told about balanced nutrition. Training of different types such as agricultural and livestock training, vocational training has contributed to the increase in income sources and income which have led to the food sufficiency of the vulnerable target families of the project. Also most of them have changed their food habit by include more vegetables in their food rather than mere meat, rice and bread.

### 7.1.3. Activities that improved Sales of food and non-food items

#### 1. Knowledge and skills in food and non-food processing and post-harvest storage

From all the FGD with FSN that we conducted we did not find evidence of conduct of training food and non-food product processing and post-harvest technology. However almond, Honey, potato and dairy association members have been given specialised training on their products.

6 Associations reported receiving equipment's as follows

S.No	Place	Type of association	Equipment or other support
1	Kaldar	Dairy association	Dairy processing equipment's
2	Dawlatabad	Almond Support Social Association	Furniture, computer, some tools (spray for almond trees, shovel etc..) registration, licence, harvesting bags, training (post harvesting and agriculture), and building by AA
3	Khamab	AmoJevizcan Social and Agricultural Association	Furniture and building beekeeping tools and clothes, honey filtering machine, training (agriculture and livestock) by PAC (local partner)
4	Punjab	Beekeeping Agricultural Association	Beekeeping Equipment (4 filtering machines), boxes, jar (second hand), two machinery (for the bee house), Trainings (beekeeping in winter, association management, business management). Nepal Exposure visit (chairman only)
5	Yakawlang	Potato Association	Building
6	Jawzjan	Shibergon Dairy Association	Dairy tools/equipment for producing yogurt and other dairy products, and training

In the discussion with RC members it was revealed that some of their women have received training on vegetable drying (processing), fruit jam making, tomato paste making etc. 2 out of 5 RCs (40%) in which we conducted FGDs told us they received training by local consultant regarding vegetable and fruits processing.

#### **7.1.4 Activities that lead to Income diversification**

##### **1. Skills and knowledge in business planning, marketing and management**

150 men and 30 women have been given business, marketing and management training. Most of the participants of these training are from different associations formed by REALISE project. These trainings were conducted in the district centres except for Khammab district.

One or two members from each Associations, FSNs and RC participated in this training. Overall 29 FSN and 29 RC members and 6 association members have been trained in business, marketing and management. We tested the knowledge gained by those trained by asking a few questions, those who took the training were able to answer our questions reasonably well.

Two of the 6 FGDs with FSNs (33%) that we conducted reported meeting with input supplier. Only men participated in such meeting. No women is involved in such meetings.

##### **2. Skills and knowledge of men and women in vocations**

240 men and 240 women have undergone vocational training.

From the FGDs regarding usefulness of these training there were different views. But all of them agreed that bike repair training of men and beauticians training of women were the most successful ones where as tailoring and carpentry were the least successful ones.

All the 6 FSNs for which we conducted FGDs informed that they found the vocational training were useful and the vulnerable families were able to have additional income source.

##### **3. Cooperatives (Associations) with improved skills and knowledge to engage in value chains**

Totally 6 associations and 3 women groups have been established of which 6 associations have been registered with the Ministry of Justice. Women groups did not register but operated as private enterprises without registration.

As per Key informant interview with AAf staff 540 men and 137 women are members of the 6 associations and 3 women groups formed by REALISE project.

Four of the 9 associations with whom we interviewed informed improved knowledge to engage with value chain actors. Associations in Punjab and Khammab reported no knowledge about value chain actors.

#### **7.1.5. Activities that helped collective mobilisation of vulnerable groups to influence decision making**

##### **1. Extension workers, staff and local partner's skills improvement to respond to the needs of vulnerable women and men**

All the 6 FSN and 4 RC that we interviewed informed that the extension services of DAIL has improved. But degree of improvement according to them differs. On an average in the scale of 10 (1 is minimal effect 10 maximum effect) the score was 7. Some key informants from DAIL informed that those training helped them a lot to provide useful information to the farmers with scientific basis.



2 FSN among 6 (33%) and 1 among the 4 RCs (25 %) that we conducted FGDs expressed the view that the AAf staff or AAf partner's performance could have been better.

180 men and 20 women from extension department of Agriculture, irrigation and livestock, staff of local partner have been trained in extension services by the project.

## **2. Improving skills of vulnerable to collectively contribute to decisions and engage service provision and policy**

All the FSN and RCs that we interviewed reported improved skills to engage and influence in advocacy actions. 150 men from FSNs and 44 women from RCs have participated in advocacy trainings. The project did not create FSN alliance and hence did not conduct any alliance meetings.

### **7 .1.6 Activities done to support use development plans and evidence to influence decision-makers by vulnerable groups**

#### **1.Literacy and numeracy skills of women**

194 men and 1347 women FSN and RC members respectively have received financial literacy training by the Project. We conducted few test on women who under gone these training and found then reasonable well in demonstrating the literacy and numeracy skills. Based on 4 RC groups sample we can conclude that 1347 women were made literate to be able to read and write.

2 out of 4 RCs (50%) for whom we conducted FGD have informed good knowledge of women's right and were able to take up advocacy action.

#### **2. Understanding of human rights among vulnerable groups**

We have conducted 3 focus group discussions with Persons with disabilities and elders. 4 FGD with RCs. All of them informed improved knowledge of human rights by attending various events and training conducted by AAf. Totally 1541 persons in the 3 provinces have received human rights training.

#### **7.2 Time line of the project implementation**

We could not find or locate the strategic plan for this project with year wise split up details.

From the discussion with the former and present AAf, we gathered the following information.

- The programme manager has dropped some of the activities of this project. We are not sure why these activities were **dropped**. Some of them are
  - Irrigation management training
  - Survey of products produced by the participants
  - Alliance building of FSN and RCS at district or province level
  - Establishment of Cold storage
  - Establishment of market linkage events
  - Support to advocacy events
- Some activities have been **shifted** from year 1 to Year 2. The project staff told this was done due to security related delays in the year 1 They are
  - Establishment of Co-operative

- Support to CDCs
- Establishment of micro irrigation
- Some activities have been **changed**
  - Instead of agricultural co-operative, associations have been formed and registered with ministry of justice
  - For women Instead of associations or Co-operatives, unregistered groups have been formed for women.
  - Instead of literacy and numeracy classes, in some places financial literacy classes have been conducted as per instruction of the programme manager
- Some activities have been **added** to the project
  - Farmers field school visit
  - District NGO meeting Co-ordination
  - Green house establishment

In the Key informant interview with AAf staff we were told that there was constant change in Programme manager position as such 4 different programme managers have worked for this project which has led to different understanding of the project components and different implementation strategy. The Local partners of AAf interviewed for this study too informed long delays in starting of activities due to procedural problems and a fund transfer.

Despite these hiccups most of the activities planned in this project have been completed in time.

### **7.3 Adequacy of participants selection criteria**

AAf has clearly indicated the criteria for selection of direct Project participants such as vulnerability to food insecurity, one of the vulnerable group such as women headed, persons with disabilities. But the selection of Project participants has been given to the committee consisting of CDC members and AAf staff, in most of the communalities most of the families have participated in the direct beneficiary's selection process. However in two of the RCs that we conducted FGDs there is dissatisfaction in this selection process. They informed that influences of CDC members are too much to stifle the view of the vulnerable members.

### **7.4 Adequacy of selection criteria of interventions**

In all the FGDs the intervention planned and implemented in their area was informed to be satisfactory and good. Since the interventions have been planned in consultation with the communities most of the community members who participated in the FGDs and KII informed that the interventions were as per their needs and they were happy about them.

### **7.5 Interference in selection of project locations and participants.**

From the Key informant interview with different stake holder we found that selection of locations has been decided by AAf unilaterally without any consultations. In terms of selection of Project participants there have been influences of CDC members and AAf staff in some places reported by the FSN and RC members.

## 7.6 Analysis of transparency and leakage

There was complete transparency in the different actions of the project. AAf has taken sufficient actions to curb corruptions at all levels. This is appreciable given the complexity and diversity of activities and places in which they were implemented.

## 7.7 Adherence to guidelines, rules and regulations

AAf has signed MOU with Ministry of Agriculture, irrigation and livestock and gone as per the letter and spirit of this MOU. All the rules in the procurement manual, finance and HR manual have been followed well.

## 8. Inferences

After the analysis of the information collected by quantitative and qualitative assessment we could draw the following inferences or conclusions;

### Positive outcomes

1. Food security and nutrition security of community vulnerable men, women and children has considerably improved because of project interventions.
2. The crop production of staple crop namely Wheat increased by 32 % and livestock (small ruminants by 31%, Cattle (Cow) by 47 % and poultry by 65 %.
3. Farm Income of men and women farmers has increased by 65% because of project interventions of training and inputs supply.
4. The economic asset base of the vulnerable men, women and children has been increase moderately (55%)
5. Participating group of vulnerable men and women were able to influence decision making, service provision and policies affection food and livelihoods security to a significant level
6. Sales of farm products from the Project participants is high(65 %) but the sales of non-farm products is medium(48 %) learned from the response of the HH respondents
7. Sufficiency of food after project intervention among project participants is significant. 88 % report they got sufficient food after project intervention. Targeted families also diversified their foods significantly. 90 % of Project participants reported that they have diversified their diets.
8. Diversification of income among men and women of participating household has happened but to a moderate extend (66% reported diversification)
9. Collective influence of vulnerable groups in the service provision and policy is low to moderate level.
10. There are some evidence to show that vulnerable groups use development plans (Community development plan) to influence decision makers.
11. Adaption of new techniques by men and women in cropping livestock, water and soil management is high (More than 80 %).
12. Use of improved livestock or crop inputs is moderate (75%).
13. Increase in skills and knowledge in business planning, marketing and management at association level is high and significant.

14. Increase in skills and knowledge of men and women involved in vocational skills is high and has significant impact income sources of the vulnerable families.
15. Skills of vulnerable to collectively contribute to decisions and engage on service provision and policy has improved significantly.
16. Literacy and numeracy skills of targeted women have improved significantly
17. There is significant increase in understanding of human rights of vulnerable groups.

