Privacy Assurance Statement
for the Feed the Future FEEDBACK Impact Evaluation (IE)
Public Use Dataset: Ethiopia PRIME Baseline Survey 2013

Under the terms of the Executive Order Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information and the Administration’s Open Data Policy, the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID’s) Bureau for Food Security is making data from Feed the Future FEEDBACK (FTF FEEDBACK) performance monitoring surveys available as open and machine-readable public use datasets after publication of the country reports.

An essential step in the preparation of FTF FEEDBACK datasets for public use is ensuring respondent privacy and confidentiality. Respondent privacy and confidentiality are ensured and protected by removing identifying information from the datasets, including direct identifiers (information such as names, addresses, Global Positioning System coordinates, or any other personally identifying number or characteristic) and indirect identifiers (data that do not specifically identify a person or location, but that can be used to do so, one variable at a time or in combination, by uniquely describing a person or household).

FTF FEEDBACK datasets are freely available to the public without restriction. However, all personal identification information that was present in the original data was removed. In addition, variables that could potentially be used indirectly (in combination with other variables or with other data sources) to identify any particular household or respondent were recoded to prevent that disclosure.

Households with large numbers of members can potentially be identified if large households are unique or rare in the survey woreda. To effectively avoid revealing the identity of any large household that may be the only one or among a very few of its size in its woreda, a number of household members were removed from several households. The number of households affected and the number of household members removed through this procedure will not be disclosed. The members who were removed were not eligible for interview elsewhere in the questionnaire.

Because of these modifications, it may not be possible for analysts to exactly reproduce all of the results in published country reports and indicators.

FTF FEEDBACK interviewers administered the following informed consent statement at the beginning of the household questionnaire (translated, as appropriate) during the 2013 Ethiopia PRIME IE Baseline Survey:

“Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. We are from Green Professional Service and the Central Statistics Agency for the Government of Ethiopia. We are conducting a survey to learn about agriculture, food security, food consumption, nutrition and wellbeing of households in this area. Your household has been selected to participate in an interview that includes questions on topics such as your family background, dwelling characteristics, household expenditures and assets, household food consumption and nutrition
of children. The survey includes questions about the household generally, and questions about individuals within your household, if applicable. The questions in total will take approximately one and one-half hours to complete and your participation is entirely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you can choose to stop at any time or to skip any questions you do not want to answer. Your answers will be completely confidential; we will not share information that identifies you with anyone. Do you have any questions about the survey or what I have said? If in the future you have any questions regarding the survey and the interview, or concerns or complaints, we welcome you to contact the Central Statistics Agency. We will leave one copy of this form for you so that you will have record of this contact information and about the study.”

FTF FEEDBACK interviewers administered the following informed consent statement at the beginning of the community questionnaire (translated, as appropriate) during the 2013 Ethiopia PRIME IE Baseline Survey:

“Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. We are from Green Professional Service and the Central Statistics Agency for the government of Ethiopia. We are conducting a survey to learn about agriculture, food security, food consumption, nutrition and wellbeing of households in this area. Your community has been selected to participate in an interview that includes questions on topics such as the types of services available here, the community organizations, and the stressors that have affected you. These questions in total will take approximately one hour to complete and your participation is entirely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you can choose to stop at any time or to skip any questions you do not want to answer. Your answers will be completely confidential; we will not share information that identifies you with anyone. Do you have any questions about the survey or what I have said? If in the future you have any questions regarding the survey and the interview, or concerns or complaints, we welcome you to contact the Central Statistics Agency. We will leave one copy of this form for you so that you will have record of this contact information and about the study.”

This statement is included in Module 1a of the USAID-approved questionnaire for the 2013 Ethiopia PRIME IE Baseline Survey. At the beginning of each subsequent module of the USAID-approved questionnaire, the trained interviewer was prompted to obtain informed consent from each additional eligible respondent prior to interviewing him/her. Informed consent obtained at the start of each subsequent module was obtained electronically.