



CRS Ethiopia

Productive Safety Net Program

Overview

Food insecurity is chronic in both rural and urban areas of Ethiopia, with many people consistently requiring emergency food aid each year. To help improve this situation, the government of Ethiopia has developed a food security strategy with the aim of improving food availability and building assets for people most in need. A major part of the strategy is the Productive Safety Net Program.



Photo by David Snyder for CRS

Launched in January 2005, the Productive Safety Net Program provides food or cash monthly to almost 7.2 million people in 242 districts. In return, able-bodied recipients undertake public works activities such as road construction and hillside terracing to build community assets. CRS, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development, is helping the government execute this important program. Through its implementing partners, CRS distributes monthly food rations to 168,696 people in six districts and provides support services to 87,260 of them.

Support services are critical for beneficiaries to build sufficient assets and graduate from the program. Activities include livelihood support, such as livestock rearing; water and sanitation initiatives to improve health and productivity; agro-enterprise support to increase incomes from crop sales; agricultural projects such as seed distributions; and savings and loans training.

Hasan Adere and Zeyineba Amed graduated from the PSNP after three years of assistance. Through the food, agricultural help, a small World Bank loan and gift of a cow, they radically increased their assets and improved quality of life for their family of seven.

“The nutrition of our children has improved, we’ve provided them with clothes, and they’re in school. Everything we have is sufficient now. We have no problem providing food for them.”

- Hasan

“The food given to us was the basis for our change, because this provided us with the opportunity to save and sell some of our harvest to generate income and increase household assets.”

- Zeyineba

Fiscal Year 2007 Project Details

Total CRS Project Budget: \$2,207,147

Metric Tons of Food Distributed: 20,588

Number of Food Recipients: 168,696

Number of Support Services Recipients: 87,260

Implementing Partners:

Ethiopian Catholic Church

Social and Development Coordinating Office of Hararghe
Locations: Goro Gutu, Kersa and Meta districts
E. Hararghe Zone, Oromia

Wonji Catholic Church

Location: Dodota Sire district
Arsi Zone, Oromia

Dire Dawa Administrative Council

Donor:



United States Agency for International Development

Food for Peace

USAID Ethiopia Mission

Catholic Relief Services, Ethiopia Country Program

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