#### **Outcomes that need improvement**

1. Men and women do not have any strategy for balance diet across seasons and different gender and age groups.
2. Increase in knowledge and skills in food and non-food processing and post-harvest storage including diary and vegetable produces is very low.
3. The training was confined to few select members of the associations. Hence this training should be extended widely to the community. Possibly community volunteers could be trained in Training of trainers session and sent for training community members for wider outreach
4. 9 associations has in the place of co-operatives have been established and 6 of them are registered with Ministry of Justice and are functional
5. Extension workers, staff and local partner's skills to respond to the needs of the vulnerable women and men is low to moderate level

### **9. Lessons Learned**

From key informant interview with present and former AAf staff we have collected lessons learned details. Also details form lessons learned workshop conducted after the closure of the project were also shared with us. The details are listed below

**Outcome 1:** Increased food & nutritional security for vulnerable men, women and children in participating household

- In some places vegetable seeds were not distributed in time. Hence they saved the seeds and used them in the next year. Because of which the seed germination was affected
- People received new varieties of seeds and they gave good yield and farmers were happy. Hence this should be followed in other similar projects
- Demonstration plots were established only in the district centres which lead to the situation only a few farmers were able to visit and get more information. Hence farmers expressed to the AAf staff to establish demo plots in more villages
- The asset transfer action of the project has really brought changes in the lives of vulnerable people when right participants are selected.
- There were some inclusion and exclusion errors in the Project participant's selection. In future AAf should fix clear criteria in selection of the Project participants and should cross check the Project participants list before distribution of the benefits
- Livestock selected for some areas did not yield good results. More care is required to select the breeds. So animals acclimatised and adapted to the place should be selected. Warm weather conditioned animals did not give good results in very cold weather

- Agreement with DAIL veterinary services is necessary to ask them to support the livestock Project participants. Since these staff do not have transport facility for them AAf should arrange or compensate in cash for their regular visit to the villages
- In two places poultry was wiped out in the second year. Since they laid very few eggs the participants culled and used them for food or sold them
- It should be ascertained about grazing land for the livestock Project participants. For success of livestock a minimum land is required. In the project animals were distributed to landless which in some cases lead to poor result
- Winters start early and are harsh in some area where implementation of small infrastructure projects was delayed. So advance planning and adapted procurement procedures are required
- Training are to be conducted before the distribution of seeds, livestock and poultry. In many places training were conducted after much long time of distribution. This should be avoided
- The demand for good quality wheat seeds is too high. Hence selection of just two lead farmers per district is too small a number. So it should be increased
- In some places the demo plot is far away from the town or village. Hence it is very difficult for the farmers or field staff to arrange a separate car to visit the plot. Since the plot has a compound and lock, it is necessary that the owner or watchman should be informed in advance before the visit.
- According to the field staff the new technology of irrigation used in demo plots is very useful and has helped famers to save water and use it economically
- Micro irrigation should be given to at least 10 famers in a districts, for good dissemination and spread of technology
- Field staff during who participated in the lessons learned workshop informed that the targets for different components kept changing and it created situation of non-clarity of target. Many aspects were dropped and many were changed half way through the project by different Programme manager who kept changing
- Community agreement was not obtained to protect the pastures. It should have been done at the beginning. Because of this failure the pastures were not protected and remained without much change even though project supported its rehabilitation
- More attention needs to be paid to select good quality consultant to take up market assessment. The one who was selected for the market assessment did not get a clear picture of the market and skills required.
- Engineers should be hired as consultant in spring to complete the infrastructures during summer. For that good planning and support of logistics are very important.

**Outcome 2:** An increased economic asset base for vulnerable men and women in participatingHouseholds

- The vocational trainings conducted by REALISE imparted the skills to the participants. Unfortunately the certificate given by AAf at the end of the training is not recognised by the government for which registration of vocational training course with syllabus with ministry of social affairs and labour is a must
- Local partner with low and no experience in vocational training has been selected and have been given low budget to implement the programme. This has led to produce poor quality trainees who remain unemployed even after several months of the training.

- Before starting of project the issues related to working with Co-operatives should have been analysed very well by hiring a consultant for that purpose. Since cooperative formation and support is to go through complicated process at ministry of agriculture, this plan was changed and associations were formed but not supported well in terms of capacity building. The field staff informed that more training and mentoring of association staff was required
- Passive potato storage has been piloted in Jawzjan after learning form Bamyān. It can be replicated in other places too. It can be constructed in demo plot to show to the visiting farmers
- Adaptability test and analysis should be conducted before bringing in livestock and poultry breeds into an area. Since this was not done, in some cases animals and poultry died. In some cases gave poor yield. Also care should be taken to select breeds which are tolerant to colder condition and diseases related to such conditions
- Only a few members of association got training. Intensive training to be conducted for all members of the association that can make the association work better and successful. Association elected members should be mentored for several months by incubation centre supported by the project with expert in the required fields
- FSN federation or association to be formed for making the advocacy action more effective. It was planned in the project but was not implemented.

**Outcome 3:** Participating groups of vulnerable men and women influencing decision making, service provision and policies affecting their food and livelihood security

- The women and vulnerable men were seen empowered with knowledge and skills for advocacy action. The field staff could see many actions of advocacy that worked
- Linking the FSN and RC to the food security and agriculture cluster created by FAO, WFP and NGO is necessary
- It is suggested to create a network of association at district, provincial and national level to share experience and get knowledge of solving their own problems
- FSN and RC should be given a legal status to operate. At present both of them are operating at informal level.
- Introduction of FSN and RC to WFP and its programmes such as food or cash for work, food distribution etc., is necessary for making it more effective
- Advocacy has worked and people were able to benefit from government programmes. More works on this field is required to make them inclusive. At present persons with disabilities are not given special attention in this process.
- The government officials are to be sensitised about the importance of inviting FSN persons for the annual planning exercise of each department at the sub-national and ministry at the national level relevant to food security.
- The field staff informed that along with human right awareness session, awareness sessions about Afghan constitution which is based on human rights principles is vital and necessary. Because it will be viewed as more relevant to Afghan context, since most of the Afghan people complain that western concepts and principles are thrust into them uninvited.
- Linking FSN of different districts and region is necessary to get a mass for advocacy action for policy changes and for bringing about changes in the implementation procedures
- The co-ordination developed with government should be strong. For make such co-ordination work better, it is necessary to support the government with finance or in kind

assistance. For example the governor office at district level can be provided with internet, a photocopy machine, stationeries etc.,

- Provincial advocacy actions should be followed up at national level. These can be done by an AAf staff placed in Kabul who has good connectivity to different ministries
- Co-ordination with Department of literacy is necessary for linking our literacy programme with that of government efforts. Though the literacy and numeracy books are given free by the department AAf did not approach them to give the necessary books to each of the participant of the literacy class. At present the literacy and numeracy teacher is using only one set of books to teach all the students in her class.
- Other than the subject of reading, writing and counting in the literacy classes, it is suggested to teach important family health related topics such as vaccination, nutrition, hygiene etc., Also women may be taught about child care and methods of engaging children for learning process

## 10 Recommendations

### 1. Feedback and complaint system

AAf or the project has no system to receive feedback from the Project participants to make corrections in the processes during the period of the project. Also there is no way the beneficiary can report any issue of corruption or favouritism directly to the top management or to report matters of concern. Hence it is recommended to establish beneficiary feedback and complaint system which is assessable to all the Project participants. It can be in the form of a help line telephone line, complaint and suggestion box or help desk at every field office.

### 2. Internal M & E system

We found from our key informant interview with former REALISE staff and present AAf staff that there is no internal Monitoring and evaluation system. This has led to the situation of one way flow of information from project staff to the management. We have noted some negative points in the implementation of the project which could have been reported and remedial actions would have been taken in time by AAf. Internal M & E system can help to find lapses in the activities and actions to make correction in real time.

### 3. Third party monitoring

In this project AAf has implemented the project directly and through local partners. In case of areas where the project was implemented by a partner, AAf could commission a third party or consulting company in future to do the monitoring activity and report.

### 4. Set resilience standards and change villages included for projects in next phase

There are complaints all around during our field work that AAf is working in same villages for several years leaving several other similar villages not covered. It is recommended that AAf set some standard measure of estimating the resilience, exit strategy of the current target villages and change villages after some time. From the analysis we have found that AAf has taken up various measures for building resilience in the community such as asset transfer, skills transfer, and activities and through building of institutions such as associations. AAf can institute household income studies to understand the progress made on resilience front in each community. If by the studies it is revealed 90 % of the population is out of poverty line, then that community can be considered as resilient and so should be excluded in the next similar project or next phase. Poverty line can be

fixed as per UN standard of 1 USD per individual per day income or based on minimum requirement for buying a bundle of essential goods and service.

#### **5. Rigorous and comprehensive Market study before deciding vocational training**

It was found from our study that some of the vocational training are very successful and some are failure. For example bike mechanic training is successful to get good income after the training whereas tailoring does not get much income. It is imperative to conduct a comprehensive market study before deciding on the topics for vocational training. There are many reasons for the failure of the vocational training. Let use list a few. 1. Already too many persons have received such training in the community and the business for that profession is not high. Example: Tailoring 2. Market conditions did not favour the products produced Carpentry – furniture making because cheap items are available in the market. Cheap items could not be made due to non-availability of cheap raw materials AAf has instituted a market study by a local consultant. But the analysis has not done poorly and hence the recommendations were not appropriate to the conditions. So we recommend conducting a rigorous market study by market study expert before starting of the vocational training.

#### **6. Advocacy actions beyond CDCs**

The advocacy actions at present stop at CDC level. FSN and RC members should be given motivation and guidance to proceed beyond CDC to go to next levels. The FSN and RC should be mentored to approach the governor office at district, province and the at the central government level.

#### **7. Formulate and follow uniform Project participants selection process**

Though AAf has prescribed community selection process. But in our study this process has been misused. Also several methods of community selection are followed such as lottery and rotation. So it is recommended to follow a mixed selection process of community selection with administrative selection. This can avoid inclusion and exclusion errors. A mixed method of selection combining community's own selection with institutional selection to cross check the selection of Project participants can be used. The selection criteria may be made public and community can be asked to select a participant (beneficiary) selection committee. This committee given orientation of the Project participant's selection process and asked to select the Project participants based on those criteria. A random check of the selected Project participants to be done by AAf staff. This random check should cover at least 5 % of the selection list. If there is discrepancy in the selection, the list should be returned to the Participant (beneficiary) selection committee to re-examine all the families in the list and refine to exclude those who do not meet the criteria of selection.

