



COMPACT
2025



ETHIOPIA

ENDING HUNGER & UNDERNUTRITION
CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

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SCOPING REPORT FOR ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

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[Compact2025](#), launched in November 2015, is a bold new initiative for ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025. It brings stakeholders together to set priorities, innovate and learn, fine-tune actions, build on successes, and synthesize shareable lessons in order to accelerate progress. A version of this document was drafted to inform the Compact2025 roundtable discussions held in Addis Ababa on March 28, 2016. The document has been subsequently revised and updated according to inputs from the roundtable discussions.

Preface

Compact2025, launched in November 2015, is a bold new initiative for ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025. It brings stakeholders together to set priorities, innovate and learn, fine-tune actions, build on successes, and synthesize shareable lessons in order to accelerate progress.

Eliminating hunger and undernutrition in 10 years is a huge task, but it can be accomplished. Brazil, China, Peru, Thailand, and Vietnam have each dramatically reduced hunger and undernutrition in a relatively short time. Learning from their and others' experiences and leveraging strong commitments from the global community to end hunger and undernutrition make it possible to accelerate progress even further. Compact2025's approaches include the following:

Engaging countries: Success in ending hunger and undernutrition depends on country-owned and country-led strategies and investments. Compact2025 begins with an initial focus on four countries—Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Rwanda—and will then scale up to include additional countries.

Stimulating knowledge and innovation: Compact2025 will create a Knowledge and Innovation Hub, which will have four areas of focus: Stimulating innovation, communicating research on what works, synthesizing lessons, and collecting data and monitoring progress.

Supporting existing initiatives and partnerships: Compact2025 will not compete with but rather complement and support existing global, regional, and national initiatives to accelerate progress with data, knowledge, capacity, communications expertise, innovation, and research support.

Compact2025 is designed to accelerate progress. It assists countries to refine and implement their road maps for action toward ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025. It is for this reason that Compact2025 starts the process in each focal country with a scoping study that serves as input for a roundtable discussion. The scoping study provides an overview on where the country stands, who the major stakeholders are, and where the key gaps are that hold back progress.

Accordingly, Compact2025 and partners organized a roundtable discussion in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on March 28, 2016 to set the critical groundwork for assessing how to end hunger and undernutrition in Ethiopia by 2025. The roundtable identified key knowledge, policy, and implementation gaps as well as opportunities, potential synergies, and priority areas for action. This finalized scoping report includes input received during the event.

As expressed by Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Compact2025 Leadership Council member Demeke Mekonnen, who participated in the roundtable discussion, commitment to ending hunger and undernutrition is strong at the highest levels of government, and all stakeholders must work together to reach the 2025 goal. Bringing together over 60 government and nongovernment stakeholders across several key sectors, the roundtable discussion is a first step for Compact2025 to support Ethiopia in accelerating progress toward ending hunger and undernutrition.

Executive summary

Ethiopia has made great progress in reducing hunger and undernutrition alongside impressive economic growth. However, food security and nutrition remain key challenges: 32 percent of Ethiopians are undernourished, and 40 percent of children under 5 suffer from undernutrition in the form of stunting (low height for age). Along with the human and social costs, hunger and undernutrition cause huge economic costs—for example, in 2009 Ethiopia lost an estimated 16.5 percent of its GDP due to undernutrition.

Ethiopia's policy environment for food security and nutrition has evolved in recent years. Food security has historically been a main concern, and policies to boost agricultural productivity and provide disaster relief have helped reduce hunger drastically. In recent years, nutrition has been elevated in the national agenda, and has been integrated into policy at the highest levels: the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II) includes food security and nutrition as foundational to long-term economic growth. Greater attention to multisectoral collaboration has led to the formation of the National Nutrition Coordination Body, the highest body that oversees the National Nutrition Programme.

In order for Ethiopia to reach the goals set in the second Growth and Transformation Plan as well as the Seqota Declaration—which aims to end child undernutrition by 2030 among other goals—progress must be accelerated. To determine what is holding back progress, this study identifies several key knowledge and action gaps, including the need for more evidence on scaling up effective interventions, building capacity, and improving horizontal and vertical coordination for more effective implementation.

This scoping report was prepared to inform the roundtable discussion by providing an overview of the food security and nutrition challenges and opportunities in Ethiopia. It reviews the current food security and nutrition policy landscape across key sectors and actors in Ethiopia and identifies critical knowledge, policy, and implementation gaps. Additionally, the scoping report presents a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) that crystallizes the main elements that drive or hamper food security and nutrition in the country. To determine what is holding back progress, the report identifies several key research and action gaps, including generating research on context-specific, agriculture-nutrition pathways, synthesizing shareable lessons on success stories in food security and nutrition, and effectively communicating those findings can help to influence decision makers and inform practitioners.

As informed by the roundtable discussion held on March 28, 2016, this report identifies five major recommendations for accelerating progress to end hunger and undernutrition in Ethiopia:

1. Fill data and knowledge gaps
2. Develop policies and accountability for better nutrition
3. Enhance implementation and scale-up of programs
4. Improve coordination
5. Strengthen capacity

To help implement these recommendations and to support the acceleration of progress toward ending hunger and undernutrition in the country, Compact2025 will establish a Knowledge and Innovation Hub in Ethiopia.

Overview of Ethiopia's food security and nutrition challenges

Ethiopia has made progress in reducing hunger and, to an extent, undernutrition. This is a testament to the country's commitment and priority action plans to address food insecurity and undernutrition as discussed in subsequent sections.

However, despite improvements in productivity of staple food production, hunger and undernutrition remain big challenges that Ethiopia must address in order to achieve food security and nutrition for all. Over the past 20 years, poverty has been steadily decreasing, and incomes and agricultural production have been rising, yet the prevalence of undernourishment and child stunting are still high. These results point to a disconnect between the traditional focus of food security, namely agricultural production, and improved nutrition. Beyond agriculture, sectors such as sanitation, education, women's empowerment, and others play key roles in improving nutrition.

