

Productive Safety Net Program

Year of inception: 2005



ETHIOPIA

Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) is Ethiopia's rural safety net for food-insecure households. Implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, PSNP engages able bodied members of eligible households in public works and provides unconditional cash transfer to families without labour capacity. Established under the umbrella of the National Food Security Program (FSP), the key rationale behind the program was to replace emergency assistance with a resilience-building approach for those households chronically food insecure and in those areas constantly receiving humanitarian aid. PSNP is one of the largest national social safety net programs in Africa, with a budget of US\$ 2.6 billion for its phase 4 (2015-2020).

Program objectives:

To enhance the livelihoods and resilience to shocks of rural households vulnerable to food insecurity and improve their food security and nutrition.

Program design and implementation features:

PSNP has two different modalities:



PUBLIC WORKS (PW)

APPROXIMATELY 80% OF PSNP BENEFICIARIES

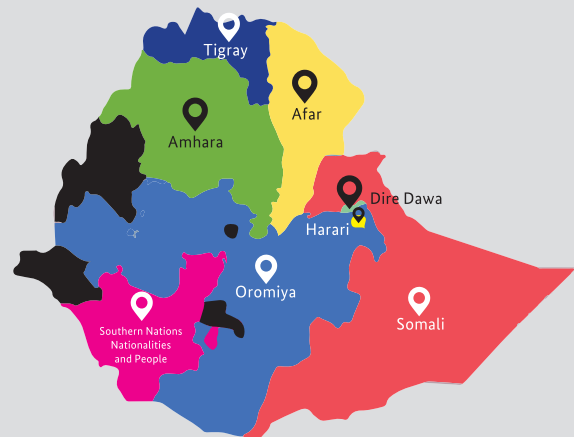
Households that have able-bodied adult labour engage in public works. They receive transfers for 6 months of the year. Public works focus on integrated community-based development, covering activities such as soil and water conservation measures, rangeland management and development of community assets (roads, water infrastructure, schools and clinics, etc.) These works contribute to improved livelihoods of target communities, through

- increased availability of natural resources,
- increased agricultural production
- improved access to markets
- strengthened disaster risk management and climate resilience, and
- nutrition.

The timing and specific activities of the public works activities are tailored to the specific regional context of each woreda (district).

Coverage:

PSNP phase IV (2015 – 2020) covers **8 million people living in chronically or transitory food insecure households** in the most drought-prone areas in eight regions (Afar, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Harari, Oromiya, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP), Somali and Tigray)



DIRECT SUPPORT (DS)

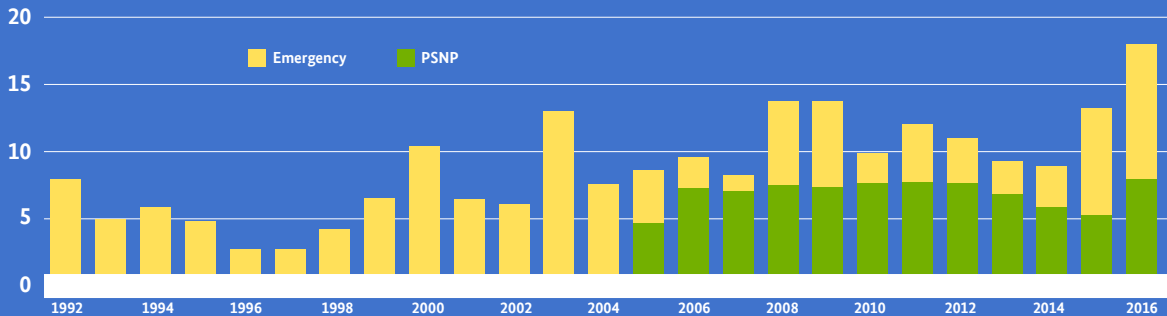
APPROXIMATELY 20% OF PSNP BENEFICIARIES

Households without labour capacity receive direct unconditional cash transfers for 12 months. They are also linked with other social protection services.

Success stories:

PSNP has been successful in replacing and complementing emergency assistance in chronically food-insecure areas with predictable and sustainable support for affected individuals, households and communities, thereby fostering their productive inclusion in diverse ways.

PNSP and Humanitarian Casefoods, millions of people, 1992-2016



60%

of the projects under the public works component are related to restoring natural resources, such as soil and water conservation, and designed to improve climate resilience.



PSNP reduced the impact of drought shocks by 57%, thus contributing to building resilience of communities against shocks.



The direct impact of PSNP transfers to vulnerable households has led to a 2% reduction of the national poverty rate.



The PSNP also has a positive effect on the acquisition and protection of productive assets and has resulted in an increase of agricultural input use, which supports productivity.

Key success factors and challenges:



PSNP has transitioned from a food security program to a more systematic approach delivering social protection, disaster risk management, nutrition, and climate resilience elements under one program umbrella.



The program provides an integrated package of services, including transfers, linkages to livelihoods interventions, linkages to health and nutrition services and graduation support.



By incorporating environmental and climate change considerations into the social protection program, PSNP has increased resilience, improved food security and reduced deforestation through land restoration and natural resources management.



Even with PSNP considerable food insecurity and vulnerability remains.



Graduation out of the program is difficult and is not yet well understood.



Until now, the PSNP is mostly financed by donors. An increasing role of the Government of Ethiopia in financing the program is crucial for its long-term sustainability.



Further readings:

- Ministry of Agriculture (2014). Productive Safety Net Programme Phase IV. Programme Implementation Manual. https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1866/psnp_iv_programme_implementation_manual_14_dec_14.pdf
- European Commission, SPaN (2019). Case study. Ethiopia. <https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/span-2019-case-study-ethiopia>
- Ulrichs, Martina; Slater, Rachel (2016). How can social protection build resilience? Insights from Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. BRACED Working Paper. <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11123.pdf>
- World Bank (n.d.). ET Productive Safety Nets Project 4 (PSNP 4). <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P146883?lang=en>

Supported by:

