



Livelihoods for Resilience Activity

Overview

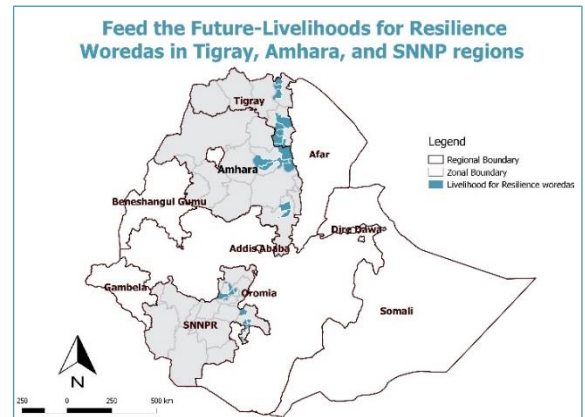
The Feed the Future Ethiopia – Livelihoods for Resilience Activity is designed to reduce food insecurity and increase resilience for households under the government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). It is a 6.5-year activity (2016-2023) that complements and supports the safety net program along three pathways: (1) crop and livestock, (2) off-farm livelihoods, and (3) employment in 37 woredas of Amhara, SNNP, Sidama, and Tigray regions. The activity aims to enable 97,900 chronically food insecure households to graduate from the PSNP with resilience. During the one-year cost extension period from 2022 to 2023, L4R has also expanded into four woredas of Oromia Region, for a total of 41 woredas.

Livelihoods for Resilience is implemented by a consortium of five partners under the leadership of CARE. Implementing partners include the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), ORDA Ethiopia, and Agri-Service Ethiopia (ASE). SNV serves as a technical partner for market systems development.

Strategic Approaches

The project has worked at both household and systems level to:

- **Build financial inclusion** for PSNP households by creating over 5,300 village economic and social associations (VESAs) and linking nearly 58,000 households to micro-finance loans, for a total of \$22 million in loans to PSNP households facilitated by the project
- **Strengthen women's empowerment** through life skills trainings, promoting women as individual account holders and leaders in VESAs, training women as micro-franchise saleswomen, and using CARE's social analysis and action tool to address gender norms at the household and community levels
- **Improve household nutrition** through the promotion of perma-gardening, the introduction of poultry vouchers to promote household investment in poultry production, and the provision of trainings and cooking demonstrations
- **Build resilience to climate change** and various shocks through participatory scenario planning on the localized weather forecast for each agricultural season, the promotion of climate adaptive technologies such as limestone and vermi-compost, and the use of a crisis modifier to respond quickly to shocks such as conflict
- **Create opportunities for youth** through work readiness and entrepreneurship trainings, TVET trainings, and access to finance
- **Strengthen market systems for selected value chains** through the facilitation of linkages with research institutions, input suppliers, service providers, buyers, and others; the facilitation of business-to-business meetings, and the use of an Innovation Fund to build a network of last-mile service providers in the underserved rural communities where PSNP households live.



Facts & figures summary

- Over **97,000 PSNP households** participating in VESAs, with over 128,000 account holders (**48% women**)
- Households reported a **seven fold increase** in household savings, with **\$3.2 million** saved in VESAs and **\$6.2 million in VESAs loans** disbursed over five years
- **23,000+ households graduated** from the PSNP in Sidama & Gedeo and Amhara
- Over **7,000 youth** trained in Work Ready Now and over **6,000 youth** trained in Be Your Own Boss.
- **59,977 households** receiving loans from formal financial institutions with a **90% average repayment rate**. **47%** of borrowers were women.
- Household incomes increased by **102 – 552%** depending on the region (not adjusted for inflation)
- Household assets increased by **118 – 288%** depending on the region (not adjusted for inflation)

For more information contact Chief of Party Elisabeth Farmer (Elisabeth.farmer@care.org)

