



ETHIOPIA FACT SHEET

BUILDING RESILIENCE

Strengthening resilience of households, communities and systems against environmental, political, socio-economic, and health shocks is a key long-term goal of USAID’s investments in Ethiopia. USAID has been a strong partner to Ethiopia for over 50 years, and is supporting various Government of Ethiopia (GOE) programs through its resilience investments. While Ethiopia has reduced the number of people living under the poverty line by 33 percent since 2000, 37 million Ethiopians remain vulnerable to shocks.

The GOE implements social protection programs on a scale unlike almost any developing country in the world. Ethiopia’s National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) introduced the concept of a sustainable social protection system, which mandates a comprehensive package of social protection support to the poor. Ethiopia’s ability to be resilient to shocks is key for maintaining growth and stability. Evidence from USAID’s resilience programming in Ethiopia’s lowlands shows that households reached by comprehensive resilience programs were better able to maintain their food security status in the face of the severe drought in 2016, whereas households in other communities experienced a precipitous 30 percent decline. Households with access to markets, financial services, and safety nets fared far better during both moderate and severe droughts. Additionally, those benefiting directly from programs that improve access to financial services, animal health services, and natural resource management had healthier herds, were more food secure, and less likely to be impoverished than similar non-beneficiary households.

The United States remains the largest bilateral provider of foreign assistance to Ethiopia, investing around \$800 million each year in humanitarian assistance and development programs. Our humanitarian assistance includes in-kind food and nutrition assistance, safe drinking water, health services, and sanitation and hygiene support for victims of drought, flooding, and displacement. The 2015-2017 droughts affected more than 20 million people—requiring a \$1.4 billion response, the largest humanitarian response ever. USAID’s approach seeks to reduce the reliance on the perennial need for humanitarian assistance, helping poor families graduate from safety net programs and strengthening resilience to reduce their vulnerability to shocks and mitigate the impacts of crises.

PHOTO: NANCY MCNALLY, CRS

OUR PROGRAMS

AGRICULTURE, LIVELIHOODS, AND FOOD SECURITY: USAID's Development Food Security Activities and Global Food Security Strategy initiatives invest in strengthening food security and resilience among poor households, including those who rely on the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which addresses the basic food needs of chronically food-insecure people through regular, seasonal transfer of food and cash resources, while supporting the creation of assets that generate economic benefit to the communities as a whole. In 2019, our DFSA program helped 1.6 million people improve food security by diversifying their livelihoods and income sources, as well as rehabilitating watersheds and improving resource management to strengthen community resilience. In addition, Feed the Future programs aim to help 100,000 households increase their incomes to graduate from PSNP, and have provided a model for graduation programming that is being scaled by the GOE. Feed the Future investments have also helped beneficiary households increase their annual income by 50 percent from 2018-2019.

LIVESTOCK MARKET EXPANSION: USAID is helping pastoralists improve livestock health by providing better access to feed and veterinary services and strengthening their links with livestock traders, processors and exporters—a private sector approach to ensure long-term sustainability. We work with rangeland management councils to map resources and help pastoralists plan their grazing to support smarter natural resource utilization and mitigate potential conflicts. For those seeking other employment opportunities, we support vocational training and better access to finance, providing pastoralists with the potential to find or create alternative livelihoods.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION: USAID's support to establish Community-based Health Insurance now helps cover more than 20 million Ethiopians and reduces their out-of-pocket health expenditures due to health financing. Data shows that when health insurance is layered together with the PSNP, household savings increase, as well as participation in alternative livelihoods activities, to further enhance resilience. We also support the expansion of comprehensive community nutrition treatment programs that can rapidly identify and treat moderate and severe malnutrition to address the critical needs of malnourished children, and pregnant and lactating women.

ACCESS TO WATER: We are helping to increase the availability of clean drinking water sources, while also expanding water use for agriculture. By rehabilitating non-functioning infrastructure and constructing new systems, we're working to provide improved drinking water sources for 200,000 people. Investments in small-scale irrigation improve crop production and increased access to water for livestock.

EDUCATION: USAID promotes resilience among children and youth by providing them with the skills they need to cope with adversity and shocks. Youth training and livelihoods investments provide students with soft skills training; financial literacy; and business development support to prepare them for a constantly changing labor market. These skills enable them to prepare for, deal with, and effectively adapt to shocks in life and work. The majority of the program participants have reported an increase sense of self-efficacy, enhanced economic prospects, and higher income.