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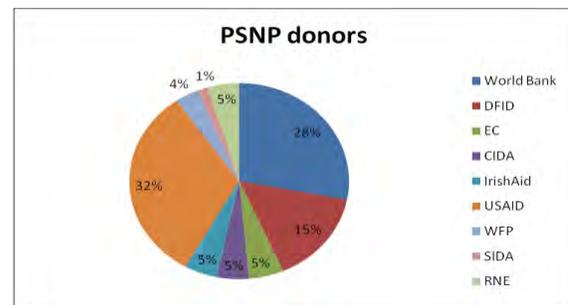
ETHIOPIA

Productive Safety Net Programme PSNP

In 2005, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) launched the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). Financed by nine donors, it is the biggest social safety net program in Africa. In 2010, this flagship component of the GoE's Food Security Programme (FSP) scaled-up its level of intervention.

The PSNP focuses primarily on chronically food insecure households in 318 food insecure *woredas* (districts), which have a food gap of three months or more—even during normal years. Within these districts, the PSNP has a target caseload of 7.75 million people. The objectives of the program are:

- Smooth food consumption gaps and prevent asset depletion for food insecure households in chronically food insecure *woredas*
- Stimulate markets, improve access to services and natural resources
- Rehabilitate and enhance the natural environment through labor-based public works



In case of shocks in these districts, the PSNP will also cover transitory food insecure populations through PSNP contingency budgets and the program's Risk Financing component. PSNP activities include the selection of appropriate methods of transfer (food or cash) and delivery of the transfer to chronically food insecure populations in a predictable and timely manner. Districts not included in the PSNP receive support for food shortages through the emergency relief system.

Evidence of the program's impact can be seen at both the individual and community level. PSNP is smoothing consumption and protecting assets; for instance, a number of PSNP clients fared better during the 2008 drought and high food prices than their non-PSNP counterparts. PSNP has also created significant community assets, which have had a positive impact beyond the household level. More than 34,000 individual PSNP public works projects take place each year, with the bulk of these investments focusing on soil and water conservation (SWC) and rural feeder roads, with selected projects in natural resource management and social services.

USAID's Title II resources provide support to the PSNP through six NGO partners: CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Food for the Hungry, Relief Society of Tigray (REST- local NGO), Save the Children US and Save the Children UK. These partners provide support to 2.3 million chronically food insecure beneficiaries and distribute 156,000MT of food (cereal, pulse, and oil) for 3-6 months, in addition to supporting the implementation of the public works in 41 *woredas*/districts. The Title II contribution to the PSNP from 2008-2010/11 is worth US\$540 million.