

# The Productive Safety Net Program and the Agri-Food System in Ethiopia : Key Outcomes and Challenges



Virtual Seminar |  
June 9, 2021



# **Ethiopia's PSNP – Impacts and Challenges**

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# Outline

- ❑ Objectives and introduction
- ❑ PSNP – Context and features
- ❑ Impact the PSNP
  - Approach – measurement, impact;
  - Data (focus on the highlands);
  - Findings – food security, nutrition, resilience, Local Economy effects;
- ❑ Some Observations

# Objectives and Introduction

- ❑ The presentation relies primarily on the evaluation studies of IFPRI on PSNP and resilience
- ❑ Rigorous and regular evaluation 2006-2014 (until the end of PSNP 3)
  - On-going evaluation of PSNP4 (2016-2020)
  - learn, adjust, redesign;
- ❑ Regular evaluation dimensions:
  - Process – targeting, payments, implementation capacity, ...
  - Outcomes – food insecurity (food gap, food expenditure), asset accumulation (TLU, house quality),
- ❑ Other evaluation dimensions:
  - Nutrition (child anthropometry, household diet diversity);
  - Vulnerability and resilience – key targets;
  - Local economy (general equilibrium) effects – productivity, growth;

# Context – Shocks and their Consequences

- ❑ Ethiopian households, particularly rural ones, are subject to a variety of **shocks** – drought, flooding, pests, human and animal health, economic;
- ❑ Drought is the most common and recurrent shock;
- ❑ Examples – **1984/85, 2002/03, 2015/16**;
- ❑ Shocks can and do result the onset/persistence of poverty through transitory and/or long-term impact – **case of drought**
  - Short-term a third of surveyed households during (2008-2016) report **loss of income and reduced consumption**

# Context – Incidence and Impact of Drought

- Evidence of longer-term effects based on the 1984/85 drought/famine - Dercon (2004), Dercon and Porter (2014), Tafere (2017);

## *Economic growth, child height, child health, cognitive and non cognitive abilities*

- 10% lower rainfall today associated with 1 percentage point decline in growth about 4–5 years later;
- Greater severity associated with worse outcomes – about 16 percentage points lower growth (Note: average CV of rainfall high);
- affected children aged 12-36 months are significantly shorter, by at least 5 cm, as adults (20 years later);
- Second generation - Mothers' exposure to famine in early childhood has a negative effect on their children's health (height-for-age z-scores), cognitive (number of years of schooling) and non-cognitive (locus of control) human capital;

# Response to Drought Shocks

- ❑ Response has evolved over time, still is;
- ❑ Relief – annual appeals system, shortcomings (delay, lack of predictability);
- ❑ PSNP – coordinated, multi-year, predictable, ‘productive’
- ❑ Part of comprehensive development planning;
- ❑ Broad social protection agenda;

# The PSNP – Features

- ❑ **Focus** – Rural PSNP, recent urban one introduced
- ❑ **The PSNP – Objectives and Components**
  - Aims to smooth consumption (protect assets) through transfers in chronically food insecure communities (targeting)
  - Has two components: Public Works (PWs) and Direct Support (DS);
  - Builds community assets – soil and water conservation (SWC), irrigation, roads, schools, clinics... – through PWs projects
- ❑ **The PSNP – Duration, Size**
  - Multi-year, multi-donor – coordination between GoE and donors;
  - Large – up to 8 million beneficiaries; Budget ~US\$0.5 billion/year
- ❑ **The PSNP – M&E**
  - Independent and collaborative monitoring and evaluation in the design;



# The PSNP – Impact Summary

- ❑ ***Food security*** – improved food security, as measured by the **food gap**, particularly in the highlands;
- ❑ ***Disincentive effects:***
  - does not reduce labour supply,
  - does not appear to crowd out private transfers.
- ❑ ***Livelihoods and asset creation*** - mixed evidence;
- ❑ ***Resilience*** – some evidence the beneficiaries rebound after a shock sooner;
- ❑ ***Economy-wide effects*** - the benefits of PSNP significantly exceed the cost of PSNP transfers due to multipliers via local and national markets;

# Impact of PSNP on Child Nutrition

- ❑ PSNP improved household level (calorie) availability and food security as well as dietary diversity at the household level.
- ❑ *Improvements were not seen at the child level.*
  - Little change in child nutritional outcomes due to PSNP;
  - Child diet quality remains poor.
- ❑ Missing link - nutrition knowledge of mothers and the household at large:
  - Mother had limited contact with health extension workers;
  - Mother had received little information on good feeding practices;
  - Poor hygiene and water practices observed
- ❑ PSNP 4 aims to correct some of these by linking some of these nutrition knowledge components with the PSNP;
  - no improvements in nutrition and hygiene related outcomes recorded;
  - limited implementation of the nutrition sensitive provisions appears responsible for the outcome;

# Impact of PSNP on Resilience

- ❑ Multiple conceptualisations of resilience and vulnerability;
- ❑ **Resilience**
  - a *recovery trajectory* following a specific shock.
  - an *ex-post* approach (finding reported below):
- ❑ Impact of PSNP
  - beneficiaries recover after no more than 2 years, rather than taking up to four years) – *resilience*;
  - Considerable food gap remains;

# The PSNP – Impact Summary

- ❑ PSNP transfers reduce *vulnerability* and improve *resilience* (2006-2014)

