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1. DIMELT Work Package
1.1 Data Collection
Process monitoring data collection is continuing. Support is also offered to the field staff on a continuous basis to ensure consistent capture of process monitoring data.

2. POCTA
2.1 Refresher course for ATONU field staff
The ATONU project in Ethiopia convened a three-day annual national review meeting and two days refresher training for the Field Assistants (FAs). The meeting was held at the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) Campus from the 24th November-29th November 2017. The meeting was attended by field assistants; Sub-national Coordinators; National coordinator; Design, Intervention, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Tools (DIMELT) manager; and the Proof of Concept and Technical Assistance (POCTA) Manager.

2.1.1 Objectives of the meeting and refresher training
The objectives of the meeting were to:
- review the implementation of ATONU nutrition-sensitive interventions (NSIs),
- review progress on process data collection,
- share experiences and lessons learned from the field (i.e., considering success and challenges) and agree on improvements for the remaining period of the project.

Further, the refresher course sought to improve the performance of FAs. This was achieved through the following activities:
1. Sharing the status of the project implementation (i.e., what has been achieved so far)
2. Sharing experiences from the field
3. Discussing lessons learned, challenges and suggested solutions
4. Offering refresher training on process monitoring (i.e., data collection tools and data entry), orientation on the use of session guide manuals and other specific topics that arose from the experiences shared (e.g. sensitization of community leaders and women empowerment strategies)
v. Reflection on human resources issues
vi. Agreement on the action points and way forward for the remaining period of the project

2.1.2 Updates from field assistants in Ethiopia?

- 80% of targeted farmers established vegetable gardens
- Consumption of vegetables (especially lettuce, carrots and other green leafy vegetables) at household level has improved
- Chicken consumption is still poor, it remains a feature of festival meal
- Farmers are adhering to infant feeding practices, as verified during home visits, however, there is still poor consumption of animal source foods
- An increasing number of households is picking up positive hygiene and sanitation behaviors
- Men participation is continuously improving

2.2 Stories of change
2.2.1 Erick’s mother learns how to prepare nutritious food for her baby (a story from Tanzania)

"I did not know that my seven-month old baby can eat vegetables and chicken or meat. I did not know how to prepare these foods for him, until I learnt during the ATONU cookery sessions" Erick’s mother confessed after learning new recipes to make nutritious meals for her son.

She is one of the ACGG farmers who became an ATONU beneficiary while she was pregnant with her third child. According to her, the two older children did not benefit as much as Erick has done. Erick was exclusively breastfed for six months, after which she introduced complementary foods to him, which she says she prepares diversely, unlike what she did with the older children. Erick’s mother admits that she did not know that she could feed her children with chicken/meat and vegetables until she started attending ATONU SBCC nutrition education and cookery sessions. Now she knows how to include these in the baby’s food and she admits that she has learnt that porridge is not only to be made from rice (uji) and maize. She now understands the different choices of a carbohydrate base and uses potatoes, green bananas, rice or maize, to which she adds other foods to make at least four food groups at each feeding.
2.4 School nutrition clubs

Following each community theatre performance, the farmers called for nutrition education for their school-going children. A follow-up survey was conducted on some of the local schools where it was found that 80% of the children go to school on an empty stomach. It was also found that many children were not able to explain why they needed to have proper nutrition, which could be one of the reasons why food consumption was not prioritised in the morning. In response to this need and call, field staff in Tanzania approached local primary school heads and have started nutrition clubs in the schools. These are after-school clubs where the pupils meet and learn about nutrition.

The objective of the afterschool nutrition clubs is to increase awareness of good nutrition for school-going children so that they are able to understand the need for proper nutrition. Several activities that have been lined up include school vegetable gardens, food card games, sports, comics and other games.

2.5 Training of ATONU champions in Tanzania

During theatre and other village level sessions, the increasing need of having Champions in each village was apparent. Champions in the ATONU case are progressive ACGG-ATONU farmers who have understood the ATONU project and motivate other farmers to continue participating in the project. The need to have such voices in the village on the ATONU project become higher when participating farmers become less motivated about attending ATONU activities.

ATONU village champions are individuals with outstanding understanding of ATONU, communication skills and passion. These were identified and selected by their peers from the group of 40 ATONU beneficiaries in each village. The training of champions was, therefore, conducted with the objective to equip ATONU champions with necessary skills to enable them to engage other farmers on ATONU activities. In addition to training the champions about ATONU as a project, the
training also highlighted key areas which the champions needed to focus on as they engage other farmers.

The training was conducted in four villages in the central zone of Tanzania from the 5TH November – 12TH of November 2017, where on average 12 champions were met in each village. The training was in three parts:

i. Assessing the level of understanding and perceptions of the champions on the ATONU project, including testimonies on what each champion has learnt from ATONU

ii. Overview of ATONU objectives and NSIs

iii. The roles of ATONU champions in the village:
   - Champions are living demonstrations of the benefits of ATONU (role models)
   - Champions support and motivate other ATONU members during home visits to live the ATONU lifestyle, and encourage attendance to training sessions
   - Male champions support and convince fellow men on the importance of empowering women to improve the family nutrition status
   - Provide feedback to the village leaders through giving testimonies (success stories), especially during village meetings.

The ATONU Champions are expected to promote the adoption of ATONU values by being living demonstrations of the benefits; by actively showcasing the benefits; in essence, building the case for the adoption of ATONU values. To achieve this, ATONU champions will be encouraged to attend and speak at village meetings and social clubs. Champions are also encouraged to plan and execute targeted homestead visits where specific objectives may include efforts to convince known individuals with negative perceptions of the project.

Following the refresher course in Ethiopia, champions will be deployed in Ethiopia as well.

3. EVENTS

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

3-6 DECEMBER 2017
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

ATONU staff will be participating at the 3rd International Conference on Global Food Security: Global challenges, local solutions and connected pathways. The conference has the following five core themes:
(i) Food creation
(ii) Food safety and bio safety
(iii) Food loss and waste
(iv) Food in a changing society
(v) Food utilisation

ATONU will make two presentations at the event. A plenary presentation entitled *Agriculture to Nutrition (ATONU): The use of community theatre to communicate nutrition behavior change messages and engage communities* and one poster presentation entitled *Agriculture to Nutrition (ATONU): Dietary diversity and nutritional status in women and children in rural farming households in Ethiopia and Tanzania.*