

Helping to make programs nutrition sensitive

The Government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) is one of the largest social protection programmes in sub-Saharan Africa. IFPRI and ESSP have been working on the PSNP with the government and its development partners since 2006 as the external independent programme evaluator.

As part of this collaboration, IFPRI and ESSP have worked with the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) to design and implement large-scale surveys to collect data in order to assess the impact of the PSNP. The PSNP has evolved; and in the new (fourth) phase of the PSNP, nutrition is now included as a major outcome indicator.

IFPRI and ESSP have contributed to the PSNP through:

- i) Supervising data collection processes
- ii) Analyses of several PSNP survey rounds, demonstrating that the established PSNP improved food security, but did *not* improve nutritional outcomes
- iii) Raising international evidence to show that safety nets have had little effect on nutrition, unless through additional interventions
- iv) Presenting results at workshops and informal meetings



Photo credit: Petra Brown, IFPRI-ESSP

With an annual budget in excess of \$400 million, the PSNP has 1.4 million participants and benefits approximately seven million people or approximately 10 percent of Ethiopia's rural population.

IFPRI and ESSP's history of engaging with the government and donors to ignite interest in the inclusion of nutritional outcomes as part of the PSNP, goes back over 7 years. Despite the initial absence of interest, in 2012 with international concern to improve pre-school nutrition outcomes, and with the development of Ethiopia's National Nutrition Strategy following extensive consultation, there was a shift to understand the impact that the PSNP had on nutrition.

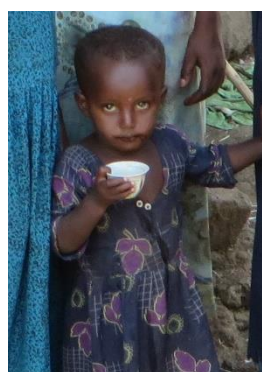


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IFPRI and ESSP's extensive analyses of PSNP nutrition data, and subsequent workshops to present the results, showed that there was no evidence that the PSNP was improving pre-school nutritional status as measured by height-for-age - an indicator of chronic undernutrition, or weight-for-height - a measure of acute undernutrition. This research, gratefully secured by funding from 3ie and DfID's Transform Nutrition, has been instrumental in rethinking the structure of the PSNP, which now includes nutrition sensitivity as an important objective.

IFPRI and ESSP's efforts to elevate nutrition through its knowledge of the policy process and evidence-based research findings, are captured in the government-donor PSNP review document (2014) which led to the re-design of the PSNP. In this document, IFPRI's work is referred to over 50 times. During the same year at IFPRI's conference on Building Resilience, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia also recognized the contribution of IFPRI researchers in continuously improving this social protection scheme, which is now set on a nutrition-sensitive path to bring greater benefit to Ethiopia's rural population.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

2033 K Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006-1002 USA

T: +1.202.862.5600 • F: +1.202.467.4439

Skype: ifprihomeoffice • Email: ifpri@cgiar.org • www.ifpri.org

IFPRI-ESSP ADDIS ABABA

P.O. Box 5689, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

T: +251.11.617.2000 • F: +251.11.646.2318

Email: mahlet.mekuria@cgiar.org • <http://essp.ifpri.info>