



Soil and water management in Ethiopia have improved people's capacity to grow food and community resilience by increasing land productivity three to four times.  
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## CASE STUDY



Ethiopia

### PROGRAMME NAME

Ethiopia Productive Safety Net  
Programme

### PERIOD

2015-2020

### TOTAL COST

€ 11 000 000

### BENEFITTING ZONE

Ethiopia

### BENEFICIARIES

7.8 million inhabitants

### PARTNERS

- ▶ Government of Ethiopia
- ▶ European Union
- ▶ World Bank
- ▶ British Department for International Development (DFID - UK aid)
- ▶ Irish Aid
- ▶ UNICEF
- ▶ DFAT (Canada)

# ETHIOPIA'S SAFETY NET PROGRAMME ENHANCES CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

**The case of Ethiopia demonstrates the importance of integrating environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation when formulating and implementing social protection programmes.**

### CONTEXT

In 2005, the Government of Ethiopia launched the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) to provide solutions to food insecurity by addressing its causes — such as environmental degradation — and through interventions in education, health and water. To counteract the increasing ravages of climate change, in 2009 the programme boosted the integration of environmental and climate change considerations, prioritising climate resilience. Today, the PSNP is the largest climate change adaptation programme in Africa, which contributes to climate change mitigation, land restoration and reforestation.

### OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Increase resilience to shocks and improve food security through sustainable natural resources management, public works, cash transfers, and nutritional feeding.
- ▶ Provide cash and food transfers to able-bodied members of communities willing to participate in labour-intensive public works for integrated watershed development, including activities such as soil and water conservation, rangeland management and the development of community assets such as roads, water infrastructure, schools and health care centres.
- ▶ Contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and combat desertification by restoring land and counteracting deforestation.

- ▶ USAID
- ▶ Austrian Development Cooperation
- ▶ The Netherlands

## FACTS & FIGURES

- ▶ Average household food gap dropped from 3.6 months to 2.3 months. 50 % reduction of soil erosion and sediment losses.
- ▶ Woody biomass production from area closures was doubled from 5 194 MT/ha in 2005, to 10 682 MT/ha in 2015.
- ▶ Total CO2 sequestered during phase 3 in 10 watersheds sampled, amounted to over 1 million tonnes CO2, an annual average of 200 688 t CO2e.

- ▶ 40 000 kilometres of rural access roads (dry weather roads) constructed and/or maintained.
- ▶ 600 000 km of soil and water conservation physical structures (degraded land rehabilitation).
- ▶ 200 000 ponds and 35 000 hand-dug wells for rainwater harvesting.
- ▶ 2 800 kilometres of canals for small-scale irrigation as well as access to water for households.
- ▶ 4 000 classrooms built and/or rehabilitated using local materials.
- ▶ 600 new health posts constructed.

## IMPACT

- ▶ PSNP public works improved people's capacity to grow food — and hence community resilience — by increasing land productivity three to four times. Higher crop production has been achieved by reducing soil erosion and sediment losses by 50 %. Improved food security has helped prevent the sale of assets in periods of acute need and also contributes to keeping children at school. The length of food gaps (times when households cannot meet their food needs) dropped from 3.6 to 2.3 months.
- ▶ The watershed integrated and multi-sectoral approach results in reduced soil erosion and surface run-off and in increased infiltration and soil moisture, which enhances the fertility and carrying capacity of watersheds. Watersheds, protected from human and livestock interference, show remarkable natural regeneration of flora and biodiversity. Closure of areas and enrichment plantations in degraded farmlands / grazing lands have resulted in the regeneration of the watershed and woodlands.
- ▶ Programme interventions make a significant contribution to the mitigation of climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide in soils and biomass and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from the agricultural, forestry and other land-use sectors. According to the 2015 Public Works Impact Assessment, the total CO2 sequestered during phase 3 of the programme, in 10 of the watersheds sampled, amounted to over 1 million tonnes CO2 or an annual average of 200 688 tCO2e.

## TESTIMONIES: PSNP PUBLIC WORKS ENHANCE RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

*"PSNP provides transfers to the chronically food-insecure households in a way that prevents asset depletion at the household level, by making people participate in public works, rehabilitate the environment and create assets at community level. This is the unique feature of the Safety Net Programme."*

Ato Berhanu Woldemichael, Director of Food Security Coordination Directorate

*"We are happy with the PSNP work because the output is for our own good too. We can see that our work on dams, hillside terracing, soil [bunds], and planting trees will benefit our posterity. (...) Where we have done public works, we have seen tree growth, germination of animal forage and re-emergence of springs. We have made hillside terraces on communal land where before the hillsides were abused with no control. Since we have invested in them, we protect them keenly, like it was our own possession."*

Mr. Abdella Ali, Hawi Bilisuma Kebele, Oromia



Climate-smart land-use interventions include terraces, soil bunds planted with multi-purpose perennial legumes, cut-and-carry forage systems and multi-storey agroforestry systems. © European Union

## Greening EU COOPERATION

Integrating environment & climate change

Environment and climate change mainstreaming is a legal EU requirement, reaffirmed in the New European Consensus on Development, and essential to meeting international and internal commitments.

For advice and training on environment and climate change mainstreaming, contact:

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