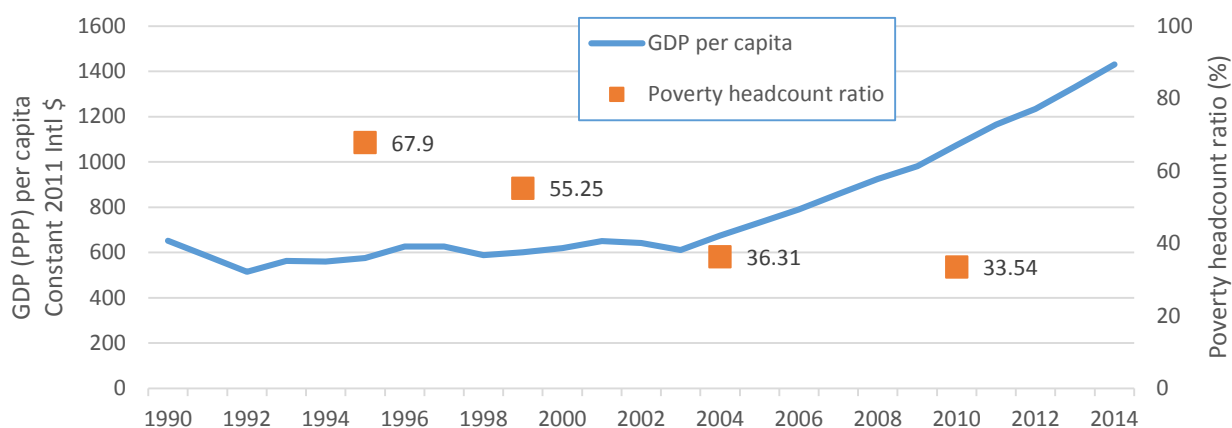
This section of the scoping report discusses the current poverty, food security, and nutrition situation in Ethiopia, along with past trends and progress.

Poverty

Ethiopia is a low-income country with high yet declining rates of poverty. The proportion of the population living under \$1.90 a day fell precipitously from 68 percent to 33 percent from 1995 to 2010 (Figure 1). The majority of the population lives in rural areas, and close to three-quarters of the population are employed in agriculture (World Bank 2016). The rural population experiences the highest levels of poverty and hunger in the country (MoFED 2012).

Underlying the drastic reductions in poverty has been the impressive economic growth in Ethiopia. From 2000 to 2014, Ethiopia averaged an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 9.6 percent. In comparison, Africa south of the Sahara averaged an annual GDP growth rate of 4.6 percent (World Bank 2016). As such, GDP per capita in Ethiopia has shown great improvement over the years, more than doubling (in purchasing power parity) from 2000 to 2014. (World Bank 2016).

Figure 1: Gross domestic product per capita (PPP, 2011 International dollar) and poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP, % of population)



Source: IMF 2015; World Bank 2016.

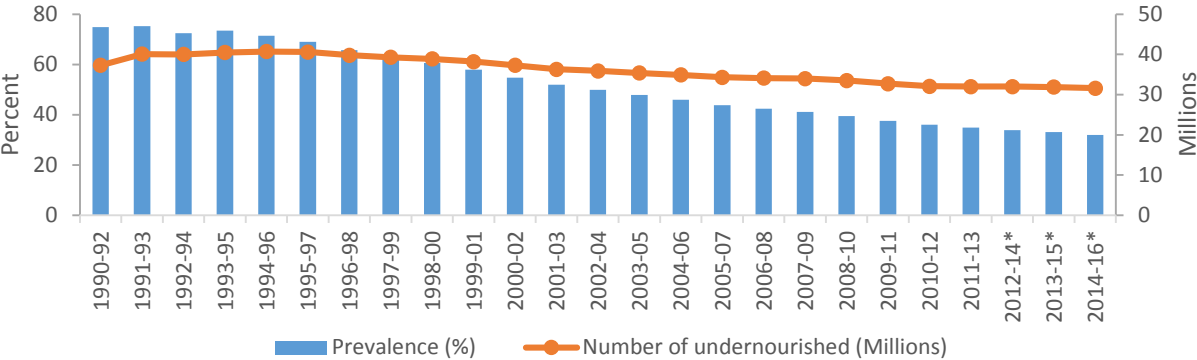
In 2009, Ethiopia signed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) compact, with the goals of raising public agriculture spending to 10 percent of total public spending and an agricultural GDP growth rate target of 6 percent. From 2009 to 2014, average annual agricultural expenditures share in total public expenditure in Ethiopia was 12.4 percent (ReSAKSS). In comparison, the East Africa region contributed 5.1 percent of public expenditures to agriculture in the same timeframe. Ethiopia reached the agricultural growth goal several times, and its average annual agricultural GDP growth rate from 2009 to 2014 was 6.8 percent, whereas the average for Africa was 3.4 percent (ReSAKSS).

Food security

In Ethiopia, ensuring food security has consistently been among the highest priorities. Several decades ago, food shortages and famines seemed to be unavoidable, but better understanding of the complex drivers of famines have helped provide ways forward for the country (Webb and von Braun 1994). The natural conditions for agricultural production are deemed favorable, with fertile soils and high average rainfall amounts. Yet, at the same time food security is constantly threatened by highly erratic weather conditions and a growing population that requires more food. Consequently, the country has a long history of food crises triggered by natural calamities, and at times exaggerated by policy and market failures (von Braun and Olofinbiyi 2007).

Considering the high rates of hunger several decades ago, Ethiopia has shown great progress in improving the state of food security. From 1990 to 2015, prevalence of undernourishment was more than halved, from 75 percent to 32 percent (Figure 2). Yet despite Ethiopia’s strides toward achieving international development goals—the Millennium Development Goal 1C target has been achieved ahead of time (FAO, IFAD, and WFP 2014)—a huge number of people remain exposed to undernourishment. Although the prevalence of undernourishment has been significantly reduced, undernourishment remains high in absolute terms. The number of undernourished in Ethiopia has only been reduced marginally, from 37 million to 32 million from 1990 to 2015. Progress therefore must be accelerated to fully eliminate hunger.

Figure 2: Undernourishment in Ethiopia



Source: FAO, IFAD, and WFP 2015.

Food production and productivity in Ethiopia have increased over the years. From 2000 to 2013, staple crops such as cereals increased in yield by almost 60 percent. Maize and wheat yields doubled in the same timeframe. However, there is room for further improvement, as about 23 percent of the

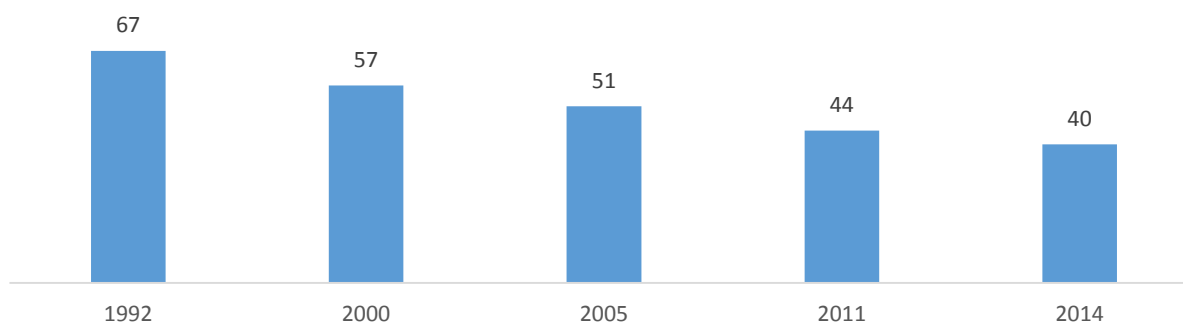
smallholders in Ethiopia used improved seeds and only 8.4 percent of the cropland was covered by improved seeds. In addition, only 8.6 percent of the smallholders irrigated their cropland (CSA 2014). Production of roots and tubers, significant components of the Ethiopian diet, increased by 80 percent from 2000 to 2013 (FAO 2016). Cereals, including maize, wheat, sorghum, and teff, constitute the majority of domestic consumption. Teff has suffered low yields compared to other cereals. In 2012–2013, teff yields were 1.4 metric tons per hectare compared to 3.1 for maize and 2.1 for sorghum and wheat (CSA 2013). Despite its nutritional benefits, teff productivity is limited by agronomic constraints as well as limited national and international attention to agricultural research and development (R&D) for teff (Baye 2014; Berhane et al. 2011; Fufa et al. 2011).