#### **8. Support to capacity building in government and advocacy**

From our studies we found that there aren't any women trainers in the department of livestock. It is recommended to build the capacity of the women staff of home science department to conduct training to the women. Also advocacy should be undertaken to insist the government to appoint women livestock workers in all the provinces. Because next to agriculture, livestock is the major source of income to the rural families.



### **9. Efforts to organize and include views of persons with disabilities**

Persons with disabilities are marginalized and their views are not heard and hence were not incorporated in the CDC plans or any advocacy actions. Special efforts need to be taken by AAf in future projects to organize these marginalized into groups and include their views in the community plans and actions.

### **10. Co-ordinated action for Increasing awareness to balanced nutrition**

Nutrition training activity needs to be co-ordinated with home science division of the Department of Agriculture and subject of balanced diet should be included in the curriculum of the nutrition training.

### **11. More outreach for post-harvest and business training**

These trainings were confined to few select members of the associations. Hence this training should be extended widely to the community. Possibly community volunteers could be trained in Training of trainer's session and sent for training community members for wider outreach.

### **12. Exit plan to be in place for handling matters after the project**

Efforts should have been taken to register all the associations within the project period. In case of delay, the community members could be given suitable training and instructions regarding how to complete the registration process.

### **13. More training for extension staff and refresher**

It is found that the Extension workers, staff and local partner's skills to respond to the needs of the vulnerable women and men are low to moderate level. For that it is suggested to conduct more intensive training to wider field workers group. Also refresher training are recommended.

### **14. Continuity in management to be ensured**

Several change of programme manager positions which has led to changes made in the programmes and some delays in actions. To avoid this we recommend to hire programme manager for such projects on long term basis with good intrinsic and extrinsic incentives.

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13. Value chain analysis – Jawzjan
14. AA and ICARDA business training report

## 12. Annexes

### Annex 1: List of villages for HHs survey

#	Villages	Districts*
1	MarkazDawlatabad	Dawlatabad
2	Joy arab	Dawlatabad
3	Charbaghsaidannaqlen	Dawlatabad
4	Charbaghsaidanwatani	Dawlatabad
5	Qarshigak	Dawlatabad
6	Paimashadnaqlin	Dawlatabad
7	Qawaq	Kaldar
8	Chakeer	Kaldar
9	Bailak	Kaldar
10	Ana Geldi	Kaldar
11	Islam	Kaldar
12	Chaqir	Kaldar
13	Dali	Kaldar
14	BozArigh	Kaldar
15	ArighAyaq	Kaldar
16	Meserabadbala	Sibirgan
17	MeserabadPayen	Sibirgan
18	Kahlak	Sibirgan
19	Chetgarkhana	Sibirgan
20	Ashraf	Sibirgan
21	Meserabadwasat	Sibirgan
22	Kenara	Sibirgan
23	Eidmohala	Sibirgan
24	Ghajari	Sibirgan
25	Pirmazid	Sibirgan
26	Sirak	Yakalawn
27	Sarbulaq	Yakalawn
28	Joye Now	Yakalawn
29	Doborja	Yakalawn
30	Namadak	Yakalawn
31	Rahqul	Yakalawn
32	Chahardiwari	Yakalawn
33	Dahandardarakhtan,	Panjab
34	Dahanbaldarghanato	Panjab
35	Qala-e-akhoond	Panjab
36	Lagzayi	Panjab

37	Shah	Panjab
38	Shinia	Panjab
39	Zarak	Panjab

Survey did not apply in Khamab district due to insecurity (Taliban took over)

## Annex 2: List of persons interviewed in key informant interview

	Position	Name and Surname	Village-District	Type	Contact No	Remarks
1	DAIL Manager	Shamsuddin Khan	Center of Dawlatabad	DAIL	7995598189	Dawladabad
2	CDC Chairman	Abdul Wahaab	Center of Dawlatabad	CDC		Dawladabad
3	CDC Deputy Chairman	Mah Jan	Center of Dawlatabad	CDC		Dawladabad
4	Deputy Governor	Nazir Khan	Center of Dawlatabad	Governor	790903300	Dawladabad
5	Provincial Co-ordinator, Local partner	Basir Barak	Hairatan	Local Partner		Kaldar
6	CDC member	MihdSikur, Mhd Mayer, Haidar,	Kasik	CDC		Kaldar
7	District Agricultural officer	Shirajuddin	Kaldar Center	DAIL		Kaldar
8	District DAIL Manager	Serajddin	Center of Kaldar	DAIL		Kaldar
9	District Extension officer	Salaluddin	Kammab district	DAIL		Khamab
10	Deputy CDCs	Haji Esadullah	Pirmazid village	CDC	786526918	Sibirgan
11	Agricultural affairs officer	AssadullahStiez	Shibergan	DAIL		Sibirgan
12	Agricultural extension officer	Syed TaqiMansor	Yakwalang	DAIL		Yakalawn
13	District Governor representative	Mhd Nasir Ehsas	Yakwalang	Governor		Yakalawn
14	AA Sibirgan Project officer	AzizullahQuraishi	Shibergan	Former AA staff	794824182	Sibirgan
15	PAC program coordinator	ShukrullahKhalili	Khamab	Local Partner REALISE	774516739	Khamab
16	PDCO (PAWDAR dev and cultural org) LRP Coordinator	HullahMatin	Panjab	Local Partner LRP	770056376	Panjab
17	PDCO executive director	ZakiaHussaini	Panjab	Local Partner LRP	775266754	Panjab
18	CDC	Mohammad shra	Qaliterapas	CDC	778376598	Panjab
19	LatifBasharath	Project Co-ordinator	Kabul	AAAf staff	07797663442	Kabul

### Annex 3: List of persons who participated in FGD

S/N	Name	Position	Village	Contact No	Remarks
1	M. Asif	Chairman	Dawltabad district	787903320	Dawlatabad Almond Association
2	M.Sharif	Member	Dawltabad district	774143388	Dawlatabad Almond Association
3	Ghawsuddin khan	Member	Dawltabad district	781509725	Dawlatabad Almond Association
4	Abdul Wahab	Member	Dawltabad district	785937043	Dawlatabad Almond Association
5	Ewazmurad	Member	Dawltabad district	772982109	Dawlatabad Almond Association
6	Esmatullah	finance	Dawltabad district	797813476	Dawlatabad Almond Association
7	Ghfoor	Member	Dawltabad district	782336572	Dawlatabad Almond Association
8	M. Anwar	Member	Dawltabad district	773710079	Dawlatabad Almond Association
9	Salih	Member	Dawltabad district	784636642	Dawlatabad Almond Association
10	M. Asif	Member	Center of Dawlatabad FSN	787903320	Dawlatabad center FSN
11	Den Mohamamd	Member	Center of Dawlatabad FSN		Dawlatabad center FSN
12	Jabar	Member	Center of Dawlatabad FSN		Dawlatabad center FSN
13	M Tahie	Member	Center FSN		Dawlatabad center FSN
14	M Hasan	Member	Center FSN		Dawlatabad center FSN
15	Fizullh	Member	Center FSN		Dawlatabad center FSN
16	M Hakim	Member	Center FSN		Dawlatabad center FSN
17	Obidullh	Member	Center FSN		Dawlatabad center FSN
18	Abdul Razaq	Member	Center FSN		Dawlatabad center FSN
19	Serajddin	Member	Center FSN		Dawlatabad center FSN
20	AdulManan	Member	Center FSN		Dawlatabad center FSN
21	Aqmurad	Member	Qaooq		Kaldar FSN
22	Juma Agha	Member	Qaooq		Kaldar FSN
23	Abdul Rahim	Member	AqMasjed		Kaldar FSN
24	Abdul Gahfor	Member	Qaooq		Kaldar FSN
25	QelichTordi	Member	Qaooq		Kaldar FSN
26	HewazGeldi	Member	Dali		Kaldar FSN
27	AuqMurad	Member	Dali		Kaldar FSN
28	NoorlHaq	Member	Dali		Kaldar FSN
29	Adadullh	Member	AqMasjed		Kaldar FSN
30	Abdul Jalil	Member	Ana Geldi		Kaldar FSN
31	Abdolkarim	Member	Qawaq		Kaldar FSN
32	MokhiPanji	Member	anagildi		Kaldar FSN
33	AbdolSalim	Member	Chaqir		Kaldar FSN

34	Mohamad shah	Member	Islam		Kaldar FSN
35	khadirNazar	Member	Chaqir		Kaldar FSN
36	Dawlatgildi	Member	Ana gildi		Kaldar FSN
37	QamaerGul	Member	Ana Geldi		Kaldar RC PWC
38	HishA	Member	Ana Geldi		Kaldar RC PWC
39	SharifA	Member	Chakar		Kaldar RC PWC
40	Rabia	Member	Chakar		Kaldar RC PWC
41	Torfa	Member	Chakar		Kaldar RC PWC
42	AgholJuma	Member	Qaraja		Kaldar RC PWC
43	Razia	Member	Chakar		Kaldar RC PWC
44	Saber	Member	Chakar		Kaldar RC PWC
45	Gul Jan	Member	Chakar		Kaldar RC PWC
46	MahJabin	Member	Ana Geldi		Kaldar RC PWC
47	Baba Gildi	Member	DanajiPayen	771061138	Khamab FSN
48	Abdul Rahim	Member	NawabadMuhajir	773598624	Khamab FSN
49	Haji Habibullah	Member	BozarighPayen	766533751	Khamab FSN
50	Khairuldeen	Member	Quinli		Khamab FSN
51	Qadir Agha	Member	EtifaqPayen	765008084	Khamab FSN
52	Azizullah	Member	NowabadWatani		Khamab FSN
53	Charyarqol	Member	Qarnas	780618026	Khamab Association
54	Mohammad Amin	Member	EtifaqBala	782826022	Khamab Association
55	Khairullah	Member	Qoyunli	770871768	Khamab Association
56	Mohammad Nazar	Member	DanajiBala		Khamab Association
57	Hekmatullah	Member	BosaghaPayen	783033159	Khamab Association
58	Naibullah	Member	Ghajary		Jevzican FSN
59	Abdul Wahab	Member	Kinara		Jevzican FSN
60	Abdul Wahab	Member	Kinara		Jevzican FSN
61	Din Mohad	Member	EidMahla		Jevzican FSN
62	Noor ali	Member	EidMahla		Jevzican FSN
63	Abdul Had	Member	Chitgarkhana		Jevzican FSN
64	Hamidullah	Member	Chitgarkhana		Jevzican FSN
65	Mustafa	Member	Chitgarkhana		Jevzican FSN
66	Hajeabdulrasool	Member	Mesrabadbala		Jevzican FSN
67	Mohammad Ali	Member	Mesrabadbala		Jevzican FSN
68	Mohammad amin	Member	Mesrabadbala		Jevzican FSN
69	ShaMohammad	Member	Mesrabadwast		Jevzican FSN

