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Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: €241 million (10% of the total)
- Duration: 2005 - 2014
- Beneficiaries: 7.7 million in 2011
- Area covered: 318 districts in eight regions of Ethiopia



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Food security

Fighting hunger in Ethiopia through cash transfers for participating in public works

The Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP) is a core component of Ethiopia's food security strategy.

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Mrs. Zenable, beneficiary of the programme.



Context

Chronic food insecurity has affected millions of Ethiopians for decades. The vast majority of these poor households live in rural areas. In 2005, the Government of Ethiopia and a consortium of donors, including the EU, implemented a new response to chronic food insecurity in rural Ethiopia called, the Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP).

Objectives

- Achieving food security for the chronically food insecure through cash transfers for participating in public works during 6 months of the year. Unconditional transfers are also provided to those unable to work.
- Rehabilitation of the natural environment.

Impact

- 7.6 million people were given the means to ensure they could get food between 2005 - 2009.
- 167 000 hectares of land rehabilitated, 275 000 km of stone embankment constructed, 900 million seedlings planted, 66 000 km of rural roads constructed, 2 000 classrooms and 200 health posts constructed or renovated.
- Close to 90% of the beneficiaries reported benefiting from the construction of rural roads and soil and water conservation activities.
- About 80% of beneficiaries benefited from the construction of new health posts in their locality and send their children to schools whose construction was supported by the programme.

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EuropeAid

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Mrs. Zenable, head of a household in the Enderta district of the Tigray region, explains how the Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP) helped her:

"My eldest son was a student before, but then stopped because of poverty. Before the safety net programme I tried to get all the kids in school by doing casual labour but there were lots of gaps in their education. Now all three stay in school".

Mr. Ahmed, in the Fedis district of the Oromia region, explains how he benefits from the programme:

"The PSNP is good because it stopped me from selling my goats and I would have had to go elsewhere as a daily labourer. Because of the support I received, I am peacefully working on my farm without worry. Before the PSNP arrived we ate twice, at breakfast and dinner, but now we can eat three times".

Another **beneficiary** in the Tahtay Maichew district of the Tigray region tells how the PSNP transfers helped him to improve his life:

"I had nothing when I joined the PSNP in 2005. In addition to receiving transfers from the programme, I bought a cow and 5 goats with the credit.

"In 2007, after having received technical support in the construction of shallow wells, I engaged in irrigation activities. I took credit to purchase a treadle pump, cow, beehives and a bee colony, poultry, seeds and fertilizer.

"My economic situation improved and I graduated from the PSNP in 2008. I do not receive support any more from the programme. Now I continue to invest and am growing fruit trees. The market price for vegetables is very good and I have repaid my credit."