

Knowledge and Attitude about Prevention of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) among Women and Quantification of Iodide found in Table Salt in Central Highland of Ethiopia



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Abstract

Objective: Monitoring systems in broad part of each country is notable effort to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders (IDD). Although Ethiopian government developed micronutrient deficiency prevention and control guideline in 2005 and deployed health extension workers to give behaviour change communication for use of iodized salt. There is no published data of knowledge and attitude of mothers on iodized salt and the iodine content of table salt in Ethiopia. This study aimed to assess knowledge and attitude of women towards IDD prevention through quantifying of iodine in table salt at central highland of Ethiopia.

Methods: A community based cross-sectional study was carried out among 1012 women in the reproductive age group selected from central highland of Ethiopia. A multistage sampling method was implemented to select study area and households (HH). Study participants were interviewed using structured interviewer administered questionnaire. Table salt samples were collected from each woman and from headquarter markets. Table salt samples transported to Ethiopian Public Health institute (EPHI) for determination of their iodine content using titration method each sample iodine content measured in milligram of iodine per kg of salt equivalent to - parts per million (ppm)

Results: From 1012 women interviewed, 683(67.0%) of women participated in the study lacked knowing IDD and 505 (49.9%) know the use of iodised salt for the prevention of IDD. Poor knowledge was strongly associated with low level of education (Adjusted Odds Ratio [AOR =4.61, 95% CI: 3.03, 7.023]. Analyses of table salt samples taken from HHs had 73 (60.83%) of samples in allowable standard limit (15 to 40ppm), over standard limit (>40ppm) 46 (38.33%) and below standard limit (<15ppm) 1(0.83%). A total of 119 (99.17%) HHs had met their requirement of iodine per person per day. The average mean and standard deviation (SD) were 45.29+14.47mg/kg (ppm).

Conclusion: Knowledge among women towards prevention of IDD was very poor. More than 90% iodised salt had provided adequate (150µg) of iodine per person per day. Therefore, this study strongly encourages behaviour change communication (BCC) to the community. Mid urine iodine concentration techniques among children is recommended for to actualized the progress of iodized salt intervention.

Keywords: Iodide Quantity Iodised Salt; IDD Titration; Women's Knowledge; Ethiopia

Abbreviations: AOR: Adjusted Odds Ratio; CI: Confidence Interval, EPHI - Ethiopian Public Health Institute, ETB - Ethiopian Birr (currency); HH: Household; HHs: Households; IDD: Iodine Deficiency Disorders, PPM: Parts Per Million, KG: Kilogram, MG: Milligram, SD: Standard Deviation; µg: Microgram, UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

Introduction

Iodine is an essential component of thyroid hormones which controls metabolic processes in the body. It plays a major role in mental development and physical growth [1]. Due to its mountainous topography, the highland of Ethiopia has been

leaching out iodine from the soil aggravated by accelerated deforestation and soil erosion. Consequently, soil in such areas has low in iodine content [2]. Furthermore, foods demonstrated to have goitrogenic effect are used as staples in the highland areas

[3]. Plants grown in iodine-deficient area can never provide enough iodine to the consumer people. Likewise, livestock living the same place do not meet their requirements of iodine being at risk for iodine deficiency related disorders [4]. IDD can lead to impaired mental development, adverse effects on growth, infant mortality, hypothyroidism, reproductive failure, and endemic goitre [5]. Changing dietary habits or eating specific kinds of foods cannot prevent IDD; however, it corrects by supplying iodine from external sources. Reminiscent of salt iodisation ensures a minimum of 150µg iodine/day requirement of individual [6].

Salt has to be chosen as a vehicle based on a capacity to iodize it and economic context of population which help to access it without any barrier [4]. Iodised salt is the easiest and least expensive to prevent and control of IDD as compared to other nutrient disorders [5]. It was prepared so that people daily consume all iodine that is needed for the prevention and control of IDD [7]. The minimum requirement of iodine to prevent goitre is estimated to be between 50 and 75µg (microgram/day or ~1µg/kg of body weight [8]. However, adult daily requirement ranges from 100 to 200 µg and the average is 150µg [8]. World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that at least 90% of households use adequately iodised salt which contains 15parts per million (ppm) or more at the household level [9]. Ethiopian government endorsed the guideline for prevention and control of micronutrient deficiencies, deployed rural and urban health extension workers to educate the public about importance of iodized salt consumption and started iodizing salt from Afdera Lake in Afar region. However, there is no study that assessed both knowledge and attitude about iodized salt and the iodine content of iodized salt [10].

