



Changes in household and children dietary diversity in AGP intervention areas

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1. Introduction

- Despite progress, high stunting levels remain in Ethiopia
 - Agricultural sector is a key player in source of income and livelihood for most of the rural communities through production and consumption of nutritious food
- The Government of Ethiopia has made nutrition a priority agenda. The high-level commitment to nutrition was reflected in the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP 2016-2020)
- In support of the second National Nutrition Program, the AGP-2 (2015-2020) integrates a focus on increased production of nutritious foods, increased households' dietary diversity
- A Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Strategy was validated in 2017
- The National Food and Nutrition Policy, validated in 2019, promotes also access to adequate food and a diversified diet

Nutrition sensitive AGP-2 interventions

Farmer training centers bring training on

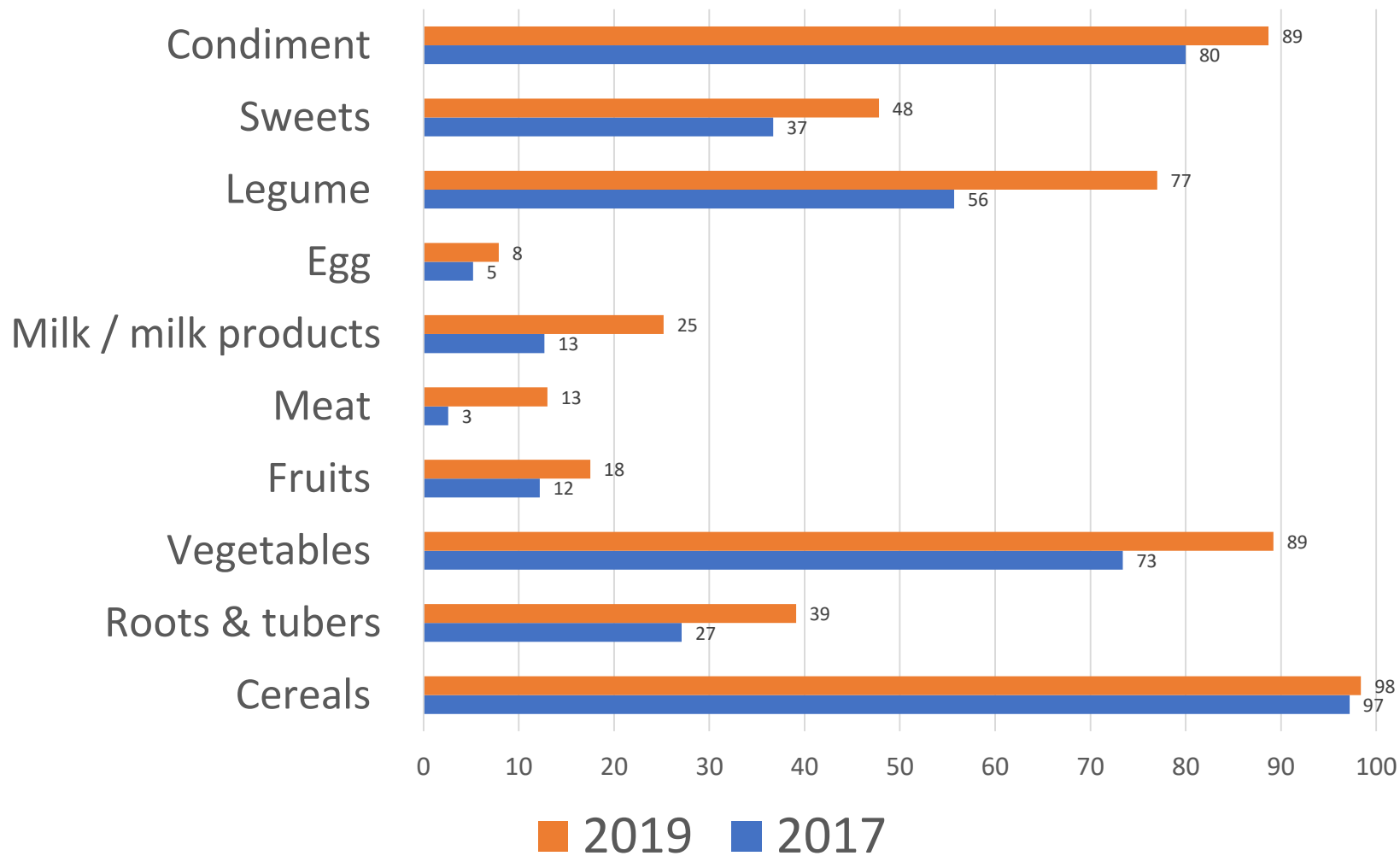
- Awareness about nutrient dense crops, fruits and vegetables
- Post-harvest handling
- Dietary diversity
- Cooking demonstrations that aims at increasing dietary diversity of households and household members

