

ABSTRACT

DROUGHT VULNERABILITY AND PUBLIC RESPONSE IN GIDAN WEREDA OF NORTH WOLLO ZONE

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The study examined the livelihood vulnerability of households and communities in Gidan (in the north eastern highlands of Ethiopia).

Data relevant to this problem was obtained from focus group discussions, household survey questionnaire, and other secondary data on the socio-economic and demographic variables. The analysis based on the sustainable livelihood approach and based on the already available data triangulating all sorts of sources involving percentages divulged that access to most important productive assets is the compulsory construction that challenges the endeavors of large section of households in Gidan to realize a feasible life.

The deterioration or destruction of primary livelihood systems, the loss or depletion of productive assets, long term dependence on unsustainable coping mechanisms, environmental degradation and deterioration of natural resources to the point that carrying capacity may be exceeded and production has declined below recovery levels, increasing impoverishment of community and households. People in the study area are vulnerable because of their geographical isolation in terms of infrastructure and communication with other additional factors like dependence on relief assistance, and breakdown of social instructions and relations. In economic terms successive crises deplete the scale and depth of buffers available to a household. Economic vulnerability further increases the frequency, intensity, and duration of previous crisis exposure. Socially, the level of vulnerability depends on a society's social order and the relative position of advantage or disadvantage that a particular group, household or individual occupies. Vulnerability can also be politically determined, where people are powerless in their command over basic necessities and rights.

It has been disclosed that large portion of the community members in Gidan are highly vulnerable either with in the category of chronic food insecurity or transitory food insecurity. Therefore, the only viable option to overturn or turn around the high vulnerability situation for

community members and households in Gidan should solely depend on realizing sustainable livelihood, avoiding the deep seated dependence on food assistance, properly empowering the community and improving their opportunity to the critical productive assts. The importances of the results, particularly in relation to the sustainable livelihood approach that help realize a feasible life are discussed.