Despite some progress in improving national food access, Ethiopia remains a food deficit country. As of 2015, the average undernourished person would require 236 more kilocalories per day (according to the average dietary energy requirement estimated by FAO) to be lifted out of hunger. In comparison, the average food deficit for all of Africa south of the Sahara is 176 kilocalories per day (FAO 2016). Food expenditures make up 55 percent of total consumption expenditures for the poor (Hassen et al. forthcoming).

Nutrition and diet outcomes

Nutrition is a persistent challenge in Ethiopia. Child stunting (low height for age) has decreased over time, yet on average 40 percent of children under 5 were stunted in 2014 (Figure 3). Prevalence of child stunting varies widely by income group and region. In 2011, for example, less than 30 percent of children from the wealthiest families were stunted, yet nearly half of children from all other wealth quintiles were stunted (Bredenkamp, Buisman, and Van de Poel 2014).

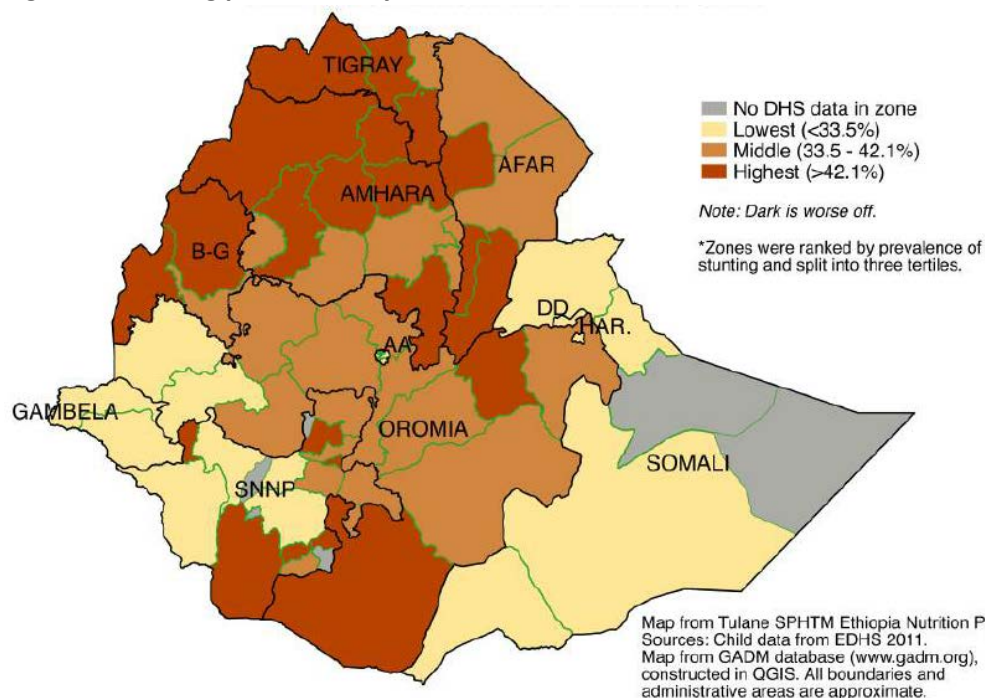
Figure 3: Prevalence of under-5 stunting (%)



Source: UNICEF, WHO, and World Bank 2015

At the regional and zonal level, stunting is concentrated in the Northern and Southern regions, with the highest prevalence of stunting in Tigray, Amhara, and Benishangul-Gumuz regions. The lowest prevalence of stunting is in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Harari, Gambela, and Somali (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Stunting prevalence by zone



Source: Mason et al. 2015.

As for other nutritional indicators, Ethiopia's situation is mixed. In 2014, 9 percent of children under 5 were affected by wasting, or low weight for age. As of 2011, 19 percent of women of reproductive age had anemia, which is well below the prevalence in Africa of 38 percent (WHO 2015). Vitamin A deficiency among children is particularly high—in 2013, 50 percent of children were deficient (Stevens et al. 2015). While overweight and obesity are not prominent in the country, the percentage of overweight Ethiopian women is double that of Ethiopian men, and in general 19 percent of adults are overweight (WHO 2015).

There are severe social and economic costs to undernutrition in Ethiopia. According to the Cost of Hunger in Ethiopia study, the total losses associated with child undernutrition were estimated as 55.5 billion Ethiopian birr—equivalent to 16.5 percent of GDP in 2009 (WFP 2013). Further, undernutrition was associated with 24 percent of all child mortalities from 2004 to 2009. The loss in working hours as a result of undernutrition-related mortalities represented the highest costs.

Nutritional outcomes depend on several key underlying determinates, including diet quality and diversity. In Ethiopia, the proportion of calories available from nonstaple crops was below 25 percent in each year from 1991 to 2012; in comparison, the annual average for Africa south of the Sahara was 35 percent during the same period. Availability of fruits and vegetables in Ethiopia has increased, from 47 to 71 grams per capita from 2000 to 2011, but this is well below the average for low-income food deficit countries (324 grams per capita).

Access to improved water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure is highly associated with better nutrition (Spears and Haddad 2015). In Ethiopia, improved drinking water coverage increased from 13 to 57 percent from 1990 to 2015. Improved sanitation coverage increased from 7 to 42 percent in the same time span (WHO-UNICEF JMP 2015). In particular, Ethiopia achieved rapid reductions in open

defecation. From 2000 to 2010, the percent of rural households that did not use a toilet decreased from 91.5 percent to 46.3 percent. This change was achieved through the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiative; the approach was scaled up and mainstreamed in the national sanitation strategy and integrated into the Health Extension Worker program and other programs (Headey 2015). Recent evidence in Ethiopia suggests that improved WASH infrastructure can contribute to child nutrition outcomes, with varying impact across rural and urban areas (Headey 2015).

