



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Inspiring stories

From Livelihoods for Resilience Woredas,
Amhara Region
Ethiopia



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



The Impact of a VESA

Yengusnesh Tadesse, and her husband, Yaregal Sisay, were influenced by learnings from the Village Economic and Social Association (VESA) curriculum, as were many households.

Although they enjoyed tremendous success in sheep fattening following trainings and a loan, the couple had learned that sharing labor equally is important. Yengus is learning to plough, while her husband has started cooking.

Their journey was inspired by a story in the VESA discussion on Seada's and Kemal's family story. In that story, one learns that both individuals must be resilient to cope with short or long term absence of the other. (Kobo Woreda)





Diversified off-farm

It seems that no one diversifies off-farm livelihood activities like Deseye Adane does. He distributes sugar cane, sells old plastic shoes, charges cellphones, and sells religious ornaments, among other activities. He even started a poultry farm with 50 pullets after receiving training. The combination of his previous experience in off-farm activities, the business skills trainings, and a 20,000 birr (\$690) microfinance loan allow Deseye and his wife to earn an average monthly net income of over 9,000 birr (\$310). “I want to invest (my earnings) in something,” he says. He has helped 17 youth to obtain regular income from sugarcane sales. (Meket Woreda)







Living with pride

“I never had a shoe in my life until I made over 17,000 birr (\$586) profit from shoat fattening within a year,” says Wondater Agajalew, holding his pair of leather boot shoes with pride. Having been in Ethiopia’s Productive Safety Net Program for years due to recurrent crop loss tied to erratic weather, he could not believe that he netted this much profit within a short period.

He repaid half of the loan and bought a cow. *“Now our kids have milk, and milk products everyday. We get 400 birr (\$14) monthly income from butter, and continue shoat fattening. Now our neighbors give more respect to me and my wife, and they invite us for different social occasions.”* (Menze Gera)



MFI loan & training... the perfect link!

Repaying the first round of a Microfinance Institution loan a year before the due date is a bit challenging for most households in the Productive Safety Net Program but not for Worku Manaze, and his wife, Sendnesh Temselew, who earned nearly 19,000 birr (\$655) profit within a year after they fattened shoats, and produced lentil with a 10,000 birr (\$345) loan.

“The profit helped us to lease land, buy a heifer, horse, and donkey. It feels so good to have land. We used a crop sharing scheme for lentil production,” Worku says. They just received a 20,000 birr (\$690) loan for a second round to invest it in a similar business. If they need additional money, they can get up to 6,000 birr (\$207) from their healthy Village Economic and Social Association ([VESA](#)) which has over 43,000 birr (\$1,483) capital. (Menze Gera)







Maximizing opportunity

Being a female headed household did not prevent Misaye Asmare from using a poultry voucher effectively. She constructed a chicken coop, bought three pullets to produce another three young hens and received 40 kg of feed for free. She has struggled to rear her children alone after a divorce in 2012, using various income-generating activities to get by. The past year has been better as MFI and small VESA loans transformed into an additional 3,000 birr (\$103) income from shoat fattening within five months. As Misaye's capacity grew, she purchased seven more pullets, and now has 13 total. She provides nutritious food to her children, and will soon have an additional income stream from the eggs. (Wadela)



Feed the Future Ethiopia-[Livelihoods for Resilience Activity](#) is part of the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. The project is designed to help up to 97,900 chronically food insecure households to graduate with resilience from the government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program. A consortium led by CARE and including the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA), Agri-Service Ethiopia (ASE), and SNV-USA implements the project in 27 PSNP woredas, in the Tigray, Amhara, and SNNP Regions.

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