



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## ENSURING CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Catholic Relief Services, in a consortium with the Ethiopian Catholic Church Social & Development Commission of Meki, or MCS, has launched a 5-year program (2017-2022) in nine districts, or *woredas*, across three zones in Oromia: Arsi Negele, Heben Arsi, Shala, Siraro, Ziway Dugda, Dodota, Sire, Adami Tullu Jido Kombolcha and Boset. The **Feed the Future Ethiopia Livelihoods for Resilience – Oromia** activity is designed to promote on-farm (crop and livestock), off-farm, and employment livelihood pathways for households enrolled in the Government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme. The new activity builds on the consortium's success under the Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD) program.

The activity works closely to assist 24,500 households enrolled in the PSNP, with the goal of successfully graduating 18,375 of them from PSNP support over the activity's duration. Four high-level outcomes contribute to this goal:

- Increased income and diversification through on-farm opportunities, including crop and livestock marketing systems
- Increased income and diversification of off-farm livelihood options
- Increased income from gainful employment
- Increased innovation, scaling and sustainability of livelihood pathways

The activity promotes a demand-driven agricultural extension approach that links private sector actors, such as agro-dealers, with development agents and real-time market information. The aim is to create the elements necessary to generate livelihoods and employment opportunities, and increased integration with wider markets that will support graduation of households from PSNP.



Women sell vegetables in a market. The CRS activity seeks to increase and diversify income through off-farm opportunities. Photo by David Snyder/CRS

### Increase and diversify income through on-farm opportunities

**Establish livelihood groups:** The project organizes clients into livelihood groups, which serve as an entry point into the livelihood activities the project is implementing. Through the groups, clients will receive training in financial education, nutrition and climate-smart agriculture, and access services that will serve as the foundation of their "pathway to prosperity." These skills will enable households to be more resilient to shocks arising from poor nutrition and ill health, climate change and market fluctuations. The groups will also be a platform for key messaging around gender, the environment and health, and are critical for building social capital. CRS' tested Savings and Internal Lending Communities, or SILC, methodology will be applied to guide the functions of the groups. The numerous benefits of SILC include group management skills, access to credit and savings, and increased women's empowerment and decision-making.



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By building on the foundation of the livelihood groups, income-generating activity groups will be formed with a different focus. They will provide opportunities for members to gain an understanding of markets, leverage prices through aggregation and collection points, improve networking and relationships, manage transport challenges, and share labor and market information.

**Enhance agricultural input and outputs:** Livelihood groups will participate in trainings on climate-smart agriculture, learning how to protect and improve their natural assets in the face of recurrent drought and general climate instability. The promotion of these techniques is a pillar of the project’s efforts to bolster resilience, improve nutritional outcomes, and help prevent families becoming even more vulnerable. As availability of agricultural inputs is critical to the success of smallholder farmers, the project will improve access in part through the support and establishment of agro-dealers. CRS is partnering with Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, or AGRA, to co-finance 16 small grants for agro-dealer support.

**Promote agricultural value chains:** The project is promoting selected crop and livestock commodities as recommended by value chain assessments. CRS will provide technical information on inputs and their appropriate use, employing a village-based vendor and microfranchising model, previously used under the GRAD program.

**Engage financial service providers:** As clients become conversant with savings and financial literacy skills, the project will facilitate linkages with financial service providers, including microfinance institutions.

### Increase and diversify income through agro-business opportunities

Through the activity’s interventions, households will also increase their income and diversify economic activities through off-farm opportunities. Women and youth will be equipped with knowledge, skills and capital to start small enterprises to carry out value addition, processing and trading of various commodities with a focus on nutrient-rich value chains. Building on career planning exercises, youth will identify livelihoods that align with their career aspirations and abilities, with selected livelihoods filling a clear gap in the local economy, and identified through labor and market assessments.

### Increase innovation, collaboration, scaling and sustainability of livelihood pathways

Feed the Future Ethiopia Livelihoods for Resilience – Oromia will pursue a robust learning agenda that is complementary to and collaborates with other similarly focused livelihoods

initiatives. CRS will offer complementary services to other United States Government-funded projects in the same geographical area, and create cross-learning opportunities with similar projects in other regions. Through the Innovation Fund, CRS will prioritize small grants to catalyze market development and encourage off-farm enterprises in nutrition and climate-smart activities. These grants will remove barriers to entry for product and business model development that would not be possible without external investment. Grants will aim to solve some of the more intractable livelihood development problems in Ethiopia and generate learning that can further inform programming. The fund is key to the testing of new activity interventions, and the project will closely monitor the implementation and results of initiatives funded through this mechanism.

### CRS and MCS program layering

The Feed the Future Ethiopia Livelihoods for Resilience – Oromia activity will collaborate closely with other programs funded by CRS, the Government of Ethiopia and the United States Agency for International Development in the same geographic zone, delivering synergies, deepening impact, increasing cost-effectiveness, and ensuring the sustainability of results across all programs.

The table shows the nine *woredas* of this project as they overlap with two CRS-led programs—the Joint Emergency Operation and the CRS Development Food Security Activity—as well as the World Vision Development Food Security Activity. CRS and its implementing partner, MCS, will enhance the reach and return on investment of each overlapping program, sharing resources and creating defined linkages within the same geographic zone to layer and sequence services that will facilitate graduation of PSNP clients. CRS and MCS will collaborate closely across projects through initiatives such as creating joint work plans, using joint indicators where useful, sharing monitoring information, and creating shared maps and other tools to fully engage markets and maximize linkages.

Zone	Woreda	LRO	CRS DFSA	JEOP	WV DFSA
Arsi	Dodota	X		X	
	Sire	X		X	
	Ziway Dugda	X	X		
West Arsi	Arsi Negele	X	X	X	
	Heben Arsi	X	X	X	
	Shala	X	X	X	
	Siraro	X			X
East Shewa	ATJK	X			
	Boset	X			

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