Parental education—and particularly maternal education—is associated with lower rates of child stunting (Semba et al. 2008). Female secondary enrollment increased from 14 percent to 22 percent from 2002 to 2006. Additionally, women’s empowerment has also been shown to improve nutritional outcomes in Ethiopia (Yimer and Tadesse 2015). However, Ethiopia still has much to improve upon in terms of gender equality, ranking 126 out of the 146 countries in the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index (WEF 2015).¹ Achieving gender equity has implications for agricultural production, as agricultural extension in Ethiopia has been found to be skewed in favor of men (Mogues et al. 2011).

Cultural practices are also factors that can affect nutrition outcomes. For example, the fasting practices (220 days per year for the Orthodox church) in which no animal products may be eaten were observed to exacerbate maternal undernutrition in the Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities (ENGINE) project in Ethiopia. While pregnant women and children under the age of seven are excused from fasting, it was observed that many still fast in solidarity with the rest of the family (ENGINE 2014).

Improved road infrastructure has also been found to improve diet quality (Rosegrant et al. 2015). In Ethiopia, road infrastructure has improved in recent decades—the share of population within three hours of the city tripled from 1998 to 2010 (IFPRI 2013). Further, improving infrastructure can complement other factors that impact food security and nutrition. Recent research has found that, in areas with good market access (as indicated by improved road infrastructure), nutrition knowledge leads to considerable improvements in children’s diets (Hiroven et al. 2016).

Strategies, policies, and programs to address food security and nutrition

This section highlights strategies, policies, and programs being implemented by the government of Ethiopia and partners. It also provides an overview of the various stakeholders working to address hunger and undernutrition in Ethiopia.

National development frameworks

The highest level plan that defines the national development framework is Ethiopia’s Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II). It has been designed to help realize Ethiopia’s vision of becoming a lower-middle-income country by 2025 by achieving an annual average real GDP growth rate of 11 percent. The plan involves macroeconomic stabilization while pursuing rapid industrialization and structural transformation (National Planning Commission 2015). GTP-II defines strategic pillars for development and transformation in the country. It includes stunting reduction as a key indicator and emphasizes food security and nutrition as main priorities of economic development.

¹ Developed by the World Economic Forum, the Global Gender Gap Index ranks economies on how well they leverage their female talent pool based on economic, educational, health-based, and political indicators.

Recognizing that sustainable economic growth cannot be achieved without addressing malnutrition, the Ethiopian government launched the Seqota Declaration to express its commitment to end child undernutrition by 2030. Additional components of the declaration include goals around sectors of social protection, education, WASH, and others. The Seqota Declaration is planned to be implemented in three phases:

- (i) Innovation Phase: Learning by doing (2016–2018)
- (ii) Expansion: To reach more vulnerable communities (2019–2020)
- (iii) National Scale Up (2020–2030)

The Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP 2015/16–2019/20), a five-year plan for implementation of health interventions and monitoring key indicators, including nutrition indicators, is under the purview of the Ministry of Health. While the country has so far been focusing on expanding the coverage of health services, the HSTP places more emphasis on quality and equity of services.

Further information on national development frameworks and sector strategic plans relevant to food security and nutrition are available in Table 1 (see Annex).

Cross-cutting policies and action plans

The National Nutrition Strategy (NNS), coordinated under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, was formulated during 2005–2006 based on an assessment that highlighted the importance of a multisectoral approach in addressing diverse factors related to health and nutrition. The strategy brings together isolated and uncoordinated interventions into one comprehensive sectorwide approach, led by the government under one coordination framework. The overall goal of the National Nutrition Strategy is to ensure that all Ethiopians are able to achieve an adequate nutritional status in a sustainable manner.

The National Nutrition Programme (NNP 2013–2015) was developed to implement the National Nutrition Strategy. It aims to ensure that all Ethiopians attain adequate nutritional status in a sustainable manner, which is an essential requirement for a healthy and productive life. The National Nutrition Programme was signed by sector stakeholders including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Water and Energy, and Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs. The program identifies the following strategic objectives:

- i. Improve the nutritional status of women (15–49 years) and adolescents (10–19 years)
- ii. Improve the nutritional status of infants, youth, and children under 5
- iii. Improve the delivery of nutrition services for communicable and noncommunicable or lifestyle-related diseases (all age groups)
- iv. Strengthen implementation of nutrition-sensitive interventions across sectors
- v. Improve multisectoral coordination and capacity to ensure National Nutrition Programme implementation

Some initiatives and actions under the National Nutrition Programme have been rolled out widely. Others are still in pilot phase, and some planned actions have not yet been initiated. For example, many interventions have been designed and implemented to improve the nutritional status of infants, youth, and children under 5. Yet low rates of implementation to improve the nutritional status of women and

adolescents have been reported (Ljungqvist 2015). An overview of ongoing initiatives and actions based on the National Nutrition Programme Strategic Objectives are included in Table 2 (see Annex).

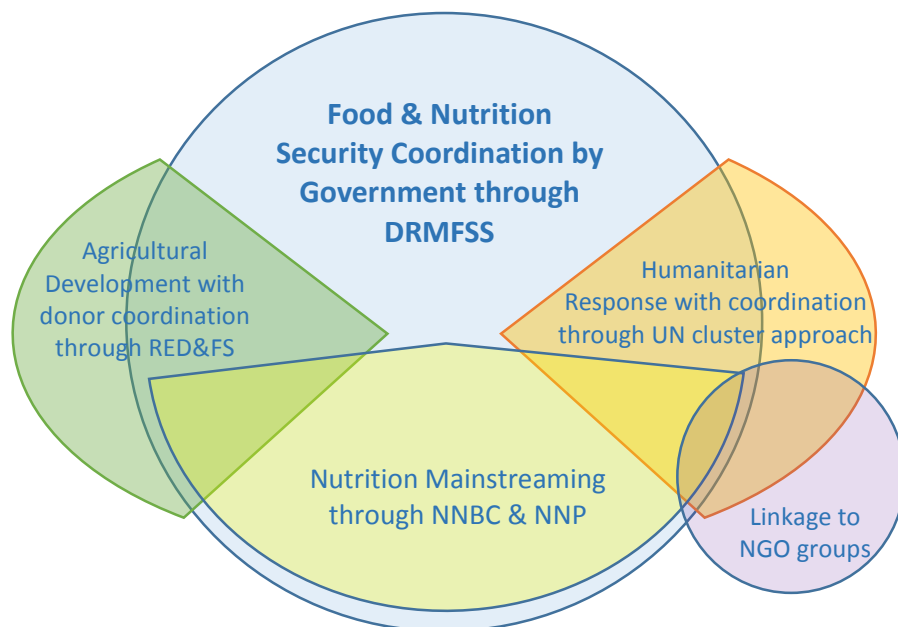
Other major cross-cutting policies, plans, and programs are:

