

PRODUCTIVE SAFETY NET PROGRAM PHASE FIVE (PSNP5)

JOINT REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT (JRIS) MISSION

JUNE 5-7, 2024

Launched in 2005, the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP5) is one of the largest flagship programs financed by the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and Development Partners (DPs). PSNP5 provides cash and food transfers to 8 million extremely poor and vulnerable rural beneficiaries across 489 woredas to help smoothen consumption and build resilience.

The Joint Review of Implementation Support (JRIS) mission is an important biannual platform where the GoE and DPs convene to review the program's implementation progress and agree on the next steps.

The June 2024 JRIS included the review of the following:

- Implementation status of the December 2023 JRIS agreed actions
- Performance of the Nine Months Report of EFY 2016 against the plan and budget
- Program implementation challenges in conflict-affected regions of Amhara and Oromia
- Status of preparation of the EFY-2017 workplan
- Progress of the procurement of high-value procurement contracts.
- Status of Performance Based Conditions (PBCs)

OPENING REMARKS



H.E. Dr. Fikru Regassa
State Minister of Agriculture



Beatrice Neri
Team Leader, European Union Delegation to Ethiopia

On this occasion, H.E. Dr. Fikru Regassa, State Minister of Agriculture, and Beatrice Neri, Team Leader for the European Union Delegation to Ethiopia, delivered the opening remarks.

The state minister underscored PSNP5's pivotal role as the Government of Ethiopia's most significant social protection initiative. In an important development, he announced the government's decision to maintain the EFY2016 caseload for the upcoming fiscal year. Speaking on

behalf of donors, Beatrice Neri acknowledged all the efforts to implement PSNP5 over the last six months. She expressed their appreciation of the additional assurances provided by the government through the various assessments on PSNP5 implementation and noted an increased donor interest in addressing the financing of PSNP.

PSNP5 OVERALL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE



Ahmed Mohamed
Ministry of Agriculture



Sebhatleab Amanuel
Ministry of Finance



Fantahun Gobezie
Ministry of Women and Social Affairs



Dr Sisay Sinamo
Ministry of Health



Tsfaye Worku
National Health Insurance Agency



Tadesse Bekele
Emergency and Disaster Risk Management

Key representatives of PSNP5's implementing agencies (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Women's and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission) presented on their six-month performance and strategic issues.

DONOR CHAIR REMARKS



Michele Schivo
Donor Chair, European Union Delegation to Ethiopia

Donor Chair Michele Schivo from the European Union presented on behalf of DPs. He emphasized the program's significant achievements in the past six months, specifically highlighting the timeliness of transfers in PBC woredas, which exceeded the target of 70 percent by reaching 80 percent. He also relayed donor concerns regarding the ongoing delay in local food procurement, suggesting a transition to cash in those woredas where feasible. Additionally, he highlighted the urgency of extending CBE's contract as PSNP's e-payment service provider for EFY 2017 to avoid service delivery gaps and stressed the need to enhance conflict sensitivity response mechanisms in regions affected by conflict.

REGIONAL PANEL DISCUSSION

Heads of regional food security bureaus participated in a first of its kind panel discussion on a wide range of issues, including the impact of the current security situation on PSNP operations, the availability of credit for livelihood beneficiaries, the handling of the two-month transfer deduction, and the sharing of regional best practices.



DONOR CHAIR HANDOVER

In a handover ceremony during the JRIS reception, Beatrice Neri of the European Union transferred the Donor Chair position to Carlotta Preiss and Jonas Dylla from the German Development Cooperation.



SUCCESS STORY

Contributed by: Surafel Akalu, DCT



Ato Daniel Gomesh used to live in poverty with a monthly income of less than ETB 100. He felt ashamed of his situation and believed he was beneath others. In 2005, he joined the PSNP program as a public works beneficiary. Daniel worked hard and managed to secure a loan, which enabled him to venture into farming and livestock breeding. His efforts paid off, and by 2009, he had acquired multiple farms and livestock, earning an average of ETB 6,000 per month,

allowing him to graduate from the PSNP program. Today, Daniel's monthly income exceeds ETB 20,000, and he owns numerous farms, livestock, and properties, including a home in the regional town of Arba Minch. His transformation is not merely financial; Daniel now serves as the administrator of his kebele and uses his success to inspire and mentor current PSNP beneficiaries, encouraging them to follow in his footsteps.

SUCCESS STORY

Contributed by: Surafel Akalu, DCT



In the small village of Setena Borche Kebele, Ato Tophia Kunsa, a 45-year-old father of eight, lived a life of poverty and struggle. He was the poorest of the poor, barely scraping together enough to feed his children, let alone buy materials and send them all to school. Despite the challenges, he was selected as a PSNP public works beneficiary and later chosen for a livelihood activity, receiving a grant to buy livestock. With additional provisions

for seeds purchased by the PSNP capital budget and the help of agricultural experts, he started planting in his backyard. Eventually, he expanded his harvests to include vegetables and Desho grass. As his farm harvest progressed, so did his income. He moved his family out of the old grass house and into a new home of 28 corrugated iron sheets. Today, Mr. Kunsa, as any father hopes, is proud to say that all his children attend school, and he is working towards building a steady income for himself. His story is one of the many testaments of the impact of the PSNP program.

SUCCESS STORY

Contributed by: Ermias Teshome, DCT



Almaz Ayele Edemo, aged 37, joined the PSNP in 2010. She resides in the Kembata Zone, Kedida Gamela Woreda, Zato Shodera Kebele, Mendida village, and is a mother of five children, aged 20, 17, 15, 11, and 9. Almaz participates as a public works beneficiary and is registered for Livelihoods credit, awaiting credit disbursement.

Before joining the safety net, Almaz and her family lived in extreme poverty. She recalls, "My husband used to dig toilet holes, and I supported him by removing the soil." Their house had inadequate

roofing, causing difficulties during the rainy season. Ashamed of their poverty, Almaz avoided social gatherings and interactions with neighbors. The burden increased with the responsibility of raising an additional four children from her husband's previous marriage. Their land, measuring 0.125 hectares, was covered only in grass, which Almaz sold to buy food for her children.

With financial support from the safety net, Almaz invested in buying and reselling bananas to generate income. She also established a savings account, depositing ETB 150 monthly at the Village Lending and Savings Association (VLSA) and ETB 200 monthly at Omo Microfinance. Almaz previously utilized an ETB 4000 loan from microfinance during PSNP 4 to buy and resell avocados. Later, she expanded her livelihood by tending to a neighbor's cow, earning a share of the calf when it was born.

With her savings and her husband's support, Almaz now owns two cows and enjoys the benefits of milk. Additionally, she upgraded her house's roofing, built a kitchen, and ensured her children's education.

Thanks to PSNP I now cultivate avocado and coffee trees, own two cows, reside in a house with 68 corrugated sheet roofs, and ensure my children's education.

Almaz acknowledges the critical impact of PSNP's Social Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) interventions, through which she learned about various essential skills, including nutrition, hygiene, and financial literacy. Her husband, who faces challenges with his vision, benefits from Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI), a service their household was connected to through PSNP.

Almaz credits the training she received through public works for her subsequent empowerment in improving her household and agricultural practices. She advocates for others to follow suit and transform their lives positively. Almaz now cultivates avocado and coffee trees, owns two cows, resides in a house with corrugated sheet roofs, and ensures her children's education.