

The Government of Ethiopia (GOE) developed the National Nutrition Program (NNP) in 2008 and has initiated the implementation of the CBN sub- component in selected woredas in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions based on the GOE-UNICEF Country Program Action Plan 2007 -2011. A step-wedge design is used to assess the changes in nutritional status of children, knowledge of mothers/care takers about nutrition and child caring practices, food security situation, and to measure the iodization level of household salt involving data collection in three rounds. The study is conducted in selected woredas of four Regions: Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray Regions. Children in the age group of 0-35 months and their mothers/care takers are included in the study. A total of about 1000 households with eligible children are studied in each round. Preliminary analysis showed high level of chronic malnutrition, high level household food insecurity, inadequate feeding practices, with low diversity and frequency of feeding and lower exclusive breast feeding than observed previously. Iodized salt consumption is generally minimal in all regions. When completed the study is hoped to demonstrate the effect of the community based nutrition program.