- The *Agricultural Growth Program (AGP-1 2010–2015)* was developed to address agricultural growth problems in areas well-endowed with natural resources, and aimed to contribute to the government’s poverty reduction strategy and the MDGs. AGP II (2015–2020) builds on the successes of AGP I and aims to contribute to GTP II objectives by expanding its implementation areas beyond the beneficiaries of AGP I to 157 *woredas* (districts).
- The *Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Strategic Plan*, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource (MoANR), has direct effects on food security and nutrition of households in Ethiopia. The strategic plan for Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture is to align MoANR activities along with the strategic objectives of the NNP, especially strategic objective 4, result 4.1: “Strengthening implementation of nutrition sensitive interventions in the agriculture sector” (MoANR 2015).
- The *National School Health and Nutrition Strategy (SHN)*, developed by the Ministry of Education, enables improved access to better health and nutrition services for millions of school-age children as well as hundreds of thousands of teachers throughout government and nongovernment schools. Schools promote quality health and nutrition services for school-age children and adolescents, who constitute 15 percent and 35 percent of the nation’s total population, respectively (CSA 2007).
- The *Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)* was initiated with the objective of protecting and creating household assets for chronically food insecure households in rural Ethiopia. Activities comprise (i) safety-net grants which include: labor-intensive public works that provide transfers to able-bodied households; (ii) direct support that provides transfers to labor-poor households; (iii) drought risk financing—to provide timely resources for transitory food insecurity in response to shocks; (iv) capacity building to fill risk finance facility; (v) strengthening the delivery of demand-driven and market-oriented advice; and (vi) improving the efficiency and effectiveness of financial service delivery to food insecure households.

Additional policies, programs, and action plans are available in Table 3 in the Annex.

Stakeholder mapping

Figure 5: Elements of the food and nutrition security architecture in Ethiopia



Source: Adapted from Droppelmann et al. 2015

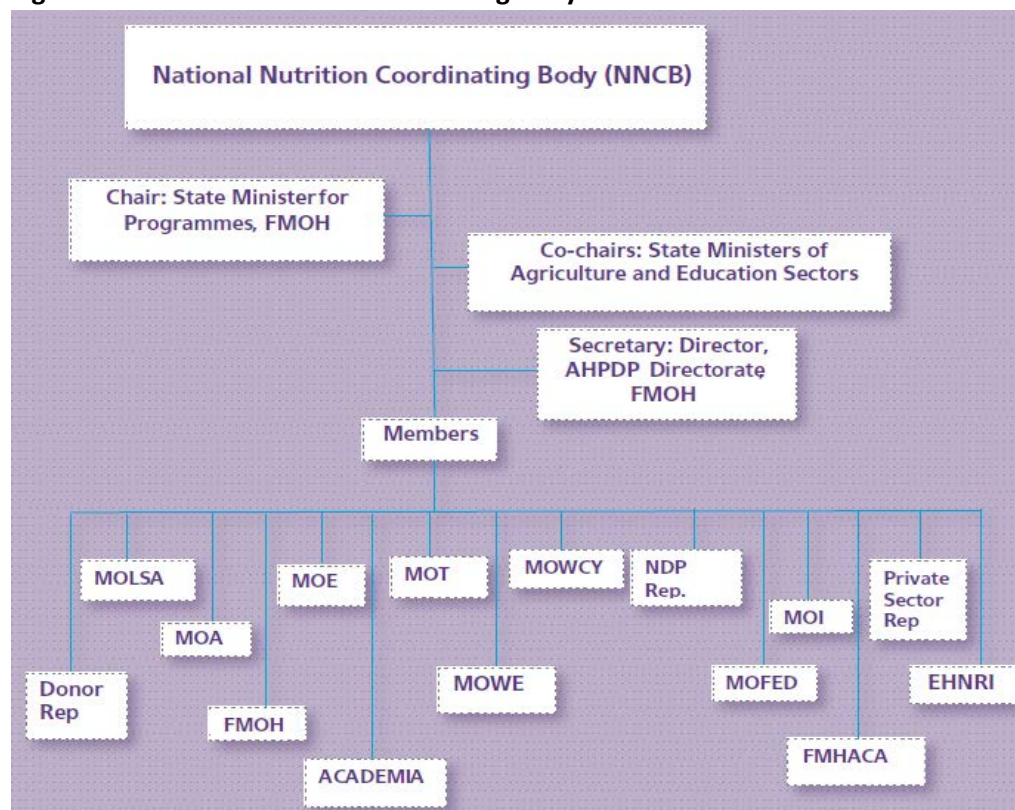
The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) is the prime actor and driving force in the country's fight to end hunger and undernutrition; GoE sets the policy agenda and oversees its implementation. Additionally, there are numerous local, national, regional, and global stakeholders working in Ethiopia. For example the country hosts the largest regional as well as the largest national program of the World Food Programme (WFP) both in terms of operations and budget. Similarly, many partners from the donor community and civil society focus on Ethiopia. The Development Assistance Group (DAG) comprises 27 bilateral and multilateral development agencies (DAG 2014). Furthermore, more than 330 international and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) comprise the Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) including non-faith-based organizations (CCRDA 2014).

Figure 5 depicts the main coordination architecture of food security and nutrition bodies in Ethiopia (Droppelmann et al. 2015).

Food security and recently nutrition matters are usually referred to Drought Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR). The Drought Risk Management and Food Security Sector interfaces closely with other coordination structures, namely the Humanitarian Response (HR) co-led by the UN organizations and the Rural Economic Development and Food Security structure (RED&FS) in partnership with the donor community. Civil society organizations primarily connect with the Humanitarian Response structure but their active participation in the coordination process is not as far advanced as that of the multinational institutions of the UN. Aspects of nutrition security have only recently moved to the center of attention in Ethiopia. In 2013 the Government put strong emphasis on mainstreaming nutrition interventions through the National Nutrition Programme.

The highest level coordinating body that oversees the National Nutrition Programme in Ethiopia is the National Nutrition Coordination Body (NNCB). It is chaired by the Minister of Health and cochaired by the Ministers of Agriculture and Education. The NNCB convenes nine ministries from relevant sectors and also includes representatives from United Nations agencies, donors, and academia. It is supported by the National Nutrition Technical Committee (NNTC). The NNCB is planning to expand membership and develop regional coordination platforms. See Figure 6 for the organizational structure for National Nutrition Programme oversight.

Figure 6: National Nutrition Coordinating Body



Source: Government of Ethiopia (2015).