70	Qudbodin	Member	Mesrabadwast		Jevzican FSN
71	Mohammad den	Member	Mesrabadpayen		Jevzican FSN
72	Timorsh	Member	Mesrabadpayen		Jevzican FSN
73	NikMhammad	Member	Smesrabadpayenhibag		Jevzican FSN
74	Mohammad jawed	Member	Mesrabadpayen		Jevzican FSN
75	Mohammad harf	Member	Mesrabadpayen		Jevzican FSN
76	Esmatullah	Member	Gharjari		Jevzican Disable people
77	Tukhta	Member	Gharjari		Jevzican Disable people
78	sayedkhal	Member	Gharjari		Jevzican Disable people
79	Mahtab	Member	Gharjari		Jevzican Disable people
80	Gull afroz	Member	Gharjari		Jevzican Disable people
81	zalikha	Member	Gharjari		Jevzican Disable people
82	Nasarahmad	Member	Gharjari		Jevzican Disable people
83	Mohammad Ali	Member	Gharjari		Jevzican Disable people
84	salima	Member	Gharjari		Jevzican Disable people
85	Abdul AzimKhadim	Member	Kadalak	771764048	Panjab FSN
86	Mohammad EsaKhodadad	Member	Dahan e Darakhtan	790110201	Panjab FSN
87	Mohammad Sarwar Mohammad Big	Member	Qala e Akhoond	771438511	Panjab FSN
88	Tahira Mohammad Nabi	Member	Pay e band	772346102	Panjab FSN
89	Aqila Mohammad Nader	Member	Kadalak	728157669	Panjab FSN
90	Fatima Baz Ali	Member	Shahi	766824473	Panjab FSN
91	Fatima Shir Hassan	Member	Shahi	775756892	Panjab FSN
92	RaziaAlidad	Member	Qala e Akhoond	776177843	Panjab FSN
93	Mortaza Mohammad Nabi	Member	Dahan e Darakhtan	772141542	Panjab FSN
94	Sayed Ali Sayed Mohammad	Member	Shahi	775619881	Panjab FSN
95	Mohammad Sadiq Mohammad Akbar	Chairman	Sarsar	776225176	Panjab Beekeeping Association
96	Salima Haji Abdulhamid	member	Sarsar	777298668	Panjab Beekeeping Association
97	Chaman Rajab	member	Sayed Abad	767463792	Panjab Beekeeping Association
98	TahiraMukhtar	member	Sayed Abad	797463793	Panjab Beekeeping Association
99	JumaGhulam Abbas	member	Sarsar	772871989	Panjab Beekeeping Association
100	ZainabGhulamHussain	member	Sad barg	775402051	Panjab Beekeeping Association
101	SabiraJuma	member	Sad barg	771941321	Panjab Beekeeping Association
102	MasumaAman	member	Posht e telegraf	777547937	Panjab Beekeeping Association
103	Sakina Mohammad Anwar	member	Posht e telegraf	772549603	Panjab Beekeeping Association
104	MhdTaqi	member	Raqual		Yakalawn PWD and Women group

105	Rulullag	member	Raqual		Yakalawn PWD and Women group
106	Bas gul	member	Raqual		Yakalawn PWD and Women group
107	GulamSakhi	member	Raqual		Yakalawn PWD and Women group
108	Qasim Ali	member	Raqual		Yakalawn PWD and Women group
109	Arisa	member	Raqual		Yakalawn PWD and Women group
110	Mohamad	member	Raqual		Yakalawn PWD and Women group
111	Zahra	member	Raqual		Yakalawn PWD and Women group
112	MhdHussaian	member	Raqual		Yakalawn PWD and Women group
113	Salma	member	Raqual		Yakalawn PWD and Women group
114	Uzra	member	Raqual		Yakalawn PWD and Women group
115	Haji Akbar	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
116	Ibrahim	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
117	Asadullah	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
118	Abdullah	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
119	Baqir	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
120	Arifa	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
121	Aziza	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
122	Arifa	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
123	FATima	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
124	Uzra	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
125	Zebab	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
126	Waziri	member	Kataqala,		YakalawnFSN
127	Somee Dare Ali	member	Yakalawn center		Yakalawn Potato Association
128	Sarbulag	member	Yakalawn center		Yakalawn Potato Association
129	Nashar Dare Ali	member	Yakalawn center		Yakalawn Potato Association
130	Khara Song Dara Ali	member	Yakalawn center		Yakalawn Potato Association
131	Syed Hussain	member	Yakalawn center		Yakalawn Potato Association
132	Syed Mustafa	member	Yakalawn center		Yakalawn Potato Association
133	Hassan	member	Yakalawn center		Yakalawn Potato Association
134	Ab Wahid	member	Yakalawn center		Yakalawn Potato Association
135	Nasiba	member	Yakalawn center		Yakalawn Potato Association
136	Nasir	member	Yakalawn center		Yakalawn Potato Association
137	Ali Akbar	member	Yakalawn center		Yakalawn Potato Association



Annex 4: Evaluation questionnaires used

REALISE Project Final Evaluation

ارزیابی نهایی پروژه ریلایز

House hold survey format

فورمه سروی خانواده

S. NO	Questions سوالات	Response جوابات																		
1	What is your fullname? نام مکمل تان چیست																			
2	What is the address of this place? آدرس اینجا کدام است (Mention community name and house door number) and Phone number نام شورا، یانمبردروازه را بگویند																			
3	Male or Female ذکور یا انات																			
4	What are you in this family? (Head of house hold, Son or daughter, Wife of head of house hold etc) شما به فامیل چی ارتباط دارید (سرپرست خانه، دختری یا پسر خانواده، خانم سرپرست خانه)																			
5	After start of this project, do you feel that the food situation for you and your family improved or not? بعد از شروع و تطبیق پروژه، شما چی فکر میکنید آیا وضعیت غذایی و دسترسی به آن برای فامیل شما بهتر شده یا نه؟	Yes بلی / No نخیر																		
6	Due to project activities, do you follow less severe coping mechanism during food shortage period? نظریه فعالیت پروژه ایا کمترین شیوه های مجادلوئی را در جریان کمبود غذای تعقیب نموده اید؟	Yes بلی / No نخیر																		
7	In term of proportion of expense to the total income which expenses increased, which decreased in the past two years در طی دو سال گذشته، نظریه تناسب عایدات مجموعی تان، کدام مصارف تان افزایش یافته و کدام مصارف کاهش یافته؟	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Expense مصارف</th> <th>Increased افزایش یافته</th> <th>Decreased کاهش یافته</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Food غذا</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health صحت</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education تعلیم</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shelter سرپناه</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other expenses مصارف دیگر</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Expense مصارف	Increased افزایش یافته	Decreased کاهش یافته	Food غذا			Health صحت			Education تعلیم			Shelter سرپناه			Other expenses مصارف دیگر		
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Education تعلیم																				
Shelter سرپناه																				
Other expenses مصارف دیگر																				
8	Is there an increase in investment such as buying cow, sheep, goat, renting land for cultivation, saving,	Yes بلی / no نخیر																		

	growing trees (Almond or fruit trees) etc because of the project actions با تطبیق پروژه ریلایز، آیا سرمایه گذاری برای خریدن گاو، گوسفند، بز، اجاره زمین برای کشت، پس آنداز، کشت نهال متمرکز بادام و غیره به نظر شما افزایش یافته؟			
9	What is the yield of your crops this year حاصلات تولید شما امسال چی بود	Crop حاصلات زراعتی	2 years ago Yield in Shirs /Jerib دو سال پیش سیر/جریب	This year Yield in Shirs /Jerib امسال سیر/جریب
		Wheat گندم		
		Barley جو		
		corn جواری		
		Vegetables (Tomato) سبزیجات مثلا بادنجان		
		Honey عسل		
		Potato production تولید کچالو		
		Dairy product تولید لبنیات		
		Almond پروسس بادام		
		Cotton پروسس پنبه یا پخته		
10	Change in income	Crop/product غله جات و محصولات زراعتی	Income 2 years ago per Jerib عایدات دو سال پیش به هر جریب	Incom year per Jerib عایدات امسال به هر جریب
		Wheat گندم		
		Barley جو		
		corn جواری		
		Vegetables (Tomato) سبزیجات مثلا بادنجان		
		Honey عسل Per box از هر صندوق		
		Potato production تولید کچالو		
		Dairy product (Litre of milk per animal) تولیدات لبنیات - چقدر شیر از هر حیوان		
		Almond پروسس بادام		
		Cotton پروسس پنبه یا پخته		
11	Did the crop yield increase or decrease after the project activities بعد از تطبیق پروژه ریلایز، حاصلات زراعتی افزایش یافته یا کم شده؟	Increased/ decreased افزایش یافته/ کاهش یافته		
12	Did the Back yard garden	Decreased/ Increased کاهش یافته/ افزایش یافته		