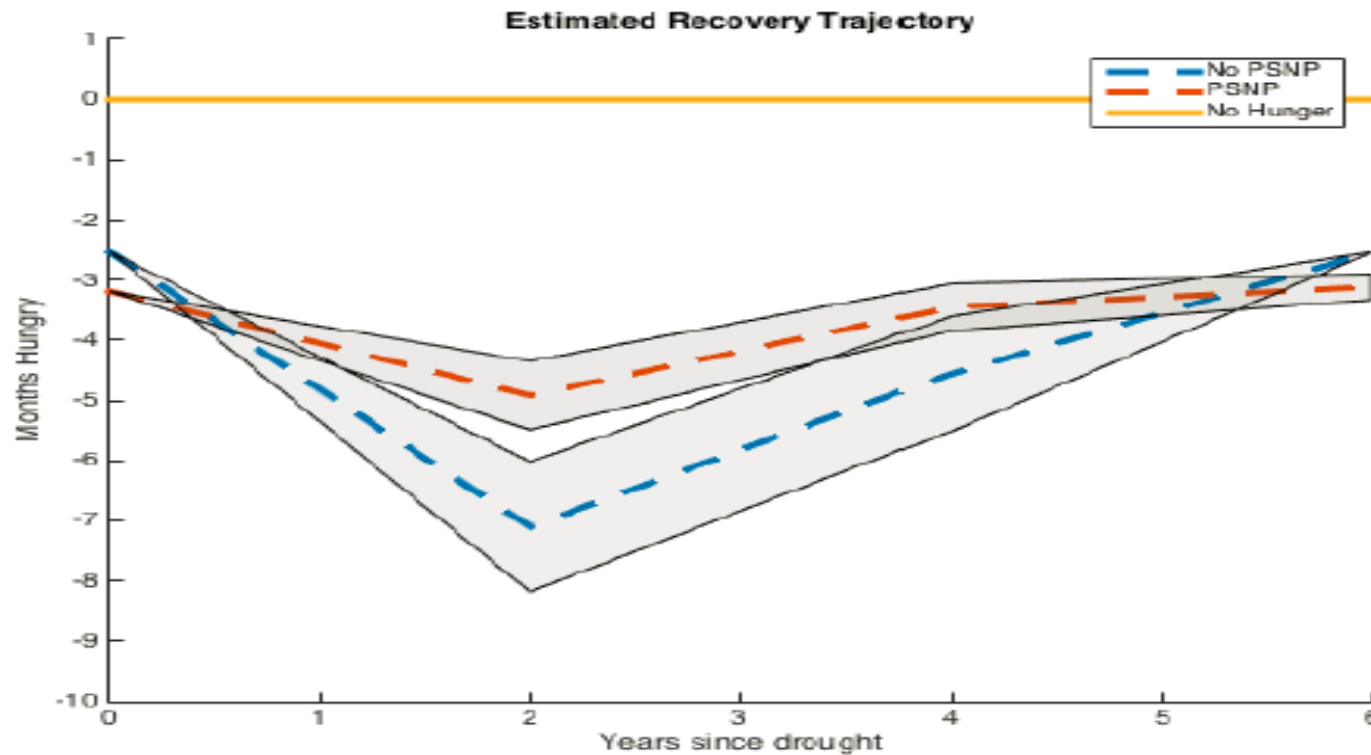


Figure 5: PSNP and non-PSNP recovery trajectories from mean level of welfare

# Impact of PSNP on the Local Economy

- ❑ PSNP has two components: Transfers (T) and Community assets via Public Works (PW)
  - Community assets - Soil and water conservation (SWC), Irrigation, Roads, Schools, Clinics...
- ❑ Most evaluation focuses on recipient households
  - But impacts may spread far beyond recipients:
    - Cash Recipients spend their money within their economy;
    - Public works affect agro-ecological and economic environment;
- ❑ Implication
  - Need to evaluate the FULL impact;
  - Full impacts **locally**, and **nationwide**

# Impact of the PSNP on Productivity and Growth

## ❑ *Yield growth:*

- PSNP-related SWC infrastructures enhanced crop yields by 2.8 percent on average (econometric analysis);