Ethiopia has a Nutrition Development Partner Group (NDPG) which engages UN agencies, donors, and civil society. The UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the UN Children’s Fund act as donor conveners, and civil society participates in the NDPG and other relevant platforms. The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit within the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR) convenes partners implementing emergency nutrition interventions. In 2013 the Ethiopian Civil Society Coalition (ECSC) was established in order to galvanize efforts to alleviate the burden of malnutrition. The business community has rallied its support through the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce, for example, the Multi-stakeholder Food Fortification Working Group that has been instrumental in setting quality standards for salt iodization and flour and oil fortification. International initiatives such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement help to guide and coordinate national efforts.

Development partners are the major funders of the project they implement—see Table 4 in the Annex for further details of select development partners. A description of select NGOs and their projects being implemented in Ethiopia are given in Table 5 in the Annex.

The Agriculture Transformation Agency (ATA) is governed by the Agricultural Transformation Council, chaired by the Prime Minister. It is a time-bound organization that aims to fulfill its mandate within a 15–20 year span. The ATA was created to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders to achieve agricultural transformation. In particular, the Agency strives to:

- Introduce new technologies and approaches that can address systemic bottlenecks and catalyze transformation of the sector
- Play a catalytic role to support partners to effectively execute agreed upon solutions (many of which may not be new) in a coordinated manner

In addition, it (1) maintains a balance between a subsectoral and geographic focus to address bottlenecks throughout the entire commodity value chain and the many regions and agricultural systems, and (2) balances a focus on capacity building in a “learning by doing” approach with delivering results quickly.

CGIAR, including IFPRI, plays a role in generating and advancing agricultural and policy research in Ethiopia and beyond. The recent CGIAR Site Integration National Consultation Workshop held in Ethiopia demonstrates that CGIAR centers and programs aim to continue to align their plans with Ethiopia’s strategies. For example, IFPRI’s Ethiopia Strategy Support Program (ESSP) has an integrated set of both research and capacity strengthening initiatives to support policy-making processes in the country. Some of the current strategic policy research areas are agriculture and nutrition; poverty, nutrition, and safety nets; productivity; technology adoption; and agricultural transformation. In terms of knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening, ESSP is working through several activities with a number of partners, including the ATA, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), and Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) is also aligning its activities with strategies in Ethiopia. The program recently met with stakeholders around the topic “Food Systems for Healthier Diets” to shape its proposal around Ethiopia’s development strategy.

Knowledge and action gaps

The government of Ethiopia together with development partners has designed and implemented a number of food security and nutrition policies and programs. Yet food and nutrition insecurity remain a huge challenge for the country. This section discusses key knowledge, policy, and implementation gaps that, if filled, can lead to accelerated progress in ending hunger and undernutrition in Ethiopia.

Knowledge (gaps in evidence, data, capacity)

There are key knowledge gaps that have slowed progress in Ethiopia. Generating and sharing actionable, context-specific knowledge can help shape, advocate for, and implement policies efficiently and effectively in Ethiopia. Opportunities for new research include:

1. Evidence on agriculture-nutrition pathways in Ethiopia, including topics of women’s empowerment, increasing incomes and productivity of nutritious foods, and using behavior change communication (BCC) to promote dietary diversity.

2. Research on patterns of undernutrition—for example, the reasons for high rates of stunting in areas with high agricultural productivity.
3. Clear evidence and synthesis of stories of success in nutrition, especially looking beyond food-based solutions (for example, WASH).
4. Better understanding of how agricultural programming can have adverse impacts on nutrition—for example, land allocation to cash and export crops may overlook the need for local consumption of nutrient-dense crops.
5. Context-specific strategies and solutions across Ethiopia’s changing and diverse landscape (cultural and geographic)—for example, different extension strategies for different farm types.
6. Identification of the “low-hanging fruit” in terms of quick-win food security and nutrition interventions in Ethiopia.
7. Understanding of why investments in agriculture have not resulted in surplus production—identifying the supply-side constraint.
8. Identifying barriers to improved access to nutritious food for women and children—what are the constraints in reaching larger numbers of those in need?
9. Focus on key food distribution and processing challenges—what are the marketing and food processing constraints?

Research system and capacity

The Ethiopian Agricultural Research system responds to agricultural development programs and strategies, but needs to conduct more policy and strategic research to proactively support the agricultural development process. Further, more timely and relevant data must be collected and shared. Challenges to the research system include:

- Low human resources capacity: 46 percent of the research staff holds BSc degree and only 17 percent holds a PhD (EIAR 2015)
- Inadequate research facilities: laboratory facilities, capacity for advancements in biotechnology
- Logistics challenges: Lack of transport and resources for field activities
- Limited staff incentives: High staff turnover
- Lack of knowledge repository: Database on research findings

Additionally, capacity development is needed at the individual, community, organizational, and structural levels, including greater capacity for data analysis and research dissemination.

Policy and strategy gaps

As Ethiopia continues its impressive economic growth, guiding and managing economic transformation is increasingly important. Ethiopia’s strategy of using agricultural growth as a driver of economic growth has far-reaching positive implications for increasing employment and accelerating poverty reduction (Mellor and Dorosh 2011). Agricultural growth also boosts growth in nonagricultural sectors (Diao et al. 2007). While the Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II) is consistent with the objective of economic transformation via agricultural growth, filling gaps—such as promoting improved seed and fertilizer use, facilitating increased private sector participation, and strengthening capacity of extension agents—through policy can help to improve the chances of reaching the GTP-II’s goals (Mellor and Dorosh 2011). At the same time, greater investment in agricultural R&D to sustain growth will be key.

Along with this, scaled up investment in strengthening the capacities of agricultural research staff is also crucial.

Along with filling policy and investment gaps in the agricultural sector, a key priority for policy should be to continue to improve nutritional outcomes. Ethiopians consume significantly less fruits and vegetables per capita than the rest of Africa south of the Sahara, and improving diet diversity and quality has been identified as a major task for improving child growth in Ethiopia (Headey 2015). Doing so requires a comprehensive approach that examines and improves key policies driving diet diversity and quality, such as those that promote household assets building, parental education, and antenatal care exposure.

Ethiopia has strong potential to address nutrition multisectorally due to a policy environment that recognizes the role of agriculture and related sectors in improving nutrition. For example, the agricultural sector, as outlined in its Nutrition Sensitive Strategy, implements programs that can greatly contribute to the achievements of the objectives of the National Nutrition Programme (NNP). Yet still, stakeholders participating in the Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in East Africa (LANEA) Ethiopia study reported “siloed” perspectives on nutrition and stressed the need for stronger emphasis on nutrition within the Agricultural Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF), as well as defining a clear role for agriculture in the NNP. Research shows that linking agriculture and social protection through the Productive Safety Net Programme led to investments by beneficiaries with potential long-term benefits (Hoddinott et al. 2015). Further the NNP was agreed upon by nine ministries, and the extent to which the activities of the other ministries are aligned with the NNP is not as clear. Mainstreaming nutrition into policies for the other sectors that have agreed upon the National Nutrition Programme could help fill this gap.

