The Government of Ethiopia, WFP and development partners work together to increase families’ long-term resilience to food shortages.

Established in 2005, PSNP is aimed at enabling the rural poor facing chronic food insecurity to resist shocks, create assets and become food self-sufficient. PSNP provides multi-annual predictable transfers, as food, cash or a combination of both, to help chronically food insecure people survive food deficit periods and avoid depleting their productive assets while attempting to meet their basic food requirements.

PSNP’s four major goals are to:
- Support the rural transformation process;
- Prevent long-term consequences of short-term food inaccessibility;
- Encourage households to engage in production and investment; and
- Promote market development by increasing household purchasing power.

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

PSNP targets chronically food insecure households. The combination of cash and food transfers is based on season and need, with food given primarily in the lean season between June and August. Vulnerable households receive six months of assistance annually to protect them from acute food insecurity. Additionally, WFP extends food and cash assistance to an additional three months under its Risk Financing Mechanism during periods when food insecure people are affected by unpredicted shocks.

Able-bodied members of PSNP households must participate in productive activities that will build more resilient livelihoods, such as rehabilitating land and water resources and developing community infrastructure, including rural road rehabilitation and building schools and clinics.

PSNP operates in Afar, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Harare, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali and Tigray Regions. WFP and eight other development partners contribute to PSNP. The Ministry of Agriculture’s Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector, along with regional governments, is responsible for programme coordination, management and implementation.

For more information contact addis.info@wfp.org

Last Updated September 2012
Katana’s Story

Katana Kusiya is waiting patiently at a distribution in Fasha in the Konso region in south SNNPR. This area was badly affected in 2009. The short belg rains, on which the communities depend for their harvest, failed completely. The number of people in the area who need food assistance doubled to 127,000.

“I really need this food,” says Katana. “I support 11 family members and with this food I can feed my family for a month.”

In return for her food, Katana has been building latrines and wells, and working on terracing, an environmental intervention designed to capture rain water. These public works have enhanced the resilience of people like Katana.

But the farmers still depend on their crops as their main source of food and, in recent years, this has proved problematic.

The rains here have been poor for the last five years. In 2009, when rains failed completely, the normal monthly ration of 15 kg of cereal was extended from six months to eight months. PSNP has proven to be a real safety net for these farmers.

Although Katana still needs to work hard for her family’s survival, PSNP has made life a little easier.

“This food means I can cook dinner for the family,” says Katana.