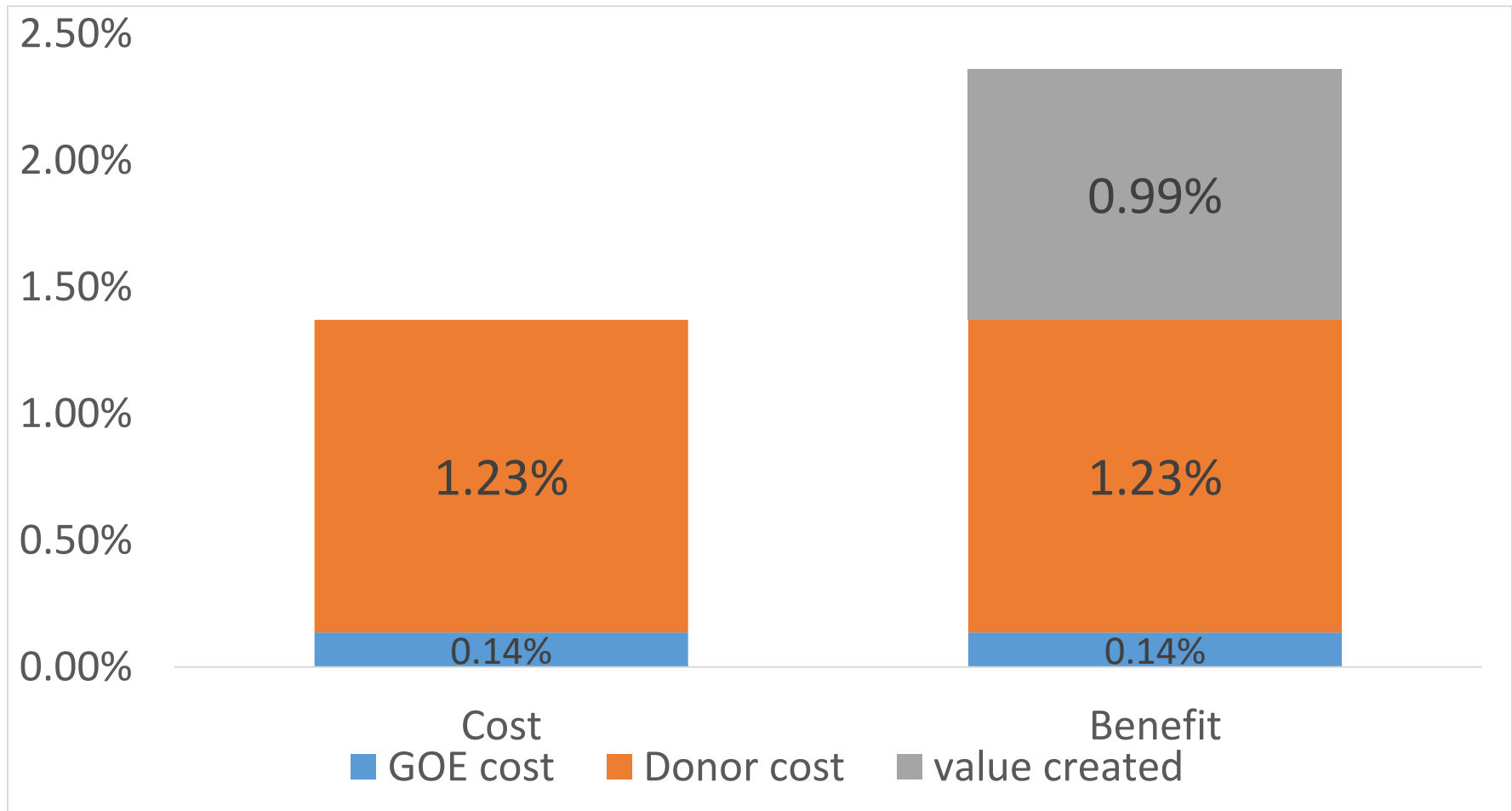
## ❑ *Local Economy Impact:*

- PSNP generated income multipliers ranging from 1 to 2.4 ETB per ETB transferred depending on the *kebele* (eight LEWIE models);

# Impact of PSNP on the Local Economy

## ❑ *National Economy Impact: CGE estimates*

Approximate costs and benefits of PSNP nationwide (% of GDP)



❑ Significant productivity and growth challenges continue;

# The PSNP – Challenges

- ❑ Graduation – cannot happen by PSNP alone;
  - ***the Livelihoods component - A PSNP4 innovations;***
  - the livelihoods transfer programme - ***a variant of the graduation model;***
- ❑ Targeting – geographic and community
  - This proved problematic in the ***lowlands;***
- ❑ Timeliness of payments – a major problem initially, much improved over time, evidence of some relapse in more recent year;
- ❑ Sustainability – resources, coverage; increasing role of GoE in financing;
- ❑ ***PSNP4 and ongoing evaluation***



# The PSNP – Messages

- ❑ Large social protection programme can be operated in a poor country, even without means-tested targeting;
- ❑ Commitment and coordination indispensable – GoE (at different levels), development partners;
- ❑ Independent, rigorous, and regular evaluation vital;
- ❑ Genuine dialogue, learning and redesign essential;
- ❑ **Complementarity** – addressing emergency, enhancing resilience, and promoting development

**Thank You**



# **PSNP 5**

## **Nutrition sensitive interventions**

June 2021



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# Overview of PSNP 5



- PSNP 5 (2021-2025), is built largely on the successes and lessons learned from the previous phases, particularly which of PSNP 4 and different pilots implemented along with it.
- Despite some achievements, the experience of nutrition in PSNP4 was not adequate.
- PSNP 5 aims to make contributions to the achievement of five key government policies and strategies: The National Social Protection Policy; The National Policy on Disaster Risk Management (NPSDRM); **The National Food and Nutrition Policy (FNP)**, The Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE), and The Pastoral Development Policy (PDP).
- The overall objective of the PSNP 5 is to achieve ***enhanced resilience to shocks of extreme poor and vulnerable rural households in PSNP woredas.***
- *Nutrition sensitive interventions have been **mainstreamed into all six outputs of the program***
- The program will reach around 8 million rural people in about 408 woredas with regular support, with others supported during shocks as required.
- It provides **cash or food (cash+ food) monthly support for its clients.**



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### **Program Goal:**

Extreme poverty reduced in PSNP  
woredas

### **Program Objective:**

Enhanced resilience to shocks of  
extreme poor and vulnerable rural  
households in PSNP woredas



## Outputs of the Fifth Phase of PSNP

1

Timely and adequate transfers received by eligible core caseload of PSNP clients.

