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Social Protection and Complementarities

The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in Ethiopia

Berhanu Woldemichael

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The PSNP in Ethiopia



- PSNP is designed to address the underline Causes of CFI in the country .
- The Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) was born out of the deliberations that followed the 2002/2003 droughts to break the cycle of emergency appeals and comprehensively address food insecurity in Ethiopia .
- The program is currently in its 4th phase (2016-2020) and has been evolving through the years by incorporating lessons from previous phases .



The PSNP in Ethiopia



- PSNP remains the second largest safety net program in Africa -area coverage and size-and it involves a number of stakeholders .
- Five different Line Ministries and 12 donors/development partners involved .
- **Harmonized funding and donor coordination,** which is unique in the African context .



Innovations under PSNP4 – the systems approach



- The PSNP4 evolved from an independent program to become a central part of a broader system that delivers social protection, disaster risk management, nutrition and Climate-Resilient Green Economy policy objectives under the overall framework of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) of the Government of Ethiopia .
- The PSNP4 provides an **integrated package of services**, which includes transfers, PW's ,GSD, linkages to health and nutrition services ,linkages to livelihoods interventions, and support up to and beyond graduation .



A shock-responsive Safety Net



- **The PSNP₄ as a scalable safety net:**
 - The PSNP is scaled up when needed in the event of shocks to ensure that assistance is available to those households who need it most in PSNP Districts , to prevent them from becoming more food insecure .
 - The PSNP can scale up to a predetermined ceiling; any transitory needs that cannot be met through the PSNP will be addressed through the emergency response system .



The PSNP Public Works Component



- One of the core conditions applied to households with some adult-able bodied labour within the PSNP4 is participation in public works programs .
- Public works are labour-intensive community-based sub-projects designed to address the underlying causes of chronic food insecurity through the provision of employment for chronically food insecure people who have able-bodied labour .
- Community assets built through public works provide a significant opportunity to enhance livelihoods while increasing the program's impact in the areas of nutrition, climate resilience and disaster risk management .



Gender-sensitive Public Works



- Lighter tasks for women
- Transition to Direct Support for Pregnant and Lactating Women and Caretakers of Malnourished Children
- Protection for children under 18 years from participating in Public Works
- Public Works team composition should be balanced with men and women
- Women-only teams for certain projects
- Women's participation in PSNP decision making structure
- Women as team leaders in Public Works
- Women's 50% workload for PW
- Women's late arrival and early departure for public works
- Travel distance to PW – Public Works site should not be far from



Public Works and BCC



- In recognition of the fact that addressing nutrition challenges is the responsibility of the whole family and the wider community, participation in community health and nutrition Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) is expected to be a core public works responsibility.
- Within the six month public works period, clients are expected to participate in at least 6 community BCC sessions - Participation in 3 such sessions is equivalent to one public works day.



Links to Health and Nutrition Services



- This phase of the PSNP includes a strong focus on links to mainstream health and nutrition services provided through the Health Extension Programme.
- Female members of households participating in the PSNP who are either pregnant or have a child under the age of one are expected to take up these services as part of their responsibilities to the program whether they are clients of the permanent direct support component or the public works component.
- Social Workers, together with other Frontline Workers, implement this comprehensive Case Management System .



Public Works and Links To Social Services



- Strengthened livelihoods, through Soil and water conservation activities ,Small Scale irrigation schemes , Afforestation, infrastructure development such as construction of roads and market infrastructure, and construction of social services .
- Improved nutrition and other services, through behavioral change communication as a part substitute for public works, through the construction of health posts, and through encouragement to temporary direct support clients to take up health and nutrition services .
- Strengthened climate resilience and disaster risk management, through watershed development and rangeland management approaches



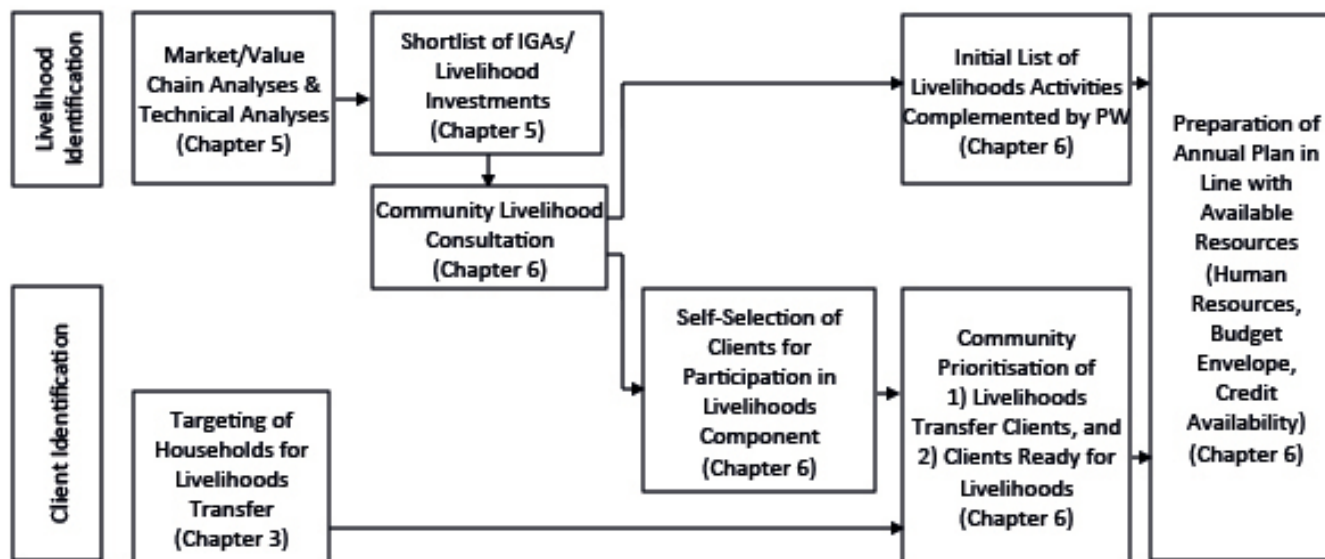
The PSNP Integrated Livelihood Component