Another gap is how to ensure stable investments in nutrition, as such investments may not have immediate visible impacts—leading to potential challenges for maintaining political will to address undernutrition. Clear communication of evidence and linkages across sectors is necessary. Lastly, there is need to establish a framework for developing food value chains in which challenges along the chain (food supply, marketing, distribution, processing, and utilization) can be addressed in an integrated manner.

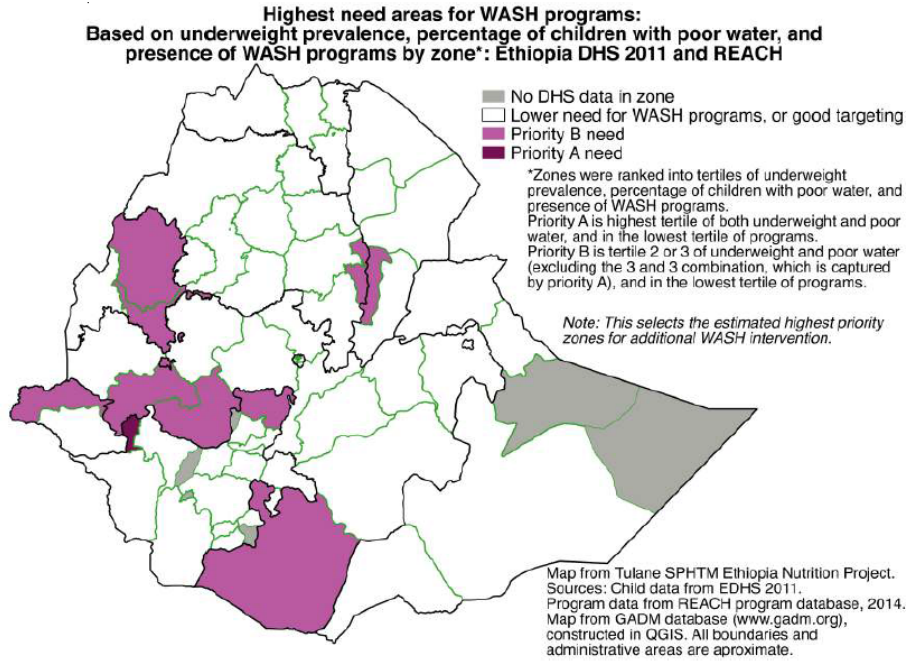
Implementation/programming/scaling-up capacity

While there are many strategies, policies, and programs in place throughout the country, implementation gaps exist in terms of coverage of existing programs. There is a strong need for coordination for nutrition both horizontally (within and across ministries, donors, and other actors) and vertically (across tiers of government down to community-level implementation). Challenges to integrating nutrition and agriculture include the lack of an institution to oversee implementation of multisectoral nutrition policies and programs. Further, program implementation (across sectors) is constrained by human and logistical constraints.

Coverage

Targeted coverage for specific interventions or programs in areas of most need can help shore up uneven impact of food security or nutrition interventions or programs. For example, better coverage of WASH infrastructure can help reduce undernutrition especially in these targeted areas. Figure 7 depicts areas where undernutrition (child underweight) is highest relative to lack of improved WASH infrastructure. The top priority areas that this analysis suggests are mainly in the center-southwest of the country.

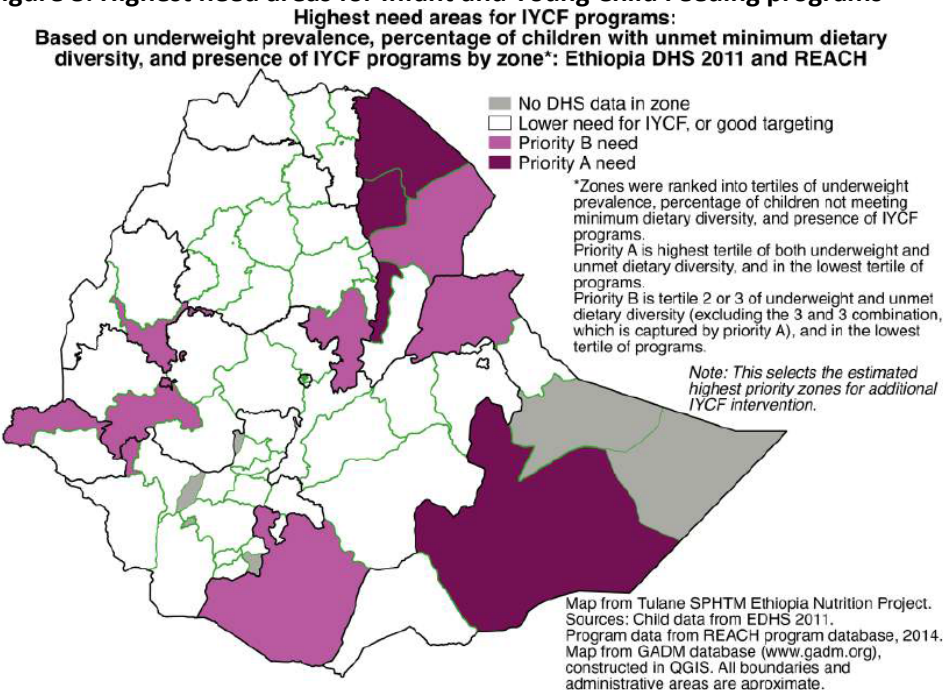
Figure 7: Highest need areas for WASH programs



Source: Mason et al. 2015.

Likewise, when looking at coverage of infant and young child feeding practices mapped against prevalence of child undernutrition, analysis suggests highest priority to Affar and Somali, and also southern SNNP (where pastoralism is also common). Areas in Gambela and western Oromia are also of priority (see Figure 8).

Figure 8: Highest need areas for Infant and Young Child Feeding programs



Source: Mason et al. 2015.

The coverage of current nutrition-driven programs remains limited, with large-scale programs like the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) and Agriculture Growth Programme (AGP) only reaching 10 to 15 percent of the population. This is partly a question of funding—study participants reported that there is no funding for nutrition outside the Ministry of Health, and without a government mandate to integrate nutrition and agriculture, commitment to funding and investment in multisectoral approaches to nutrition will remain limited.

Human capital development

Human resource capacity is instrumental for program implementation. But there is a lack of adequate and qualified staff to implement program activities at the local level. Due to increased demand for nutrition intervention, providing sufficient training is also constrained. For example, studies indicate that health extension workers (HEWs) are overburdened (Teklehaimanot et al. 2007; Amouzou et al. 2015). This challenge was induced after the government changed the modality of health service delivery at community level. Supporting human resources for implementation can help to effectively deliver services and scale up programs and interventions.

