

# Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)



## Quick Facts 2012

- Total number of PSNP participants: 7.64million
- Food insecure people reached by WFP through PSNP: 1.1 million
- WFP food assistance to be delivered: 78,000 tons

## BACKGROUND

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.<sup>1</sup> The Ministry of Agriculture's Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector, along with regional governments, is responsible for programme coordination, management and implementation.

<sup>1</sup>PSNP development partners include the Canadian International Development Agency, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, European Commission, Irish Aid, Swedish International Development Agency, United States Agency for International Development, UK Department for International Development, DANIDA and World Bank.



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## ACHIEVEMENTS

A number of studies have shown that PSNP has had a positive impact on the livelihoods of households. PSNP is enhancing community-level infrastructure and contributing to environmental transformation. At the household level, families are experiencing improved food security, increased asset creation and protection, increased utilization of education and health services and improved agricultural productivity.

The Government reported that about 495,995 households graduated from PSNP between 2008 and 2012.

## LOOKING FORWARD

WFP will improve timeliness and predictability of food transfers through the on-going Food Management Improvement Project and the Food Management Task Force. WFP will also invest in capacity building at regional and *woreda* levels, particularly in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, and continue to support the government's implementation of the programme. The government will continue its Household Asset Building Program with households participating in PSNP. The Program provides credit and technical support to households based on tailored business plans in order to enable households to increase and diversify their income.



## 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.