2

Shock-responsive transfers received by eligible clients when needed.

3

Public Works respond to community livelihood needs and contribute to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation.

4

Linkages to available social services facilitated for core PSNP clients with emphasis on PDS and TDS.

5

Tailored livelihood options accessed by eligible PSNP clients.

6

PSNP management and capacity enhanced.

# Major Changes in this Phase



- The program is designed in a way to contribute for the broader Food and Nutrition Policy and strategy.
- Promotes nutrition-sensitive interventions (NSIs) as one of the key program principles.
- Nutrition issues have been mainstreamed across all program outputs.
- Institutional arrangement: provides critical roles for FaNCO of the MoA, MoH, MoLSA, Seqota Declaration Delivery Unit, and NGOs working on nutrition will have greater roles in implementation of NSIs.
- Nutrition Champions will be assigned at kebele level to facilitate NSIs.
- Earmarked budget is allocated for NSIs.
- Key Linkage to Available Social Service (LASS) and nutrition activities will be captured in the PSNP MIS

# Output 1 :- Timely, appropriate and Adequate Transfers Received by Eligible Core Caseload of PSNP Clients

s/n	Provisions	Remark
1	<b>Promoting women's access to and control over the program resources,</b> which is critical for household nutrition improvement. <b>i.e., Joint client card and joint bank accounts</b> for husband and wife to ensure equal access of resource to the two spouses	*
2	<b>Appropriate, adequate and timely transfer</b> for clients	*
3	• <b>Year round (12 months) of unconditional transfer /support for PDS clients (PLW and Children in PDS HHs will benefit)</b>	
4	<b>PLW-CG (TDS) clients are entitled to get unconditional monthly transfer/ payment</b> since the month they shifted from PW to TDS.	*
5	Pregnant and lactating mothers will receive their entitlement for six month in each years (January to June) until the child become 2 years old, and <b>care givers of malnourished under five children will continue until the child recovered.</b>	**
<b>Output 2: Shock responsive transfer</b>		
6	5% Woreda Contingency budget is dedicated to support non-PSNP <b>HHs with malnourished under five years old children.</b>	



## Output 3: Public Works Respond to Community Livelihood Needs

s/n	Provisions /Interventions	Remark
7	Develop integrated gender and nutrition sensitive annual public works plans that contribute to the household nutrition improvement and livelihood productivity	**
8	<b>Pregnant and lactating women (PLW) will be exempt from PWs and join TDS for the duration of their pregnancy and for two years after the birth of a child i.e. 30-32 months.</b>	
9	<b>FHHs without able-bodied labor</b> in their house (i.e., have young children) will require the woman to only provide her share of the household labor. <b>A soft conditionality of working the additional one person's share on HH based nutrition sensitive activities</b> , which are defined in the PIM	***
10	<b>3% of the PWs capital budget (about 4.3 million dollar) will be earmarked for nutrition-sensitive activities</b> , such as purchasing materials for cooking demonstrations for nutrient-rich foods.	***
11	<b>Promotion of Early Childhood Development (ECD) services -i.e., construction of community child day care centers.</b> It will include pre- and in-service training, is a PW activity for clients who are trained in CCCCs.	**

## Output 3: Public Works Respond to Community Livelihood Needs...

s/n	Provisions	Remark
12	All PW clients will attend <b>Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) sessions that focus on health, nutrition, GSD&amp; GBV messages.</b>	*
13	<b>Caretakers of under 5 malnourished children shall timely transit to temporary direct support (TDS)</b> until it is confirmed by KFSTF/HEW that the child is recovered from the problem.	**
14	<b>Women will work 50% fewer hours on PWs than men.</b> This can be applied by late arrival and early departure, or by working fewer days; whichever is more convenient for the female clients.	
15	<b>Hire and assign PSNP community facilitators (CFs)</b> who will be responsible to ensure GSD and nutrition in <b>PW sub-project in general and sub-project 9 planning and supporting SBCC delivery on nutrition</b>	***
16	<b>3-5 people per kebele</b> will be selected from <b>model PSNP clients to work as nutrition champions.</b> This work will be included as <b>part of their labor requirement for public works</b>	*
17	TDS households that have able-bodied family members will use <b>50% of their person days on household-level nutrition and livelihood assets creation</b>	

## Output 4: Linkages to Available Social Services for PSNP Clients

s/ n	Provisions	Remark
18	<b>PSNP serves as a significant platform for linking its clients to available social services</b> (including CBHI, education, health and nutrition, legal, GBV services)	**
19	<b>Community Facilitators and nutrition champions</b> will support the HEWs to identify and bring suspected cases of malnourished children to the attention of the HEW.	*
20	GSD and nutrition shall be part of the roles and responsibility <b>PSNP Community Facilitators</b>	***
21	<b>Pregnant mothers</b> shall transit temporary direct support since <b>their first month of pregnancy as they provide formal justification</b>	**
22	Providing support households with <b>malnourished child under TSFP or OTP/CMAM</b>	*
23	<b>Breastfeeding mothers</b> shall remain on temporary direct support after the delivery <b>until the child became two years old (24 months old)</b> . They receive a transfer without participating in public works until the child become <b>two years old</b> .	*