Women are the most vulnerable segments of the population to IDD in severely iodine deficient areas and they should be targeted for sustainable elimination of IDD [7]. Therefore, this assessed the knowledge and attitude of women who are responsible for purchasing and using table salt in food processing as well as determined the iodine content of salt. Programmatic monitoring of iodide salt intervention at the household level is essential to prevent public health risk from iodine deficiency [9]. Assessing women's knowledge and attitude towards prevention and control of IDD in the community where illiteracy and communication barriers are common is critical input for tailoring intervention strategies.

Methods and Materials

Study Area

This study was conducted in Central highland of Ethiopia which includes area with altitude ranging from 2100 to 3000 found near to Arsi Bale plateau and the neighbouring of Chilalo Mountain districts. These districts included in the study were Munesa, Asella, Limuna Bilalo, Digeluna Tijo, Honkolo Wabe. Historical rainfall and temperature of the study area from 1967 to 2008 interval mean of annual rainfall was 2200mm to 2350mm and the interval mean daily maximum temperature was also ranging from 21.5 °C to 23 °C and minimum interval mean from 10.0°C to 9.0°C [11].

Study Design

Community based cross sectional study was conducted from January to June 2018. Sampling method: Multi-stage sampling method was applied to select highland areas with considerable (above 2400m) altitude and had history of mean annual rainfall via 2200 mm to 2350mm of found central part of Ethiopia includes Arsi and Bale provinces mountains and stratified into nearest districts to the mountains [11]. Followed to these, simple random sampling method was used to select eight districts from all districts located near to the mountains. This more stratified into kebeles (small level of administrations) and 2 kebeles were selected randomly from each selected district and town.

Study Population Sampling

Systematic sampling was used to select households and 1012 women from selected kebeles. Selected women were interviewed using structured interviewer administered questionnaire to assess their knowledge and attitude toward IDD, IDD prevention and iodised salt utilization. Table salt sampling: All 1012 selected women for the study provided table salt samples which represent each HH table salt. In the first stage sampling 1012 samples were collected and consequently, 120 samples were picked with systematic randomly sampling for lab analysis. In addition to these, 24 samples were randomly selected from 8 distract headquarter markets; from each district 3 samples from 3 different directions of each market. Table salt samples were prepared and each weighted of 10gm [4]. The number of table salt samples was limited to 144 due to titration test procedure is a time-consuming [9]. The samples were transported to Ethiopian public health institute (EPHI) food and nutrition laboratory and analysed.

Laboratory Measurement of Iodine in Salt

All salt samples tested using standard titration method in EPHI food and nutrition laboratory. Analysis procedure used all required principles and recommendations of the British Pharmacopeia and International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) to determine the quality of iodine in salt [3]. The procedure started with weighting of 10 gm salt for each sample and adding into conical flask; then added 50 ml boiled distilled water & shaken to dissolve completely. Subsequently, pipette out 1 ml of 2 N sulphuric acid & 5ml of 10% potassium iodide were added the solution. The solution turns yellow then the flask closed with stopper & put it in the dark place for 10 minute in closed box. Poured 0.005N sodium thiosulphate into the burette and adjust the level to zero.

After 10 minutes take the flask out of the dark and titrated with normal solutions 0.005M of sodium thiosulfate and stop titration when the solution turns to light yellow. Then, 1ml of 1% Starch solution was added and the solution turned to deep purple. Next, titration continued until the purple colour disappeared and the solution becomes colourless. Then the burette reading record and the iodine content of the sample in parts per million interpreted from the attached table. In this study, 120 table salts samples from the HH and 24 from headquarter markets were tested for iodine

content. The most frequent samples were classified into three groups based on their iodine content (ppm = mg iodine per kg of salt): under standard limit (<15ppm) level; allowable standard limit from 15–40ppm; and over standard limit (>40ppm) [3].