	production increased or decreased after various activities of the project بعد از تطبیق چندین فعالیت بالای باغچه خانگی، آیا تولیدات افزایش یافته یا کم شده؟	
13	After the project actions whether the number of livestock (Cow, poultry, sheep, goat or donkey) increased or decreased? بعد از تطبیق پروژه ریلایز، تعداد حیوانات مثل گاو، گوسفند، بز و خر به نظر شما افزایش یافته یا کم شده؟	افزایش یافته/ کاهش یافته/ Increased/ Decreased
14	After the project, now do you have sufficient food or not? بعد از تطبیق پروژه، آیا شما به قدر کافی و زیاد غذا دارید یا نه؟	به قدر کافی غذا است Sufficient food به قدر کافی غذا نیست Not sufficient food
15	Is there an increase or decrease in sales of farm produce in the past two years شما در دو سال گذشته، افزایش یا کاهش خرید و فروش محصولات زراعتی را چگونه می بینید؟	افزایش/ کاهش/ Increase/ Decrease
16	Over the period of 2 years of the project did you change the variety of food items that you intake? (Like Rice one day, pilav one day, Briyani, 2-3 vegetable, eggs, mutton, chicken etc) با دو سال تطبیق پروژه، شما تغییرات مهم که بوجود آمده بخاطر گرفتن بیشتر غذای متنوع چی قسم ارزیابی میکنید؟ مثلا خوردن برنج هر یک روز، خوردن پلو و بریانی هر یک روز، خوردن 2-3 قسم سبزیجات، تخم مرغ، گوشت گوسفند و مرغ	Increase in variety of food items eaten افزایش در تنوع غذای خورده شده دیده میشود  Decrease in variety of food items eaten کاهش در تنوع غذای خورده شده دیده میشود
17	Income from sales of farm production increased or decreased over the past two years عایدات در فروش محصولات فارمی و زراعتی در دو سال گذشته کم شده یا زیاد شده	Sales increased فروشات زیاد شده NO sales decreased فروشات کم شده
18	Non-farm income increased or decreased over the past two years عایدات در فروش محصولات غیر فارمی زراعتی زیاد شده یا کم شده	زیاد شده Increased کم شده Decreased
19	Number of Income sources because of project تعداد منابع عایداتی بخاطر تطبیق پروژه	زیاد شده Have increase زیاد نشده Did not increase
20	Did you adapt any new technique in crop cultivation after the training? آیا بعد از گرفتن تربینگ تخنیک های جدید کشت محصولات زراعتی، آیا شما از آن استفاده	بلی Yes نخیر No

	کردید؟											
21	In livestock management did you pick up any new technique from the training در پرورش مالداري آیا کدام تخنیک های جدید را در ترینگ ها آموختید	Yes بلی / No نخیر										
22	Did you visit the demo plot آیا شما دیموپلات یا قطعه نمایشی را دیده اید؟	Yes بلی / No نخیر										
23	Did you participate in Field day آیا شما در کدام برنامه بازدید دهاقین یا فیلد دی اشتراک کرده اید											
24	Did you receive any booklet or manual on food availability, access, utilisation and stability آیا شما کدام کتاب راهنما یا مجله درباره دسترسی به غذا یا چگونگی استفاده از آن را گرفتید	Yes بلی / No نخیر										
25	Did you receive agricultural inputs? آیا شما وسایل و مواد زراعتی گرفتید؟	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Input نوع مواد</td> <td>Yes بلی / No نخیر</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seeds تخم</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fertiliser کود</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others و غیره</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Input نوع مواد	Yes بلی / No نخیر	Seeds تخم		Fertiliser کود		Others و غیره			
Input نوع مواد	Yes بلی / No نخیر											
Seeds تخم												
Fertiliser کود												
Others و غیره												
26	Did you use the above inputs in your field آیا از آن مواد ها که گرفتید برای زمین های شخصی خود استفاده کردید	Yes/ No										

Name of person collecting the information, REMARKS (if any):

## 15. Qualitative assessment questions check list

### Focus group discussions

#### a. Food security network/Reflect group members

### REALISE Project final evaluation

#### Focus Group Discussion (FSN and RC) Topics and its Questions

#### A. Discussion topic – Selection of Project participants

1. How was it done?
2. Was it fair? – Inclusion and exclusion errors
3. Were persons with disability, women and elderly included? How was that done?
4. What went right?
5. What you feel that requires improvement
6. In the scale of 1 to 10 where will your place the selection process in grading (1 is very bad 10 is very good)

#### B. Discussion topic - Delivery of Assistance

7. Where the assistance received in time?
8. Was the assistance according to your need? (emergency relief and asset transfer)
9. How was the assistance helpful to you (Project participants )

10. What difficulties women, persons with disability and elderly faced in receiving the assistance? (place, time, protection issues to be discussed)
11. How were the vocational training topics selected? What was your role in topic selection
12. According to your view what is the percentage of success of vocational training? (means gainful employment or income generation)

#### C Discussion topic – Food security and nutrition

13. Did the project brought improvement in family food situation to you? (quantity and variety) If yes rise your hands, let us count
14. What were the coping mechanism system for food or income in the family? Before and after – Is there a difference or is it the same?
15. Did your family (women) make changed in cooking after the nutrition training?
16. How was the back yard garden helped? Will you continue without support of seeds and fertilizers (you have to buy)?

#### D. Discussion topic - Expenditure pattern

17. What are the major expenses in your family? : Let us use the chart and find out the percentage of each expenditure item
18. What were the changes 2 years before in the expenses? If you feel there is a change rise your hands let us count. If no, rise your hands. Let me count
19. Were there investment in assets and saving, after the project intervention? According to your view how much percentage of Project participants have acquired additional assets or have saving (relative or bank)?

#### E. Discussion topic – Vulnerable group participation in decision/ policy making

20. How were the advocacy training useful?
21. What were the changes in food supply, seed supply (trade, free or subsidised supply) after the project? Were you able to give your opinions to the DAIL or district or provincial governor office? How you did that?
22. List the successful advocacy actions of your group
23. As a group what benefits you think your community has gained because of your actions?
24. Let us look at the community score card regarding the project's effect on influencing policy decisions at community and district level? Use chart and ask them to indicate their score in the 1. Usefulness of advocacy training 2. Confidence level 3. Policy changes at Community, district, provincial and national level

#### F. Discussion topic – Crop production

25. In a scale of 1 to 10 where you will place the usefulness of agriculture training? Why
26. How many in this group attended field days in demo plots? What are the reasons for not attending
27. Is there an increase in crop yield – Wheat, Barley, Maize, Vegetables after the project intervention (Seeds supply, training, technical support, demo -plot etc). Rise your hands if you feel the production has increased. If yes how much. Can you give production in Kg

(or local weight measure 7.3 kg) per Jeribs - Wheat, Barley, Maize, Vegetables Focuses to women what is the view of women doing backyard garden?

G. Discussion topic – Household income sources

28. After the project started till now, is there an increase in income sources of project participants? Those who say yes rise your hands. Explain more on income sources
29. Which were successful, which were not that successful (partial) , which were complete failures and why

H. Discussion topic – Vulnerable group's influence in policies

30. In which actions that changed the service provision or policy of the DAAL or governor (District and provincial) to vulnerable groups (women, disabled and elderly and youth) were involved
31. Give me numbers and type of action (Example: Group representation to government department, participation in government meeting, representation through elected representative of community, province or parliament )

I. Discussion topic – Group strategy

32. Do the vulnerable groups (Women, Disabled and elderly, extremely poor) have any opinion or strategy for influencing Community development plan of the CDC? How their views are incorporated?
33. Number and types of such actions
34. Give use some example of advocacy action that changed the government policy or plans

J. Topics of discussion – Use of New techniques in cultivation

35. Did you use any new method or technology after project started till now?
36. If yes – List them please
37. Which ones will you follow after the project (without AA assistance)

K. Topic of discussion – Use of improved inputs and livestock

38. Did you receive improved crop inputs (seeds, fertiliser etc) or Livestock? Those who received rise your hands
39. Did you as a group met input suppliers and negotiate the price?
40. How many times you (FSN or RC ) arranged meeting with input suppliers
41. How many times you (FSN or RC) arranged meeting with veterinary service providers?

L. Topic of discussion – Community strategy for Balanced diet

42. Do you know what a balanced diet is? How many yes and how many no
43. Did you prepare any plan or strategy for ensuring balanced diet for different age groups such as children, elderly? Pregnant women, lactating women, women and men?
44. If not what was the reason? (no knowledge, no inputs, no recipes etc)

M. Topic of discussion – Improved knowledge of post-harvest technologies

- 45. How many of you attended training on post-harvest – storage and process? Please rise your hands
- 46. Which post-harvest methods are you using now, please list them
- 47. What did you learn? Which products were taught in the training?
- 48. Is the training inputs helped you to earn more for your agricultural products? Explain

N. Topic of discussion – Business planning, marketing and management

- 49. How many of you attended AAaf conducted business planning, marketing and management training? Please rise your hands
- 50. This question is for those attended the training. What did you learn in business planning? Give me a short summary
- 51. What did you learn in marketing? Give me a short summary 5 points
- 52. What is taught in management? How it is useful
- 53. In the scale of 1 to 10 where will you place the usefulness of this training? 10 being improved your knowledge very well. 1 being not useful
- 54. As a group (FSN or RC) did you hold meeting with processors, storage/storeowner, big buyers (who sell the products to far off places) If yes how many such meeting were held?

O. Topic of discussion - Vocational skill development

- 55. How many of you attended the vocational training conducted by AAA?
- 56. What type of training were conducted? Please list
- 57. Those who feel these training are useful rise your hands. Those who raised the hands please explain how the vocational training is useful in the scale of 1 to 10.
- 58. The rest (no rise hands) in the scale of 1 to 10. 10 being very useful and 1 being not useful where will you place the vocational training? Please explain the score

P. Topic of discussion – Agricultural co-operatives

- 59. How many of you are members of Agricultural Co-operative. Please rise your hands
- 60. Are co-operative useful to you? Those who say yes Please explain how
- 61. Those who say no, please explain why?