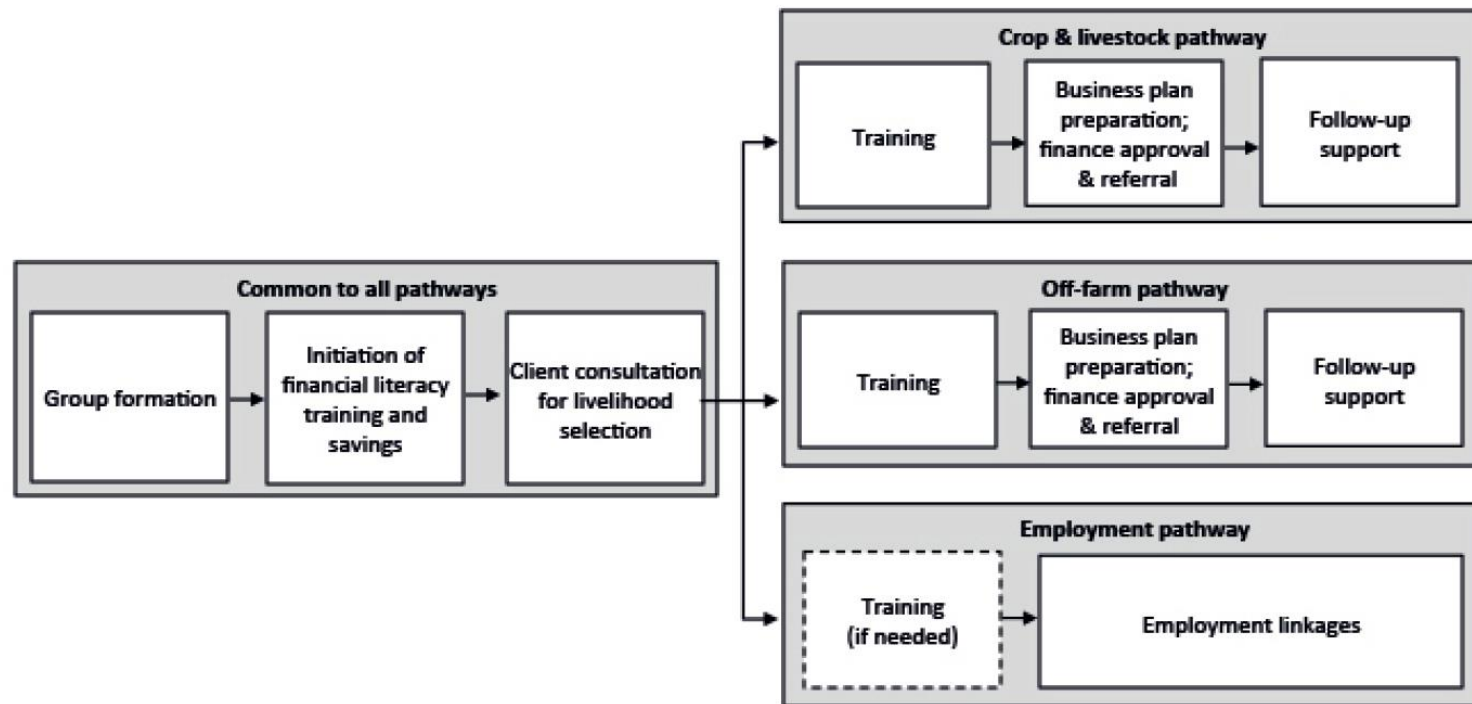
- The livelihood component of the PSNP 4, aims to support safety net clients in improving their livelihoods through two principles.
- These principles are: -
 - providing tailored solutions to households and individuals according to their interest and capacity, and
 - providing tailored technical assistance on each of the three livelihoods pathways .



The PSNP Livelihood Component



The PSNP Livelihood Component



The PSNP Livelihood Component



- Support to three livelihood pathways to graduation:
 - The three pathways are crop and livestock; off-farm income generation and employment
 - Each pathway is supported with better tailoring and sequencing of interventions
 - In addition the use of livelihoods transfers for the most vulnerable households – for whom credit is not an option – was introduced

Lessons Learned



- Cash transfers is an efficient and effective way to support vulnerable households
- The valuable contribution made by public works ,and these can be enhanced specifically if they are linked with the livelihood investment .
- Linking PSNP clients with community based health and nutrition activities.
- Linking PW's with livelihood interventions .
- Livelihood interventions can be more successful, if they are tailored to the needs of potential clients .



Remaining Challenges



- Drought
- Capacity limitation
- Staff turnover
- Coordination and harmonization of incentives among different flagship programs .
- Quality problem in some of the public works

Way Forward



- To improve the timeliness of transfer to reach the clients when they are in need of the resource
- To continue applying cash first principle of the program .
- Operationalizing of a scalable rural safety net system that brings together PSNP and humanitarian food assistance .
- Establish a single Commodity Management system that delivers all safety net support – be it in cash or food.





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