Data were Entered and Analysed

By using the Statistical Package for Social Science statistical software for windows, version 21. Descriptive statistical methods were used for presenting women's' knowledge and attitude towards IDD data by using proportions and frequencies. Logistic regression models were used to identify predictors of poor knowledge and attitude towards IDD among women. Odds ratios with 95% of confidence intervals (CIs) were computed to assess the presence and degree of association with the outcome variables.

P-value less than 0.05 was used to declare a statistically significant association. Table salt analysis data were determined using mean, SD and frequency of table salt iodide content in salt. One-Sample T Test used to determine if there were any significant differences in iodine values in salt samples versus to standard iodine values and comparing average iodine values in salt samples (ppm). The significance level was considered at $P < 0.05$.

Results

From 16 Kebeles, 1012 women were included in the study, major of 776 (76.7%) study subjects were in the age 20 to 35 years and their main age was 29+8 year; above one-thirds of 392 (38.7%) had high school education and 174 (17.2%) were can not read and write (Table 1).

Table 1: Socio demographic status of study subjects in Central Highland of Ethiopia, 2018.

Variables	Frequency (n=1012)	Percent(%)
Maternal Age		
Age <20	88	8.7
Age 20 35	776	76.7
Age>35	148	14.6
Education Levels		
Illiterate	171	16.9
Grade 1-4	141	13.9
Grade 5-8	307	30.3
Grade 9-12	393	38.8
Marital Status		
Single	29	2.9
Married	919	90.8
Divorced	43	4.2
Widowed	15	1.5
Separated	6	.6
Occupation		
House wife	465	45.9
Farmer	170	16.8
Business women	157	15.5
Gov. employee	99	9.8
Daily labourer	68	6.7
NGO employee	14	1.4
Student	11	1.1
House servant	13	1.3
None	15	1.5
Family size		
<5 members	823	81.3
5-8 members	67	6.6

9 and more members	122	12.1
Annul Income (Birr)		
<1000	447	44.2
1000-5,000	484	47.8
5001-10,000	78	7.7
>10,000	3	3.0

Note: Birr-Ethiopian currency, n- study sample size.

Study Subjects' Knowledge

In this study, most women 637 (63.0 %) accessed to iodised salt utilization communication through different means and 354(35%) study subjects were accessed information via radio. Majority 683(67.0%) of women participated in the study lacked awareness

(knowing) towards IDD. Below the average 453 (44.8%) of women participated in the study had recognized the prevention method of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD). Among study subjects, 560 (55.3%) them didn't recognize about IDD and 507(50.1%) didn't know the use of iodised salt in food process (Table 2).

Table 2: Knowledge and attitude status of study subjects towards IDD, IDD prevention and iodised sat utilization in Central Highland of Ethiopia, 2018.

Variables	Categories	Frequency (n=1012)	Percentage (%)
Iodised salt utilization communication accessed			
	No	375	37
	Yes	637	63
Sources of communication			
	Radio	354	35
	Television	133	13.1
	Paper form	173	17.1
	Did not access	352	34.8
Awareness (knowing) of IDD			
	No	683	67.49
	Yes	329	32.61
Recognition to Iodine deficiency disorders			
	No	560	55.3
	Yes	452	44.7
Understand the cause of IDD			
	No	237	23.4
	Yes	775	76.6
Know goitre as a course of iodine deficiency			
	No	572	56.5
	Yes	440	43.5
Know prevention method of IDD			
	No	559	55.2
	Yes	453	44.8
Conclusive communication on intake of iodine			
	No	528	52.2
	Yes	484	47.8
know the use of iodised salt in food process			
	Did not know	507	50.1

Yes, know	505	49.9
Usual time for adding iodised salt during food cooking		
Early cooking time	576	56.9
Mid cooking time	210	20.8
End of cooking	226	22.3
Remark taken during purchasing iodised salt		
No	981	96.9
Yes	31	3.1
Handling of table salt		
With cover	439	43.4
Without cover	573	56.6
Table salt had specific storage place		
No	487	48.1
Yes	525	51.9
Consume cabbage, broccoli and other vegetables as staple food		
Yes	618	61.1
No	394	38.9

Note: IDD- Iodine deficiency disorders, n-study sample size.