Q. Topic of discussion – Improvement in government extension service

- 62. Do you feel that the government extension service of DAIL has improved after AAaf's intervention? (Training to them) Those who say yes rise your hands
- 63. Did the AAaf field staff and PAC/ISCO/OHW staff visit you and give you advices regarding crop cultivation? How many times did they come to your place in the last 12 months
- 64. In the score card of 1 to 10 where will you place the services of AAA field staff and PAC/ISCO/OHW staff (10 is excellent and 1 is not useful? Explain Why

R. Topic of discussion – Improved skills on advocacy

- 65. After the AAA project in your area, they have conducted many training on advocacy and ways to influence the decisions at CDC, governor (district and province) office. How

many of you feel that you can effectively influence the policy decision at each level rise your hands

66. FSN or RCs did you have Alliance/network meeting? If yes how many such meeting in the past 2 years. Do you have records of how many men or women attended those meeting? If yes please share with us

#### S. Topic of discussion – Improvement in literacy and numeracy skills

67. Is there anyone in the group (FSN or RC) who went to literacy and numeracy classes conducted by OHW/ISCO/PAC or any other?

68. Those who joined the literacy classes- Can you read the given text (in Dari)? Please write what is dictated to you in Dari. Let us see how these classes were useful

69. Other than literacy and numeracy what else did you learn in these classes? Did they tell anything about human rights? What is it? How is it useful for you?

#### T. Topic of discussion Enhanced human rights knowledge of vulnerable groups

70. What was the contribution of vulnerable groups (disabled, elderly, women, Children and extremely poor) in advocacy in influencing plans and policies of the government and CDCs? Did they participate in meeting with government or were they part of CDC meeting

71. Do you feel their (Vulnerable group)'s understanding of human rights has improved after AAAfs project intervention in the past 24 months? Give grade in the scale of 1 to 10. 10 being excellent understanding and 1 being minimal understanding.

### b. Co-operative or Association members

#### REALISE Project Final Evaluation

#### Focus Group Discussion (Co-operative members) Topics and its Questions

1. Discussion topic - Agricultural Co-operative formation and strengthening
  - a. Did you form a new Agricultural Co-operative or was it an old one?
  - b. What support did you receive from project for the co-operative
  - c. Why did you join Co-operative? Benefits of Co-operative
  - d. What activities does the Co-operative does?
2. Discussion topic – Technical contribution for agriculture by the project
  - a. How did the project helped you as a cooperative member or your members
  - b. How many of you attended the training conducted by the Project?
  - c. What new things that you learned after the project started regarding improvement in your cultivation practice?
  - d. Which practices among the new learning that you will follow after the project without any financial support?
3. Discussion topic – Improvement in Food security and nutrition
  - a. Did the action of Co-operative brought any improvement in your family food situation? Those who feel yes raise your hands
  - b. Did the Co-operative help women in back yard gardening? If no why if yes how



- c. What were the coping mechanism for less food/no food situation before the project and now?
- 4. Discussion topic – Improvement in Asset base
  - a. What are major expenses of your family? Let us use a chart and explore more
  - b. In 2 years after the project was there a change in the expenses pattern? (means percentage of income spent on items of expenses – food, education, health did they change) Those who feel there was a change raise your hands
  - c. How many of you acquired additional assets after the project? (such as livestock, tools, farm equipment, storage bins, land, saving money personally or with relative etc.,
- 5. Discussion topic – Participation in decision making process
  - a. How many of you attended “advocacy training” conducted by the project? Rise your hands
  - b. Did any of you as Co-operative member meet DAIL officials, district governor office staff for making changes in food supply, seeds supply (trade, subsidised or free supply)
  - c. As a group of farmers in the Co-operative, do you feel that the community benefitted because of your group action? What group actions were you successful list please
  - d. Let us look how you are scoring regarding usefulness of Project and Co-operative in 1 to 10 scale. 10 means excellent 1 mean minimum or no effect
    - 1. Successfully advocated changes in CDC/government policy
    - 2. Confidence level in influencing CDC or government plan or policy improved
    - 3. Got more bargaining power as a group in government/CDC
  - e. As a Co-operative (Group) you or other members of Co-operative have you submitted any request to government and follow it up successfully; as a group have you met elected members of Shura or CDC, provincial council or parliament. Can you list and indicate successful such actions and failures and reasons
  - f. Did Co-operative develop annual or more than one year plan? If yes, did you consult women, disabled and elderly either by inviting them to planning or separately.
- 6. Discussion topic – Improved crop productivity
  - a. Did you attend the “improved agriculture training” conducted by the project? Those who say yes, raise your hands
  - b. Did you attend the “field day of demonstration plots”?
  - c. Those who attended, can you list what new things that you learned
  - d. Do you feel crop yield increased after the project started because of various activities of the project? Raise your hands. Can you list especially which crop yield improved, how much and why?
- 7. Discussion topic – Influence of Agri Coop in “Community development plan”
  - a. Did the CDC develop a “Community development plan”?
  - b. When the CDP developed were you consulted? Or did any of you participated in the planning process
  - c. Which were the areas where CDC manage for agricultural improvement? (Example canal building, small dam building, livestock grazing agreement etc)
- 8. Discussion topic - New techniques of climate smart agriculture

- a. Did you learn any new methods or technology for tackling drought or shortage of water for agriculture in this two years of the project
  - b. List them please (drip irrigation, rain water harvesting, fodder storage etc., )
  - c. Among them which one you think you will advocate to your friends and relatives
  - d. Which ones will you follow after the project is over and without any support?
9. Discussion topic – Improved crop inputs or/and livestock
- a. How many of you receive improved crop inputs (Seeds, fertiliser etc) from the project? Rise your hands
  - b. As a group (Co-operative) did you ever negotiate price with input supplier (seeds or fertiliser or pesticides,)
  - c. After the project did you sell your agricultural production collectively? How many yes and how many no
  - d. Did the Co-operative “management committee members” negotiate better price for your produce with traders? Or did you negotiate individually and sold
  - e. Did the co-operative develop market linkage for buying inputs or selling outputs
10. Discussion topic – Improvement in post-harvest technology
- a. After the project introduction did you attend any training on “post-harvest technology” (crop and dairy products) especially on processing and storage. Please rise your hands
  - b. In the scale of 1 to 10 where will you place the usefulness of training? 10 excellent 1 minimum useful
  - c. Which one of “post-harvest technology” that you are still using and use in future too
  - d. In which area of Post-harvest technology you think more training is required
  - e. Did any of your co-operative build product storage structure or building? If yes give details
11. Discussion topic – Improvement in business planning of Co-operative
- a. Where there any business planning, marketing and management training conducted by the project? If yes how many of you attended it, who was not attendant? why
  - b. What topics covered in that training
  - c. How was that training useful to your co-operative members?
  - d. Did you make changes in your co-operative planning after the training
  - e. As a group did you hold meeting with processors, storage/storeowner, big buyers (who sell the products to far off places) If yes how many such meeting were held
12. Discussion topic – Enhanced skills and knowledge in agricultural production
- a. How many of you feel that the project action (demo plot, training, exposure visit) have improved your knowledge of scientific (modern) cultivation? Raise your hands
  - b. Those who say yes can you give grade 1-10 scale. 1 minimum and 10 is very much improved your knowledge and skills
  - c. Which knowledge and skills are useful for your future work and you will follow after the project?
  - d. Which agricultural (Vocational) trainings are useful for women?
13. Discussion topic – Improved government agricultural extension work
- a. Do you see any change in the government agricultural extension services after the AAF’s training to them? IF yes how many feel so raise your hand

- b. Did AAaf field staff or PAC/OHW/ISCO give you advice on better crop cultivation?  
How many times did they come to your place in the last 6 months
  - c. Those who feel they are very useful in improving agricultural production raise hand
  - d. If you have to give grade to AAaf staff and it partners work in the field what grade will you give 1 to 10 scale 1 minimum and 10 is maximum useful
14. Discussion topic – Improved skill of advocacy
- a. Have you attended “human rights” and “Food security” training conducted by AAaf or its partners? Those who attended raise your hands, whom not attendant raise your hand and tell us why?
  - b. Those who attended the training please answer. How many of you feel that with the newly acquired knowledge and skills you can or have influenced the policies at each level (CDC, district and province )
  - c. Did the co-operative form a federation of union at province level? If yes did any of you attended the meeting and contributed to the decision making
15. Discussion topic - Usefulness of Literacy training in Co-operative’s action
- a. How did Co-operative help in reducing illiteracy?
  - b. How Literacy classes conducted by AAaf’s partner is useful to your Co-operative

## 2.Key informant interview questions check list

### 1. CDC members

REALISE Project, ACTIONAID Afghanistan

Final evaluation

Date:

#### Key informant interview – CDC members

S. No	Questions	Response
1	Name of respondent	
2	Designation	
3	Place	
4	What were the food security and livelihoods issues that were taken up by the CDC	
5	Did any time FSN or RC members approach your council for adding their inputs in your plans and budget?	
6	If yes give some details	
7	Did you develop community development plan after NSP completed	
8	How were the views of the people with disability, elderly, women and extremely poor considered in your planning?	
9	Do you use “community score card” or social audit to evaluate your actions?	
10	What were the coping mechanism of lack or no income during drought or water	

	scarcity time (Food security coping)	
11	Is there a change in the coping mechanism after the REALISE project by AAf	
12	Do you see any change in the way the people advocate for their requirement related to livelihoods and food security in the past one year? (AAf has conducted training on advocacy. So we want to know the effects)	
13	What is the role of CDC in identifying the Project participants for the project?	
14	How the selection of Project participants for the project was done?	
15	AAf and its partners have conducted various trainings such as agricultural and livestock, nutrition, Post-harvest-storage, advocacy, business development, and human rights training etc and have conducted literacy classes What are the impact of the project on your people and government?	
16	How did the CDC benefit from the project activities	
17	What are the problems that you face in the CDC?	
	What are your suggestions for AAf for better delivery of the project?	

Name of person collecting the information:

REMARKS (if any):

## 2.DAIL staff

REALISE Project, ACTIONAID Afghanistan

**Final evaluation**

Date:

### Key informant interview – DAIL

S. No	Questions	Response
1	Name of respondent	
2	Designation	
3	Place	
4	What are the food and livelihoods security plans and policies in the past one year? Can you list	
5	How food security network or alliance and Reflect committee contributed to the food security and livelihoods plan and policies?	