Demonstration of nutrition sensitive technologies

- Improved seeds (of ground nut, haricot bean, protein dense (quality protein) maize, orange flesh, tomato, sweet potato, beans, soya bean, and others)
- Cattle fattening
- Food preparation techniques
- Crop diversification activities
- Introducing improved breeds of cattle, cattle forage & quick livestock production technology
- Integration of poultry, fish and horticulture production and construction of poultry house fish ponds

Focus to include participation of women and youth in these trainings

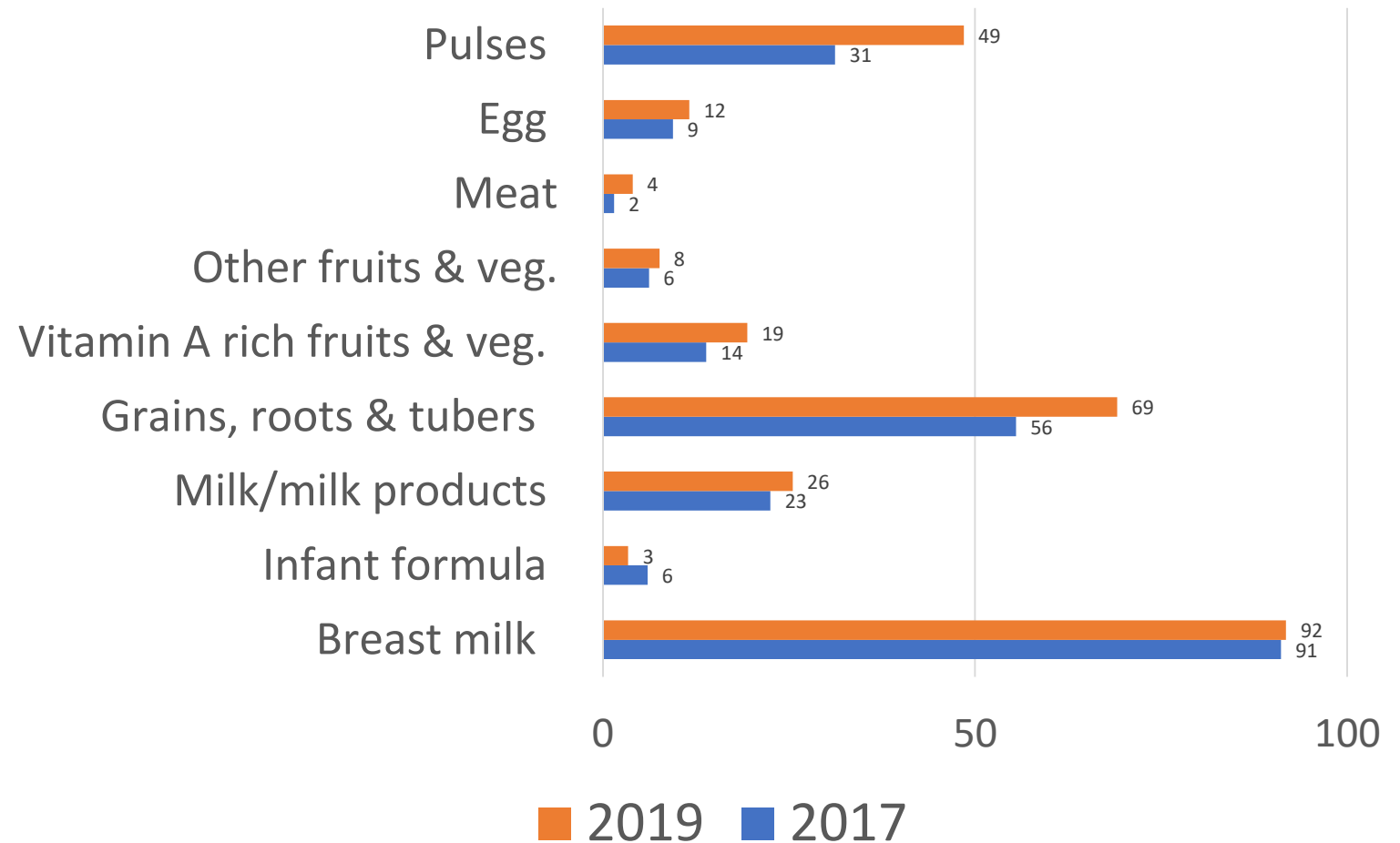
2. Household Diet Diversity: changes in proportion of households who consumed various food groups in last 24 hours (AGP II MTR)



- Large increase in consumption of legumes (21%) and vegetables (16%)
- Important increase in consumption of roots and tubers,
- milk(12%) products and meat (10%)
- increased consumption of sweets (11%)