Study Subjects' Attitude

Women who had attitude to add iodised salt at appropriate time of cooking food were only 226 (22.3%) which mean with the intention of majority of the study participants did not feel about iodized salt utilization. Women those focus to handled iodised salt with cover were 439(43.4%). Consuming cabbage, broccoli and vegetables as staple food among study subject was 618(61.1%). Therefore, below the average of study participants had good knowledge and attitude towards IDD and prevention approach (Table 2). The association of poor knowledge towards

IDD statically more significant among illiterate women than those women who had secondary education [AOR=4.61; 95%CI=(3.03, 7.02)] which was very strong association of IDD decreasing while study subjects education level increasing; Women who lived with less (<1000 ETB) household income had more than 3 times poor knowledge about IDD [AOR=3.07; 95% CI (1.28, 7.39)] compared to those who lived with annual income of more than 1000 ETB. Among women those did not hear about information on iodised salt utilization had unfortunate knowledge about IDD more than 2 times compared to women who heard these information [AOR=2.43; 95%CI(1.74,3.40)] (Table 3).

Table 3: Bivariate and multivariable logistic regression models predicting the likelihood of good knowledge about IDD among women in Central highland, Ethiopia.

Variables	categories	Knowledge towards IDD		
		Good n (%)	Poor n (%)	AOR (95%CI)
Maternal Age				
	Age <20	63(6.23)	25(2.47)	1.38(0.76,2.52)
	Age 20 35	597(59.00)	179(17.69)	1.04(0.68,1.59)
	Age>35	115(11.36)	33(3.26)	1
Education Level				
	Secondary education	344(34.0)	48(4.74)	1
	Primary education	247(24.40)	60(5.93)	1.72(1.15,2.57)*
	Read and write	34(3.36)	105(10.37)	3.56(2.26,5.60)*
	Illiterate	120(11.86)	54(5.34)	4.61(3.03,7.023)*

Annual income in Ethiopian currency			
>6,000	44(4.34)	6(0.59)	1
3001-6,000	122(12.05)	28(2.77)	1.68(0.65,4.33)
1000-3,000	294(29.05)	71(7.01)	1.77(0.72,4.31)
<1000	315(31.13)	132(13.04)	3.07(1.28,7.39)*
Usual time for adding iodised salt during food cooking			
End of cooking	173(17.09)	53(5.24)	1
Mid cooking time	162(16.01)	48(4.74)	0.98(0.62,1.51)
Early cooking time	440(43.48)	136(13.44)	1.01(0.70,1.45)
Access of communication on iodised salt utilization			
Yes	653(64.52)	163(16.10)	1
NO	122(12.05)	74(7.31)	2.43(1.74,3.40)*
Handling table salt in dry container with cover			
NO	244(24.11)	74(7.31)	1.01(0.74,1.38)
Yes	531(54.45)	163(16.10)	1
Specific storage place for table salt			
Yes	671(66.30)	198(19.57)	1
NO	104(10.27)	39(3.85)	0.71(0.52,0.95)*
Consume cabbage, potato as staple food			
Yes	258(25.49)	107(10.57)	1
NO	488(48.22)	130(12.84)	1.27(0.85,2.00)

Note: " AOR- Adjusted Odds Ratio, CI- Confidence interval, Birr- Ethiopian currency, IDD- Iodine deficiency disorders.

Table Salt Laboratory Results

Standard titration test method was used to ensure the consumption of recommended levels of iodine in the population. The test result classified in to three categories; based on their iodine content (ppm = mg iodine per kg of salt): under standard values (<15ppm); allowable standard values (15–40ppm) and over standard values (>40ppm) [9]. Tests showed that 73 (60.83%) of the households salt had allowable in standard limit and 46 (38.33%) samples had over standard value iodide in salt and 1(0.83%) of the HH had blow standard limit. Therefore, 119 (99.17%) households were with adequately iodised salt and the requirement of iodine per person per day also satisfactory. The mean and standard deviation of the salt iodine content were 45.29(SD+14.47). The maximum and the minimum value of iodine in milligram (mg) per kilogram (kg) of salt were 84 and 15 respectively. The most frequent value was 58ppm, 25 percentile was 36.04 and 75percentile was 56.18. The distribution of iodine in mg/kg of salt (ppm) among the households was normal. There was significant relationship between iodine values in table salt samples taken from the HHs compeered to World

Health Organization standard iodine values 40 ppm (P=0.001).