## Output 5: Tailored Livelihood Options Accessed by Eligible PSNP Clients

s/n	Provisions	Remark
33	<b>Prioritize female beneficiaries</b> who meet the criteria for livelihood grant who will be <b>encouraged to engage on IGAs with nutritional values to the HH and community.</b>	**
34	Develop <b>gender and nutrition sensitive livelihood package</b>	***
35	Women in male headed households should engage actively in the whole process of livelihood interventions.	*
36	<b>Ensure accessibility of livelihoods interventions</b> (financial literacy training, technical training, and business skills/marketing training) should be at times and in locations accessible to women and other vulnerable social groups whenever possible.	**

## Way forward



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- Sign MoU among key IAs to ensure shared accountability
- Ensure well integration of nutrition indicators in the program MIS
- Ensure that the national nutrition monitoring and reporting system adequately address the PSNP roles in nutrition

Any other to add? .... you are welcome

# Discussion points



- What do you appreciate as the strength of the PSNP5 design document?
- What opportunities and challenges would you anticipate in the rollout of the design?





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# Fresh Food Voucher program: External evaluation findings

9th June,  
2021



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## Contents

- Background
- Activities
- External Evaluation findings



With the support from:

**KFW**



# Introduction to the Fresh Food Voucher Prg.

Click on the triangle to watch the video



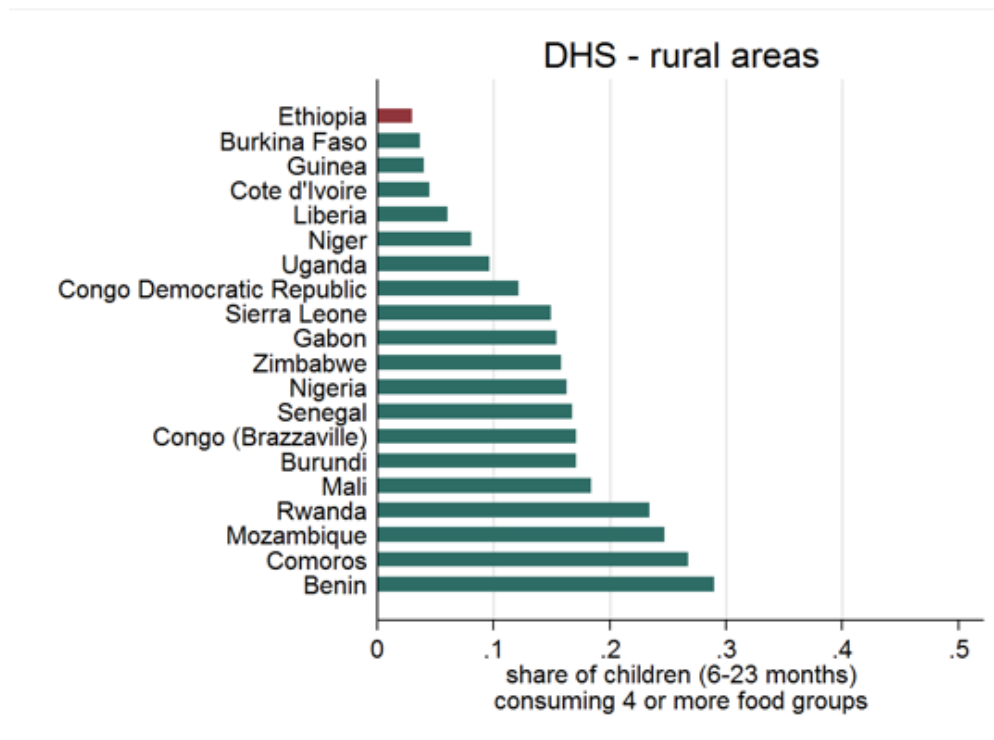


# Background – why important?



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Ethiopia has  
the **lowest diet diversity**  
in Africa  
among children under five  
years of age

Source: Demographic Health Survey (DHS).  
Ethiopia = 2011 DHS

# Background - programme

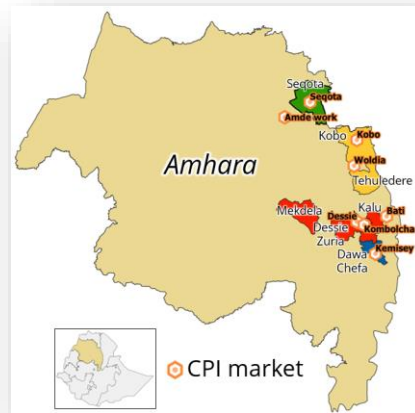


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## Woredas

- Seqota
- Zuria
- Mekdela
- Dawe Chefa
- Kalu
- Dessie
- Zuria
- Habru
- Raya Kobo



**Access and demand**  
to **nutrient dense foods**  
must be increased  
in **rural** areas  
leveraging remote **markets**  
**among the poorest**

Chronic malnutrition is  
reduced

Evidence informs PSNP5

Objective 1

Diet  
Diversity  
in  
Children  
under two  
years and  
Preg/Lact  
Women  
increased