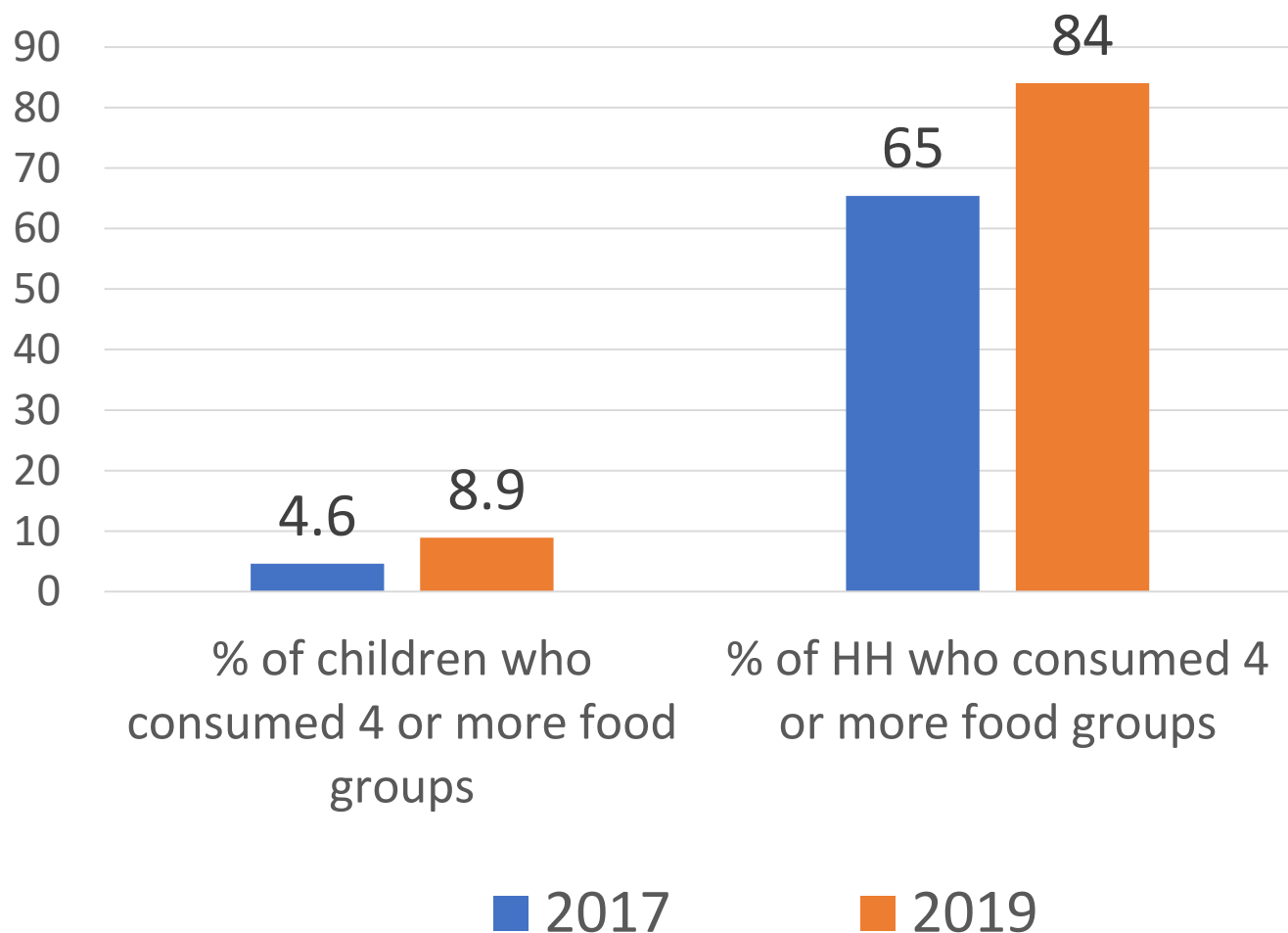
3. Child Diet Diversity: Changes in consumption of food groups of children in AGP beneficiary HH between 2017 and 2019

- A high number of children are breastfed
- **Relatively large increase** in consumption of pulses (17%) and grains, roots and tubers (14%)
- **Modest increase** in consumption of eggs, meat, fruits and vegetables and milk products
- Small decrease in use of infant formula



Minimum Diet Diversity : AGP beneficiary HHs and children

Minimum diet diversity for AGP beneficiary HH and children



Households diet diversity

Clear improvements in number of households that consume 4 food groups or more

- In 2019, **19%** points more HH consumed a minimum of 4 and more food groups compared to 2017

Children diet diversity

- Despite clear improvements between 2017 and 2019, only few children eat the minimum number of 4 and food groups

Low Child Dietary Diversity observed compared to Household DD

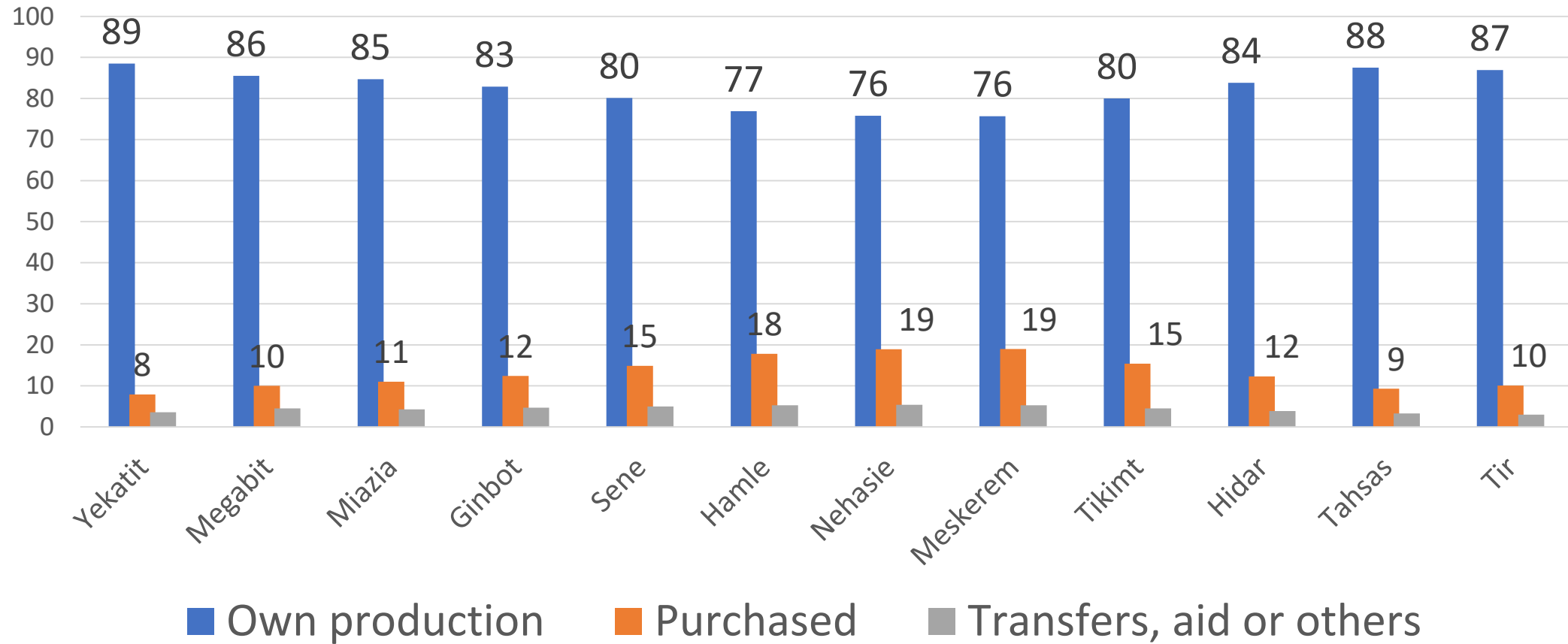
Some factors contributed for progress in HH DD

- Promotion of increased production diversity and demonstration of new crops/vegetables/fruits
- Fruit and vegetable nursery sites
- Increased participation of women and youth farmers at grassroots level
- Awareness creation about and dissemination of seeds on nutrition-dense crops, food preparation techniques and crop storage facilities have been effective
- Use consultative meeting and experience sharing visits to share experiences and observe how activities are being implemented at grassroots levels.
- Establishment of strong collaboration and networks among stakeholders which led to learn from each other, information exchange, and to scaling up process

4. Challenges

- High dependency on household own production

Primary sources of food for HHs (2019)



Challenges (con'td)

- Improvements at household level not translated adequately for children diets
- Difficulty to get improved seeds of fruits, vegetables and nutritious crops
- Absence of nutrition expert in the different layers of the government institutional arrangement
- Limited water access to plant vegetables & fruits
- Vegetable diseases
- Rising cost of nutritious food
- Increased consumption of sweets
- Limited source of non-farm income, awareness, production diversity

5. Concluding remarks

- Although there are progresses, Ethiopia has long way to travel to ensure nutrition diversity
- More action needed :
 - Invest more on nutrition sensitive agriculture
 - Scaling up successful initiatives
 - Further expand collaborative efforts with other stakeholders and sectors to improve DD
 - **children's dietary diversity** is remains critical national concern

Thank you !!