6	How often do they meet you and participate in the meeting?	Once in a month Twice in a month Every week
7	What are service provided by you that supports food security and Livelihoods of rural poor	
8	Do you have average yield of crops for the just completed harvest (Shir/Jerib)	Wheat: Barley: Potato: Maize: Vegetables (Tomato) Cotton :
9	Have the Food security network or Reflect group or alliance members met you regarding any issue related to Food security and Livelihood?	
10	If yes how many times in the past 12 months?	
11	What were their suggestions that you took? (and changed the plan or policy or made a new plan or policy)	
12	Do the FSN or RC members participate in the Provincial agricultural development plan?	
13	If yes, what were their suggestions and requests for the current plan that you took into consideration	
14	Do you see any change in the way of action and interaction of the rural population of the district were AAAf has implemented under REALISE project?	
15	Do you know what are the activities of AAAf under REALISE project? Did they explain to you? Can you explain what are they?	
16	Have you or office facilitated any meeting between fertiliser or seeds suppliers with the farmers?If yes give some details	
17	How many New Co-operatives registered were by AAAf facilitated	
18	Can you give us a list of # of members of Co-operatives with whom AAAf or its partners (PAC/OW/ISCO) have worked	
19	Did AAAf conducted any training for your extension staff?	
20	If yes, What type of training and how effective were they? Did they help your staff?	
21	What are the difficulties that you face in implementing programs and project by your department	

Name of person collecting the details:

REMARKS (if any):

### 3. Local partner

REALISE Project, ACTIONAID Afghanistan	
Final evaluation	Date:

#### Key informant interview – Local Partner

S. No	Questions	Response				
1	Name of respondent					
2	Designation					
3	Place					
4	What activities do you do in the operational areas of this project other than REALISE?					
5	Explain the organisational structure of your organisation and relate to the project					
6	List food security and livelihoods issue raised by vulnerable group, FSN and RC facilitated by you that were raised in District development Council, Provincial development council, NGO meeting etc., in the past 12 months					
7	Did you use community score card to know the level of satisfaction regarding their ability to successfulness of advocacy actions of the FSN/RC or group of vulnerable people/farmers? If yes explain					
8	Did FSN/RC or Co-operative members from the project districts participate in CDC, District development council and/or provincial development council meeting and make suggestion to the plans and policies					
9	If yes can you list some of their suggestions and recommendations that were accepted					
10	What was the ONE best example of advocacy that these FSN/RC that has taken into the CDC, DDC, PDC plan and policy? Explain					
11	# of Demo plots					
12	# of field day participants (men # and women #)					
13	# of men and women who participated in exposure visits					
14	# of men and women receiving	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>S.</td> <td>Input</td> <td># of men</td> <td># of</td> </tr> </table>	S.	Input	# of men	# of
S.	Input	# of men	# of			

	agriculture inputs	No		who received	Women who received
		1	Seeds		
		2	Fertiliser		
		3	Drip irrigation		
		4			
15	# of men and women receiving livestock and fodder				
16	#of women trained in balanced nutrition				
17	#of women and men trained in backyard gardening				
18	# of men and women receiving processing and storage equipment				
19	# of <u>group training</u> conducted for food security?				
20	# of participants in food security issues training?	Men : Women :			
21	# of participants in Engagement and influencing training for groups (including tracking of government budget allocations)				
22	# of participants in literacy classes and completed final test	Men : Women :			
23	# of participants in human rights training	Men : Women :			
24	# of participants in agriculture and livestock training	Men : Women :			
25	# of participants in post-harvest and storage training	Men : Women :			
26	# of participants in business planning, marketing and management training	Men : Women :			
27	# of temporary training centers established				
28	Type(s) of vocational training conducted and duration				
29	# of participants in each vocational training	Men : Women:			
30	# and name of newly established agricultural co-operatives				
31	# of members in the New Co-operative	Men : Women			
32	# and name old agricultural co-operatives which were strengthened				
33	# of members in the existing Co-operative which were strengthened	Men : Women			
34	#of your staff who participated in agricultural extension training	Men : Women:			
35	# of government staff who participated in agricultural extension training	Men : Women:			

36	What type of support is given to Co-operative?	
36	# of co-operative members trained in management	Men : Women:
37	# of market linkages created	
38	# of Storage facilities created	
39	What you did in rain harvesting?	
40	What are the difficulties that you faced during implementation? List them	
41	What are your suggestions for improved project delivery for next phase of the project	

Name of person collecting the information:

REMARKS (if any):

**4. Former or present staff of REALISE**

**16. REALISE Project, ACTIONAID Afghanistan**

**17. Final evaluation**

Date:

**18. Key informant interview – Former/present staff**

S. No	Questions	Response
1	Name of respondent	
2	Designation	
3	Place	
4	Give details of number of participants in back yard gardening training and poultry	Men Women
5	How was back yard gardening and poultry implemented? What were the difficulties faced	
6	Give details of number of participants in agriculture and livestock training	Men Women
7	# of days of agriculture and livestock training	
8	Give details of number of participants in Nutrition	Men Women
9	What was the effect of nutrition training?	
10	How Project participants were selected for provision of seeds and other inputs? Describe the criteria and process	
11	# of persons who received agricultural inputs (seeds, Fertilisers, others	Men Women
12	What was done in irrigation improvement?	
13	How Project participants were selected for provision livestock? Describe the criteria and process	
14	# of persons who received livestock	Men Women
15	# of demonstration plot laid	



16	# of field days conducted	
17	# of participants in field days (total)	Men Women
18	What was the effect of demonstration plot?	
19	Purpose of exposure visits	
20	# of exposure visit organised	
21	# of persons who undertook exposure visit	Men Women
22	What is done in seed production?	
23	How many Project participants for Drip irrigation system?	
24	What is done in rain water harvesting?	
25	Describe the process of Project participants of animal fodder distribution? Criteria ad process	
26	# of Project participants in animal fodder	Men Women
27	# of value chain studied	
28	# of temporary vocational training centers established	
29	Types of vocational training conducted	
30	# of successful vocational trainees	Men Women
31	Describe the selection of participants for business development training? Criteria and process	
32	# of participants in business development training	
33	How the market linkages were created? How are they useful and to whom	
34	# of storage facilities established	
35	# of New Co-operative formed	
36	# of old co-operative strengthened	
37	What assistance has given to strengthen the co-operative	
38	Explain different products taken for training in post-harvest technology and processing	
39	# of participants of post-harvest technology	
40	What actions are done to strengthen FSN	
41	What actions are done to strengthen RC	
42	Did you form district farmer's federations?	
43	How did the project participants contributed to the community development plan?	
44	Type of food security issues covered in the group training	

45	#of participants in group training on Food security	
46	# of participants in engagement and influencing (advocacy) training	
47	How many advocacy issues were taken up with the District governor, district development council, Provincial governor office, DAIL – List	
48	Explain one best example of advocacy (that changed plan or input included in the plan or policy)	
49	What support are given to the advocacy/influencing efforts?	
50	How many attended literacy training? What was the effect? How Project participants selected? Which time in the day it was conducted? What benefits they got?	Men: Women:
51	# of participants of human rights training	
52	Who attended human rights training (Which group of people)	
53	How many network/analysis were done and what is the result of analysis	
54	How many Alliance/network building events held?	
55	# of participants in alliance/network events	Men Women:
56	# of NGO Co-ordination meeting held at district and provincial level	
57	Total number of participants in NGO co-ordination meeting	
58	Was there a national learning workshop after the project	
59	What types of training conducted for AAf and its partners? How many total participants for the training	
60	# of participants of agricultural extension training	
61	Who participated in agricultural extension training?	
62	How was it useful	
63	What were the field problems in implementing the project? List	
64	What are your suggestions for better and improved next phase of the project	

Name of the person collecting the information:

REMARKS (if any)

**5. District governor or representative of governor**

REALISE Project, ACTIONAID Afghanistan

Date:

## Final evaluation

### Key informant interview –District governor

S. No	Questions	Response
1	Name of respondent	
2	Designation	
3	Place	
4	What are the food and livelihoods security plans and policies in the past one year? Can you list	
5	How food security network or alliance and Reflect committee contributed to the food security and livelihoods plan and policies?	
6	How often do they meet you and participate in the meeting?	Once in a month Twice in a month Every week
7	What are service provided by you that supports food security and Livelihoods of rural poor	
8	Have the Food security network or Reflect group or alliance members met you regarding any issue related to Food security and Livelihood?	
9	If yes how many times in the past 12 months?	
10	What were their suggestions that you took? (and changed the plan or policy or made a new plan or policy)	
11	Do the FSN or RC members participate in the “district <b>agricultural</b> development plan”?	
12	If yes, what were their suggestions and requests for the current plan that you took into consideration	
13	Do the FSN or RC members participate in the “ <b>district development planning</b> ”?	
14	If yes, what were their suggestions and requests for the current plan that you took into consideration	
15	Have the Food security network or Reflect group or alliance members met you regarding any issue related to Food security and Livelihood?	
16	If yes how many times in the past 12 months?	
17	What were their suggestions that you took? (and changed the plan or policy or made a new plan or policy)	
18	Do you see any change in the way of	

	action and interaction of the rural population of the district were AAf has implemented REALISE project?	
19	Do you know what are the activities of AAf under REALISE project? Did they explain to you? Can you explain what are they?	
20	Have you or office facilitated any meeting between fertiliser or seeds suppliers with the farmers? If yes give some details	
21	Did AAf conducted any training for your staff?	
22	If yes, What type of training and how effective were they? Did they help your staff?	
23	What are the difficulties that you face in implementing programs and project by you?	
24	What are your suggestions for future similar project	

Name of person collecting the information:

REMARKS (if any):

### 3.Group interview questionnaire Persons with disability and elderly

#### REALISE Project Final Evaluation

Focus Group Discussion (Persons with disabilities and elderly) Topics and its Questions