Objective 2

Rural  
markets of  
nutrient  
dense  
foods are  
supported

Objective 3

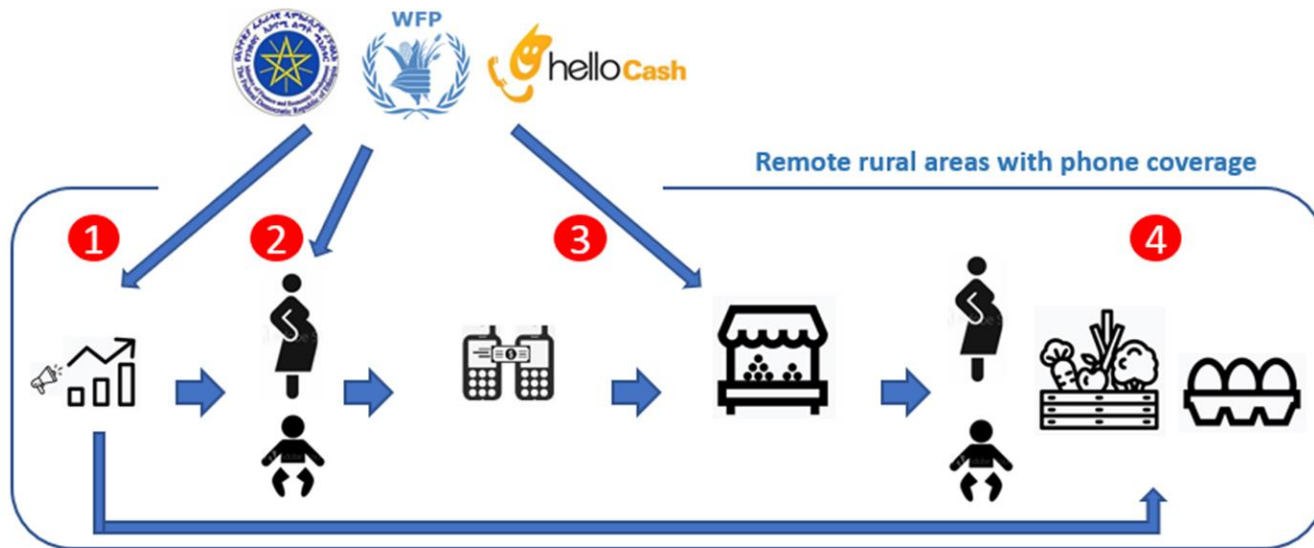
Nut Social  
Behaviour  
Change is  
supported

Access and demand for nutrient dense foods are  
limited

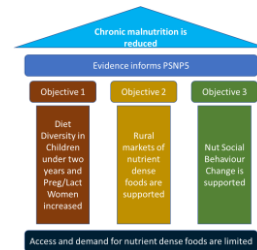
# Activities



# Activity: increase **access** to nutrient dense foods



- 1 Demand generation with a tailored social behavioural change communication package of activities
- 2 Monthly, digital, SMS-based, voucher transfer to the mobile phone of the enrolled household
- 3 Redemption of the voucher at remote rural market kiosk against fruits, vegetables and / or eggs
- 4 Consumption of nutrient-dense foods



# Activity:

## support rural markets of nutrient dense foods



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280  
No. of  
retailers  
enrolled



18

Itinerant Markets

40%  
Profit  
increase

1

Training of retailers about increasing business

2

Monitoring prices of nut dense foods

3

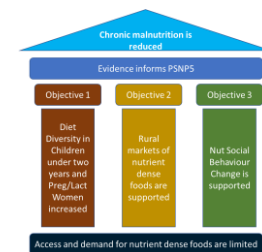
Testing marketing strategies

4

Generate dashboards for programme course correction

5

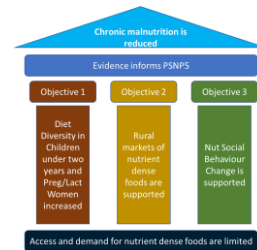
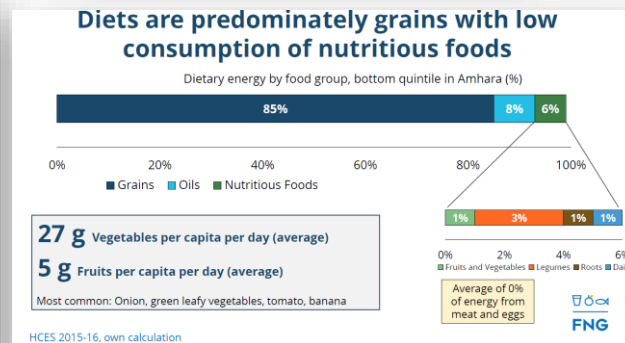
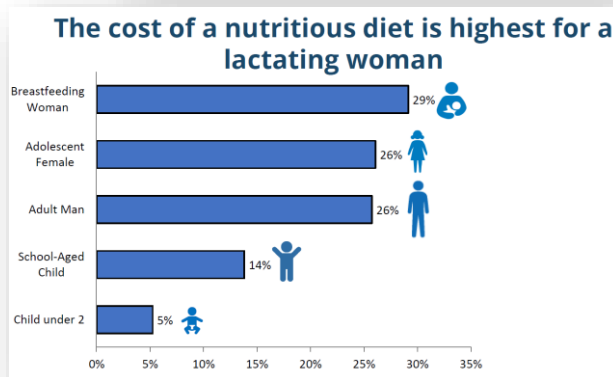
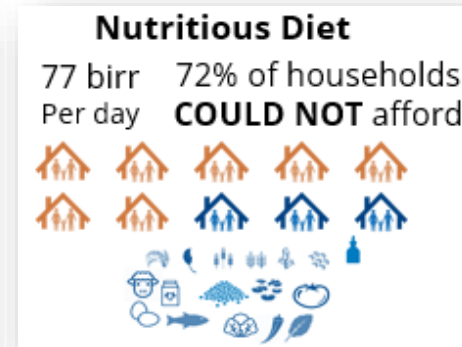
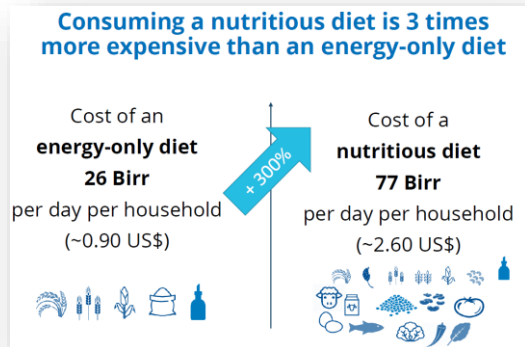
Coordination with local authorities