Samples of salt from the HHs were statistically significant compared with mean iodine values in mg/ kg in table salt (P=0.001). This study included table salt samples from shops and markets were collected and analysed to ensure under quantity of iodised salt and the leakage of non-iodized salt into the general population which could limit the elimination of IDD [9]. Table salt samples taken from headquarter markets and shops test results showed that 9 (37.53%) had standard limit and 15(62.5%) had above standard limit and no sample fund blow the standard limit of iodine in ppm which means less unconventional marketing sources for non iodine salts. The mean and SD of iodine for table salt test sampled collected from markets were 47.31(+16.4) and the most frequent value was 58.3ppm of iodine in salt, The distribution of iodide in mg/kg of salt (ppm) among headquarter markets was normal. Each headquarters market and shop titration test results indicate that the maximum iodide table salt was 83.74ppm found in Sagure town market and the minimum value was 16.96ppm found in L.Michael market (Table 4).

Table 4: Titration test method results for table salt samples collected from headquarter markets to determine iodine mg/kg of salt (ppm).

Samples collected January 01 to February11,2018 Date of laboratory analysis February 20, 2018				
Markets and shops	Initial Volume In ml	Final Volume In ml	Difference Volume in ml	Iodine : in mg/kg salt
Market L. Burkitu	6.2	11.6	5.4	57.24
Market L. Burkitu	11.6	15.9	4.3	45.58
L. Burkitu shop	15.6	18.8	3.2	33.92
Market L. Dima	18.8	23.6	4.8	50.88
Market L. Dima	0	4.6	4.6	48.76
L.Michael Shop	4.6	9.1	4.5	47.7
Market L. Michael	9.1	12.6	3.5	37.1
Market L. Michael	12.6	14.2	1.6	16.96
Shop Bekoji town	14.2	19.1	4.9	51.94
Shop Bekoji town	19.1	24.6	5.5	58.3
Shop Bekoji town	6.1	9	2.9	30.74
Market Bekoji	9	14.5	5.5	58.3
Market Bekoji	14.5	17	2.5	26.5
Market Bekoji	17	19.5	2.5	26.5
Market Bekoji	19.5	25	5.5	58.3
Market Ashebeka	0	3.2	3.2	33.92
Market Ashebeka	3.2	6.7	3.5	37.1
Market Sagure	6.7	14.3	7.6	80.56
Market Sagure	14.3	22.2	7.9	83.74
Market Sagure	18.2	24.6	6.4	67.84
Market Asella	0	5	5	53

Discussion

Adequacy of information about the use and utilization of iodised salt to individuals and households is the major approach to control IDD [10]. Although, strengthening evaluation and monitoring system for knowledge and attitude on iodised salt utilization and measuring table salt iodide content are a decisive step to eradicate iodine deficiency [9]. As a result, the percentage for access to iodised salt utilization communication was 63.0% and below the average (44.7%) of study participants had awareness to IDD. Our finding approached below to the report of a study in Axum town that has showed that 80% of study participants knew iodized salt can prevent IDD [12]. This variation from our finding might perhaps be due to study setting was urban areas after and the population have better education which enable them exchange information easily but this study was mainly included the rural part of the country. Study participants who had good knowledge of iodized salt use were 64.92% and this finding was lesser than finding in Addis Ababa which was 78% [13]. The difference might be due to high percentage of study participants had good education level which enables them to increase opportunities deal about IDD prevention and iodised salt utilization.

Communication barriers also very less among people those had good knowledge compared to the current study. In our finding

subjects who had appropriate time for adding iodised salt during food cooking was 22.3% which had a very low when compared study finding in Wolaita that is 36.1% [14]. This difference could be due to differences in location and range of covered area by the study. Study participants who had conclusive intake of iodine to prevent IDD was 47.8% and comparatively lower than study finding in Axum town that has 56% [12]. Study participants from their households represented sufficient table salt samples and these would enable us to inference for the wide community. In addition to this, using standard procedure for quantifying iodide found in table salt ensure the level of iodine intake even if utilization factors limit the adequacy of iodine for the prevention of IDD. In our study, high proportion of households (99.1%) had standard quantity of iodine (>15) and unacceptable levels of iodised salt was very less (0.83%). Our study finding clearly stated that samples taken from headquarters markets had 100% standard limit of iodine quantity in table salt and categorized into standard iodized limit was 37.5% and 40.83% was over standard iodised limit.