1. Discussion topic – Selection of Participant (beneficiary)
  - a. Do you know the selection criteria of Project participants of project – explain
  - b. Do you feel the selection is fair and just? If yes rise your hands If not what is wrong
  - c. What special actions were taken by the project to reach you in the selection process?
  - d. In the scale of 1 to 10 where will your place the selection process in grading (1 is very bad 10 is very good
2. Discussion topic – Delivery of assistance
  - a. How many of you received assistance from the project (Seeds, livestock, fodder, (vocational )training etc., ) Rise your hands
  - b. Was the place where the assistance was given accessible to you? Was the time of delivery was decided after consulting you?
  - c. How was the assistance helpful to you?
  - d. What difficulties did you face to receive the assistance and attending the training
3. Discussion topic - Food security and nutrition
  - a. How many of you feel that your food and nutritional status has improved after the project. Rise your hands
  - b. Those who say yes, Can you give grade for this 1 to 10. 10 means have improved significantly. 1 means minimal

- c. What were the coping mechanism when you have less money to buy food and less food at home? (What is the change before and after the project)
  - d. Did you receive assistance for livelihoods – Livestock or seeds or vocational training?
4. Discussion topic – Increase in economic asset
- a. What are the major expenses of your family? Let us use chart to find out percentage of each expenses
  - b. Was there a change in these expenses in the last two years? Let me count those who say yes
  - c. Those who say year can you say what changes happened For example was the food expenses increased or decreased as a proportion of total income. Similarly health and education, housing
  - d. After the project started till now did your family invest in assets (land, animals, trees, saving) Those who say yes please rise your hands
5. Discussion topic – Participation in decision making process
- a. When food supply (free or less priced), seeds, livestock issues are decided by the district governor or DAIL how are you consulted? Have you been consulted at all
  - b. Are you a member of any decision making body –such as CDCs.Governor’s advisory board etc
  - c. In past 24 months how many times did your views considered in the CDCs, governor’s office and Co-operatives and decision taken
  - d. Were you a part of any delegation or representative team which submitted any request to the government office, elected parliament member, provincial council member? How many of you say yes, let me count
  - e. Were any of you member of CDC or Co-operative (after the undergoing human right training)
  - f. Let us look at the community score card regarding the project’s effect on influencing policy decisions at community and district level? Use chart and ask them to indicate their score in the 1. Usefulness of advocacy training 2. Confidence level 3. Policy changes at Community, district, provincial and national level
6. Discussion topic – Increase in agriculture or livestock production
- a. Did you attend the improved agriculture training conducted by the project? Those who say yes rise your hands
  - b. Did you attend the field day of demonstration plots?
  - c. Those who attended, can you list what new things that you learned
  - d. Do you feel crop yield increased after the project started because of various activities of the project? Rise your hands. Can you list especially which crop yield improved, how much and why?
7. Discussion topic – Increase in Household income sources
- a. Those who feel that the income sources of your family has increased after the project may rise your hands. Explain the income sources
  - b. In which income generation activity were you involved – Crop production, Honey making, diary, and almond. Pasture and livestock? Those who benefited can rise their hand
  - c. Which among them were successful? Or partially successful. If failure why?

8. Discussion topic – People with disability and elderly’s collective influence in service provision and policy
  - a. When the CDC developed Community development plan, did any of you participated in the planning process. Did your represent to represent of your views?
  - b. Which actions in which you participated that changed the service provision or policy of DAIL , district governor or provincial governor
  - c. Give me numbers and type of collective action in which you were part. Example Group representation to government department, participation in government meeting, representation through elected representative of the community, province or parliament.
  - d. Give me one example that advocacy lead to change in government policy or plans
9. Discussion topic – Use of New technology
  - a. Did any of you use any new method or technology in livelihoods activity (Potato cultivation, Honey production, Dairy, almond production and Cattle, Small ruminant
  - b. If yes explain
  - c. Which of these technology you will follow after the project period or as per your view those who have taken will follow
10. Discussion – Use of improved inputs and livestock
  - a. Did any of you receive improved crop inputs (seeds, fertiliser etc) or equipment’s or livestock? Those who received rise your hand
  - b. Did the FSN or RC got your views while meeting with input supplier and negotiated the price and quality
  - c. How many times such meeting with input suppliers were arranged or out sale meeting arranged
  - d. Were you a part of (FSN or RC) that arranged for veterinary service providers?
11. Topic of discussion - Improved knowledge on post-harvest technology and storage
  - a. Did you participate in Post-harvest and storage training? Rise your hand
  - b. Which post-harvest method you are using now. List
  - c. What were taught in the training? Tell me briefly
  - d. Did the training inputs on value addition – Processing and storage helped you to earn more income If yes explain
  - e. Did you learn about Processing and storage of milk and milk products, Honey? Rise your hand
12. Topic of discussion – Improved knowledge of business planning, marketing and management
  - a. Did you participate in business development training? Those who say yes rise your hand
  - b. In the scale of 1 to 10 grade the business development training
  - c. Did it improve your knowledge and skills in marketing
  - d. Did Planning training inputs used in Community development planning?
13. Topic of discussion – Improved vocational skills
  - a. How many of you attended the vocational training in the temporary vocational training centers? Rise your hand
  - b. What type of training was conducted? How long - list the training
  - c. Those who feel that the training was very useful rise your hand in the scale of 1 to ten give your score 1 minimal useful 10 significantly useful

14. Topic of discussion - Participation in agricultural Co-operative
  - a. How many of you are members of agricultural Co-operative. Please rise your hands
  - b. Aare you satisfied with the service provided by the Agricultural Coops
  - c. For this who say yes what is your level of satisfaction in the scale of 1 to 10.
  - d. if no why. What services that you expected and not there
15. Topic of discussion – Improved extension services
  - a. Do you see any positive changes in the provision of extension services by the government staff (Because AAaf has trained them) If yes rise your hands
  - b. Did AAaf field staff or PAC/ISCO?OHW staff visit you and give you advice regarding any issues – Crop cultivation, marketing, storage or any other matter related to improved livelihoods (In the past 12 month) if yes how many times
  - c. In the scoring system of 1 to 10 where will you place Field staff and PAC/ISCO/OHW staff work (10 is excellent 1 is not useful)
16. Topic of discussion – Improved literacy and numeracy skills
  - a. Is there anyone in this group who is not able to read and write
  - b. Is anyone in this group who went to the literacy and numeracy classes conducted by PAC/ ISCO/OHW or any other
  - c. Those who joined the classes can you read and write Dari. Please write what is dictated to you in Dari
  - d. How these literacy classes are useful to you?
17. Topic of discussion – Enhanced knowledge of human rights
  - a. How many of you attended human right training? rise your hands
  - b. What is the level of satisfaction about this training in th4 scale of 1 to 10
  - c. Did any one of you attended CDC meeting (after knowing your rights).

## Annex 5: Case Studies

### 1. Tokhta d/o of Ghulam , Livestock Participant) beneficiary (female)

*I am 37 years old women and head of the house and widow. I am locally from Meserabadbala village Sheberghan, Jawzjan Afghanistan and Uzbaki is our family language, Meserabadbala village is cover from North is Meserabadpayen, from South main road of Sheberghan to Balkh, from East Meserabadwasatand from West Jalalabad village, am a house wife and my husband has disability from his both eyes, I have 6 children (2 boys and 4 daughters), our family are under poverty because of our daily income, we cannot earn more from the washing clothes, cooking bread, cleaning of house etc of neighbours because my husband (EmamQul 78 years old) cannot work most of the time the community people will support us from their charity. He died 6 months ago.*

*I was also from a poor family and my father has marry me to an old 45 years old person because of Mahar he got. After my marriage I found that there was no a good income of my husband. He was a farmer and working for wages another's lands. Several years have passed since our marriage and due to aging my husband has partly blind in both eyes.*

*With support of REALISE project of Action Aid we have received the 2 goats and fodder for winter, I also received financial literacy trainings. I also received training on livestock from REALISE project in Oct 2015. I learned techniques animal fodder silage making and animal shelter making. The technical support and guidance of the staff fromAAAf is very useful to me. Now I also sell goat milk, yogurt and earn a small income from that. In this 2 and half years the number of goats has multiplied to 12. I have sold 6 and have bought a calf. As per community agreement I had to give 2 kids to another poor family. So now I have 4 goats and a Heifer. Sales of goats left us with some money with the use of which I am able to feed my children and I not feeling guilty. In future I am dreaming to have the cow with a calf and able to deliver milk to the diary association. That will improve our lives considerably.*

*After the start of REALISE project I see major changes in the lives of people like me. Because most families that are like mine in Meserabad village are benefiting by this project. Earlier we had little hope and very low income source. Now people like me have constant income source and live a decent life.*



### 2. Niamutullah Khalic, Vocational training Participant- beneficiary (male)

*I am 28 years old and I am disabled below wrist. I live in Kaldar district. My mechanic shop is placed in the main road from Hairatan to Kaldar. My parents came to Afghanistan after the Russians left Afghanistan during the regime of Najibullah in 1992. I went to school till grade 4 and stopped thereafter. Because my family was very poor and they could not keep him in school. From young age I was eager to learn mechanics skills. But no one allowed me to do it because I am a disabled person. I started to dismantle bicycle and assemble it back. Even my cousin who was a mechanic did not teach him the skills. He went to OHW office in Hairatan very often and ask for their assistance. Then all of a sudden CDC leader informed that ACTIONAID is organising vocational training in mechanic that also allows suitable disable persons. I was very happy. REALISE project gave chance to*

*realise my dream of becoming a mechanic. Now I can fix problems in bikes, cars and even trucks and van. Now I take disabled persons in my mechanic workshop and give them training.*



**Annex 6: Disclaimer: Declaration that ethical standards being used during the evaluation**

This is to certify that ethical standards have been followed in all stages of evaluation by the consultants and their team. The evaluation team members identified themselves and informed the participants of evaluation about the purpose of evaluation. After getting the informed consent of the participants the collection of information was done. Also oral consent is obtained for taking photographs of the evaluation participants.

All the members of the evaluation team have been briefed about the child protection, sexual harassment behavioral protocol of ActionAid Afghanistan and did adhere to them during the evaluation.