Objective 2

Rural  
markets of  
nutrient  
dense  
foods are  
supported

# Activities define the cash transfer value

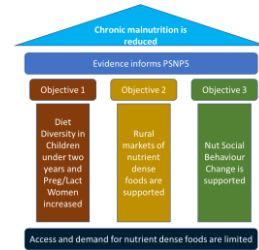


FNG results: [link](#)  
Example from other countries: [link](#)

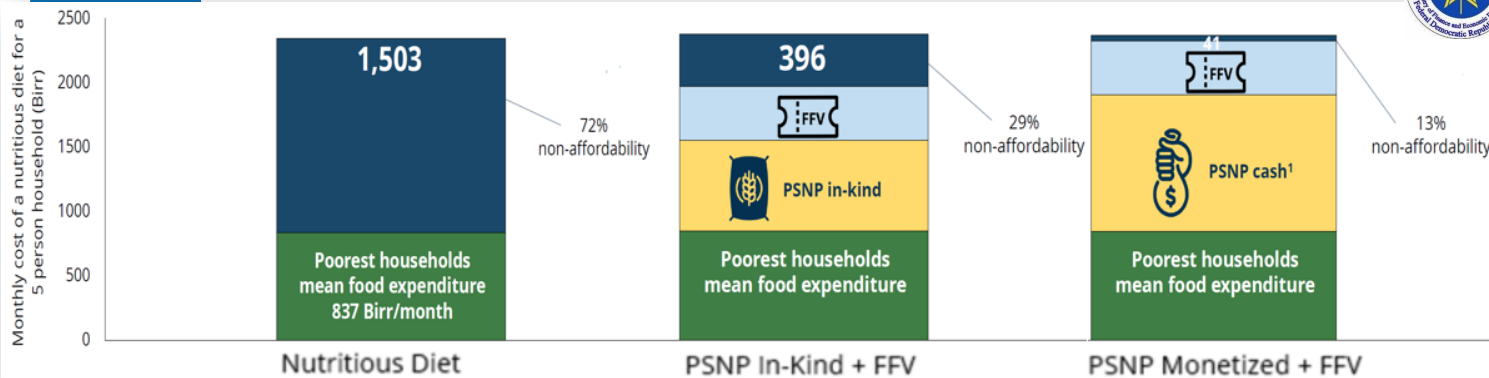
Objective 2

Rural markets of nutrient dense foods are supported

# Activities define the cash transfer value



FNG results: [link](#)  
Example from other countries: [link](#)



Objective 2

Rural markets of nutrient dense foods are supported

# Activities

## Social Behaviour Change Communication



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Cooking demos  
90 session 4000 participant



Market theatres  
10 market, 30,000 people



Coffee conversations  
54 groups 1500 participants



350 Health Extens. Workers

1

Formative research

2

GoEth endorsement of approaches and materials

3

Community Market Theatres

4

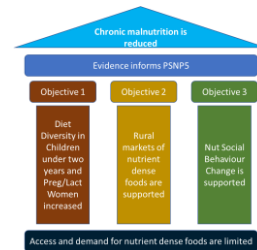
Community radio broadcasts

5

SMS-based SBCC

Objective 3

Nut Social  
Behaviour  
Change is  
supported





# External Evaluation



Source:  
FFV External Evaluation (2021) by C4D (Germany) - [Link](#)

# External Evaluation

## Relevance:

- 1
  - Q1.1: *Is the project aligned with the national government's policies and strategies to support the reduction of stunting via increased diet diversity?*
  - Q1.2: *How relevant has the approach been to beneficiaries?*
  - Q1.3: *How did the programme interventions adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic?*

## Effectiveness:

- Q2.1: *Did the project reach the intended beneficiaries with the right mix of assistance?*
  - Q2.2: *What are the effects of the project on availability of fresh foods?*
  - Q2.3: *What are the effects of the project on access to fresh foods?*
  - Q2.4: *What are the effects of the project on the demand for fresh foods?*
- 2
  - Q2.5: *Did the intervention produce the expected nutritional results?*
  - Q2.6: *Is there an increase of financial inclusion and financial autonomy among female beneficiaries?*
  - Q2.7: *Was the intervention efficient compared to possible alternatives?*

## Sustainability:

- Q3.1: *What is the government readiness to take over the programme?*
  - Q3.2: *Is the programme capable of overcoming future challenges and bottlenecks?*
- 3
  - Q3.3: *Will behavioural changes related to nutrition last after the programme?*

# External Evaluation

## Method

- Mixed methods evaluation approach
- Quantitative and qualitative data sources
- Relevance: qualitative analysis
- Effectiveness and Efficiency: both quali- and quantitative tools – triangulation
- Cross check: information collected ↔ WFP M&E system

## Limitations

- C19 and insecurity:
  - phone-based data collection (interviews) → no causal impact analysis
  - Dropping Seqota Declaration woreda
  - Engagement with Health Extension Workers:
    - verification beneficiaries phone numbers
    - Awareness of interview



(in C19 times) ‘..the reliability and richness of the collected data via short phone interviews is clearly limited.’