Therefore, the proportion of salt samples collected from major headquarters markets found potentially iodized in accordance with the average requirement (150µg per person/day) of iodine. For that reason, successful introduction and accessed for iodised salt in the study area was good opportunity in the progress to reduce

the risk of iodine deficiency. History of iodised salt in Ethiopia expressed in different literatures and international documents. In 2008, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) declared through revision on the progress in households consuming adequately iodized salt in Ethiopia since 1995 had not greater than 20% [15]. A national surveys data analysis for iodised salt coverage reported that 8% of households had table salt added with iodine and more than one-half of the household population remains at risk of iodine deficiency [16]. Consistently, Ethiopian demographic health survey (EDHS) justified that not excel than 16% of HH used adequate iodised salt at national level and at different region of Ethiopia have under average of HH had adequate iodine through iodised salt [17].

The testimony of EDHS in 2000 reported that 28 % of the HH consumed adequately iodized salt which was very similar finding with the past more than 2 decades. However, the urging of health problem from iodine deficiency exposure enhances the emerging of iodisation. The rapid establishment of two main iodisation plants and hundreds of small-scale units have been functioning and these made great progress since 2002 in Ethiopia [18-20]. So, small and large scale iodisation products delivered to the market and to the HH need standard quantification and this optimistic to prove the past ten years accesses compared to the current situation [16]. A study conducted in Asella town with rapid kit test showed that the percentage of HHs with consumed adequately iodized salt was 62.9% and this shows better change to ensure iodised salt intervention for the prevention of IDD than before [21].

Additionally, study finding conducted in Northwest of Ethiopia showed that about 33.2% of households had adequately iodized salt which is far different with our finding [22]. The national survey which has carried out to measure the progress of adequacy of iodized in Ethiopia conducted using titration method in 2015 indicated that 26% of the household have standard iodised salt (ppm) [23]. The current study finding reported that about 99.1% of the HH had table salt with adequate amount iodine (ppm) which was higher than study conducted in Asella town and in Northwest Ethiopia because both studs used rapid test which were deficient to predict the amount of iodine in salt (ppm). But this study made high reliable titration test and addressed wide-range of study area and high population (HHs and headquarter markets) were included in the study. In more, investment on iodisation plants relatively increasing within short period than the past years and this increasing comparative access and quantity of iodine in the country [19].

Andersson M et al. reported that nearly 150 countries have markedly improved the global iodine nutritional status their population and this is reaction decreased in the number of iodine-deficient countries worldwide from 54 in 2003 to 32 in 2011 [24]. Also, Ethiopia will successfully decrease risk of iodine-deficient problems in the population as our study shows that overall quantity of iodide found in table salt was greater than 90% satisfactory as confirmed by international standard tests. Mentoring and evaluation on production of standard iodised salt that will be distributed into the community shall be continuously assessed. The

other core concerns are increasing knowledge of the household in utilization and changing their attitude through upgrading behavioral change communication need concentrated attention in developing countries to elimination of IDD.

This study issued rural peoples' knowledge and attitude toward worldwide nutritional problems from risk of inadequate intake of iodine. Thereafter, our finding shows that most of them had less knowledge and attitude IDD prevention and iodised salt utilization. These shows the risk area like central highland area need high investment communication to increase peoples' awareness on iodised salt utilization to prevent IDD. This study highlighted iodised salt access was higher and most of HHs consumed adequate quantity of iodide ppm throughout the community. The majority of iodized salt samples from the HH and market contained high amount of iodine more than the standard limit. Currently, we have been recommended to collect urine specimens to study Mid Urine Iodine Concentration persuasively on this study population's child. This test of iodine concentrations in urine will provide adequate information on the iodine nutrition a profile of this study community.

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Ethical Approval

This research was approved by Ethical Review Committee of Jimma University. Letter of permission was obtained from Arsi Zone administrative and health department offices. At the end, we obtained permission from 8 district administrative offices 16 Kebeles (Smallest Administrative Units) which were site for data collection administrations offices. In addition, all of the study participants HH were informed about the purpose of the study. The respondents were notified that they have the right to refuse or terminate at any point of our request of table salt. The information provided by each respondent was kept confidential.

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