

The Graduate



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

Livelihoods for Resilience Activity Newsletter

Issue 12-April 2018

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

From the Chief of Party

The Graduate is back! CARE's Feed the Future Ethiopia—Livelihoods for Resilience Activity, which builds on the successful efforts of the GRAD project, will be sharing news, learning and announcements 3-4 times per year. While we anticipate exciting developments soon from the new project, this newsletter will take another look at GRAD, specifically on the theme of sustainability. We had a unique opportunity to return to some GRAD communities to see whether GRAD outcomes are enduring, more than 18 months after project close-out. How are household livelihoods activities holding up? Are enterprises thriving or facing challenges? Are linkages with input supply, micro-finance, and markets still functional? How about VESAs? Have they survived without project facilitation and, if so, how have they evolved? The stories below provide at least a partial answer to those questions. These cases do not come from a representative sample and accentuate the positive, to be sure. However, we were pleased to observe how common the good news seems to be. Enjoy the reading!

John Meyer, Chief of Party
Livelihoods for Resilience



Samuel's trees continue to bear fruit

Inspired by technical and business training facilitated by GRAD, Samuel Abreha started an innovative and highly successful enterprise, producing and selling fruit tree seedlings in Raya Azebo, Tigray. [Keep Reading](#)



Vision keeps the Mango VESA growing

This exemplary village economic and social association was linked by GRAD to a microfinance institution so that members could access large loans. The VESA-MFI link is now stronger than ever. [Keep Reading](#)



Ox fattening builds a family's livelihood

Nobody knows the value of ox fattening like Menen Aleme, a mother of six in Libo Kemkem, Amhara. She has completely changed her family's livelihood by fattening oxen, and has become a local expert as well. [Keep Reading](#)



Helping smallholder farmers get better yields

Sirpato Otiso, who GRAD helped become an agro-dealer, brings his social consciousness to the workplace. He sells agricultural inputs to smallholder farmers at a profit but prioritizes customers' satisfaction as a pathway to sustainability. [Keep Reading](#)



Living ever bigger dreams

The sky is the limit for Tefera since he participated in the GRAD project. His family is making big money from vegetables and he expects even more in the years to come. [Keep Reading](#)



Ensuring VESA sustainability through MFI linkage

Loan size matters! Learn how members of the “Lewet Ayehu” VESA are able to engage in better livelihood options with greater impact. [Keep Reading](#)



“My continuous success motivates me for more”

Zehara Mohammed was a micro-franchise pioneer and GRAD success story. Read here how she is converting that experience and huge aspirations into ever larger business success. [Keep Reading](#)

Growing together through work...and chickens

Commitment, hard work, economic growth, and community impact: these are words one might use to describe the GRAD alumni running the Endeg Besera (“Let’s grow through work”) chicken farm in the Guraghe Zone of southern Ethiopia. [Keep Reading](#)



[GRAD Sustainability Case Story - Zerfu Mehari](#)



[GRAD Sustainability Case Story - Molla Hagos](#)

Resources

- [Livelihoods for Resilience Activity -Gender Analysis & Outcome Mapping](#)
- [GRAD Learning Brief #8- VESA-MFI Linkage Model](#)
- [Livelihoods for Resilience Activity - Labor Market Assessment Report](#)

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