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# External Evaluation

## Relevance

- **Q: *Is the project aligned with the national government's policies and strategies to support the reduction of stunting via increased diet diversity?***

**A:** Alignment with: National Nutrition Strategy, Seqota Declaration, PSNP

## Effectiveness

- **Q: *Did the project reach the intended beneficiaries with the right mix of assistance?***

**A:** 80% FFV beneficiaries NOT receiving PSNP transfer

- **Q: *Did the intervention produce the expected nutritional results?***

**A1:** Children Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) achieved

**A2:** Mother Minimum Diet Diversity NOT achieved – *C19 impact? Buffering effect due to C19? Effective SBCC?*

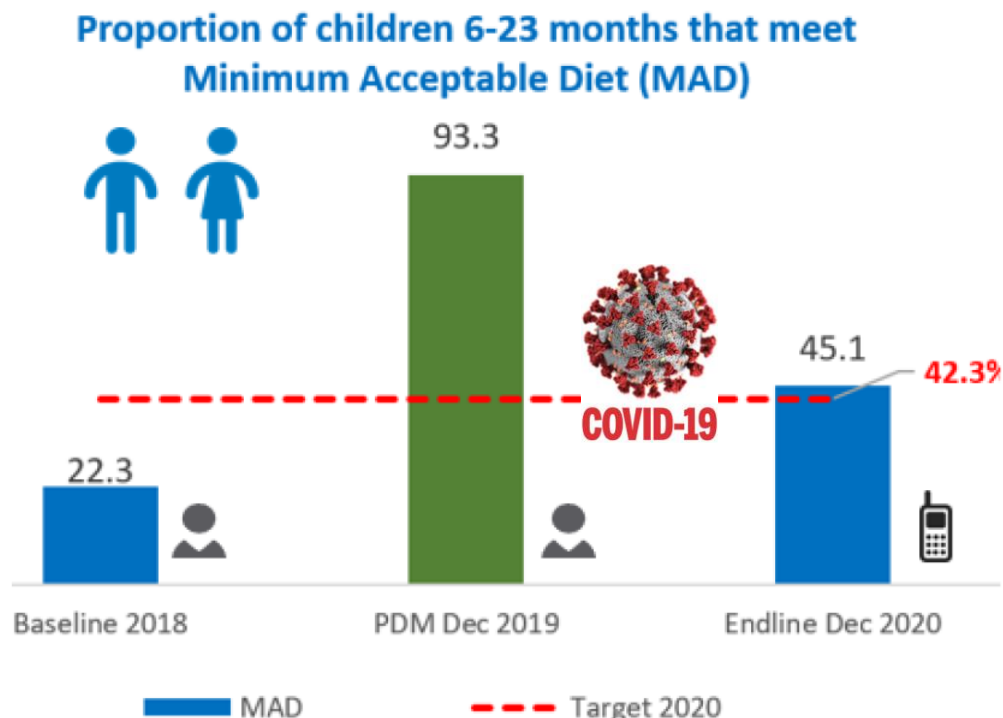
## Sustainability

- **Q: *Will behavioural changes related to nutrition last after the programme?***

**A:** Mothers prefer to provide fresh foods to their children, even when they are older, instead of consuming a diverse diet themselves

# External Evaluation

The **diet diversity has increased** aligned with evidence from other countries with similar approach



Cash-based transfer jointly with Social Behavior Change Communication increased the **diet diversity** of mothers and children in 7 woredas in Amhara

Source:  
FFV External Evaluation (2021) by C4D (Germany) - [Link](#)



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# External Evaluation

## Recommendation

**Recommendation 2:** WFP should regularly assess the adequacy of transfer value in light of price fluctuations, and possibly of the beneficiary households' affordability.

**EPHI / WFP MoU on Cost of the Diet analysis to be signed**

**Recommendation 5:** WFP should focus on awareness-raising activities on nutrition for PLW and consider gradual phasing out.

**WFP recruiting a global SBCC / Nut  
company**

**Recommendation 6:** WFP should investigate interactions with other WFP and government programmes (such as the Productive Safety Net Programme transfers and home gardening programmes).

**PSNP beneficiaries only + linkages with post-graduation programmes (e.g. livelihoods)**





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Thanks

# The Productive Safety Net Program and the Agri-Food System in Ethiopia : Key Outcomes and Challenges



MORE INFO



[NIPN: www.nipn.eph.gov.et](http://www.nipn.eph.gov.et)

[ESSP: https://essp.ifpri.info/](https://essp.ifpri.info/)

[MOA: http://www.moa.gov.et](http://www.moa.gov.et)

[WFP: https://www.wfp.org/countries/ethiopia](https://www.wfp.org/countries/ethiopia)



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