Improving capacity of cooperatives can also help to fill implementation gaps. Cooperatives are considered to serve their members to overcome input supply, output marketing and access credit. For example, rural savings and credit cooperatives (RUSACCOs) were supposed to provide credit service for Household Asset Building Program beneficiaries, but limited capacity of RUSACCOs to handle fund management has been a major challenge to program rollout (Berhane et al. 2013).

In general, capacity development is key to filling the gap between knowledge and implementation. There is need for nutritionists to understand the agricultural sector and for the agricultural sector to understand nutrition, especially considering that the government, NGOs, donors, and the private sector all have limited experience with nutrition-driven agriculture. Capacity development is also needed at district and *kebele* (village) levels. Stakeholders suggested that this could begin with better dissemination of the NNP and engagement in dialogues, as well as creating nutrition focal points within each of the nine ministries.

Logistic and transport constraints

Research findings identified the logistic constraints in implementing nutrition programs. For example, evaluation of PSNP progress shows that the *woreda* early warning team is constrained by lack of facilities including transport for effective monitoring (Berhane et al. 2013). Other challenges include delays in transfer of funds, limited funds relative to needs, lack of technical support, limited staff capacity to prepare contingency plans, and lack of time to implement planned activities. Moreover, the agricultural extension system was under-resourced, with too few development agents with sufficient skills to carry out their role effectively.

SWOT analysis

Ethiopia has strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) to achieving the goal of ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025. The SWOT analysis includes Ethiopia's internal strengths and weaknesses toward achieving this goal, as well as the external or global opportunities that may be helpful, or threats that may impede progress.

Strengths

- High level of political will for food security and nutrition
- Community health workers/extension workers in place for intervention delivery
- Political structure in place for multisectoral collaboration

Weaknesses

- Incomplete coverage of nutrition programs
- Lack of capacity for multisectoral collaboration at community level

Opportunities

- Momentum from Sustainable Development Goals, global initiatives supporting Ethiopia
- Strong social protection mechanism in place
- Boosting production of local crops

Threats

- Climate change
- Risk of natural disasters
- Population growth/demographics

Strengths

Throughout all levels of government, Ethiopia has strong political will to tackle hunger and undernutrition, and targets and goals have been formalized in its development framework and key strategic plans. Their commitment to accelerating progress to end hunger and undernutrition has been recently reconfirmed through the Seqota Declaration—named after a town in North Ethiopia where the declaration was signed. Ethiopia also recognizes the importance of multisectoral collaboration in streamlining nutrition into other strategies and programs.

The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) continues to be a strength for Ethiopia in their fight against poverty, hunger, and undernutrition. It has been shown to help protect households from the impact of shocks such as drought and food price inflation, and has helped mitigate the reduction in cognitive skills associated with these shocks (Berhane et al. 2014). Combining PSNP with asset-building programs increases agricultural incomes, asset building, and food security further than PSNP alone (Berhane et al. 2014). It also helps promote fertilizer use and investment in agriculture (Hoddinott et al. 2012).

PSNP also has the potential to be a strong nutrition-driven program by acting as an effective delivery mechanism for nutrition interventions (Ruel and Alderman 2013). Relatedly, another strength of Ethiopia is the strong framework for implementing current and potential interventions and programs. Community health workers and extension agents are already in place throughout the country.

Weaknesses

While there are many programs and interventions to promote food security and nutrition throughout the country, coverage of such programs are not always concentrated in areas of the most need. Better targeting of food security and nutrition programs and interventions—along with better and more timely

data on who and where vulnerable populations reside—can help to accelerate progress. Avenues to experiment with innovative modalities of gathering or obtaining data (for example, using information and communications technologies) should be explored to address this area. Further, there is a lack of capacity to implement nutrition-driven agriculture, especially at the community level.

Opportunities

There are numerous multinational, nonprofit, for-profit, and research organizations, as well as development partners, working in Ethiopia. The great global momentum from the Sustainable Development Goals along with the many institutions working in the country can help provide and maintain attention to issues of food security and nutrition.

Ethiopia has an opportunity to take advantage of its strong social protection mechanism (that is, PSNP and related programs) by mainstreaming nutrition interventions and providing more nutritious foods. Initial assessments of PSNP found little to no impact on child nutrition status (Gilligan et al. 2009). Later studies found that PSNP provides positive short-term nutritional benefits for children, especially in those households that are able to leverage underemployed female labor (Debela 2015). The new PSNP will be nutrition-driven and therefore may have impacts on nutrition outcomes—careful monitoring and evaluation systems are required to assess impact.

Analyses suggest that smallholder teff producers in Ethiopia have considerable room for yield improvements. Factors that explain the differences in productivity between the average households and the most optimal households include, among others, schooling, access to credits, and access to information on modern production methods directly through extension (Bachewe et al. 2015). By leveraging local crops, Ethiopia can boost food production and productivity while supporting smallholders, thus improving nutrition via greater availability (greater supply of local staple) and access (higher incomes for smallholders).

Threats

Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economic Strategy recognizes the threat of climate change to ongoing economic growth in Ethiopia. Further, climate change is projected to have significant impacts on agriculture, food security, and human well-being (Springmann et al. 2016). Climate-related events such as heavy rainfall or too little rainfall occur more frequently than in years past. Droughts are often responsible for famine, food shortages, a reduction in plant and animal species, and displacement of people in search of food and pasture.

Five major recommendations

Recommendations resulting from the Ethiopia roundtable discussion are summarized and discussed in this section. While not exhaustive, these recommendations have been identified to address challenges, fill gaps, and exploit opportunities to accelerate progress. Underlying these recommendations is the strong political will and commitment for ending hunger and undernutrition as expressed by all stakeholders at the meeting, beginning with the Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

1. Fill data and knowledge gaps

Participants identified several data gaps that must be filled in order to generate evidence to inform policies and programs. These gaps include data on key groups (for example, pastoralists) and areas (for example, food-insecure hotspots). Participants also recommended the collection of more gender-

disaggregated data and intrahousehold data—for example, very little data is collected on youth ages 10 to 15. Data should also cover the various regions and agroecological zones throughout Ethiopia to account for and understand varying consumption patterns, as well as the agricultural challenges unique to different areas. Overall, national surveys with large samples sizes are recommended in order to provide enough information for analysis at the *woreda* level.

Critical knowledge gaps include further understanding linkages between nutrition and other sectors, including natural resource management, markets, and gender—for example, research can shed light on any potential trade-offs between empowering women and their traditional roles as caregivers, and impacts on nutrition outcomes. More research on how to use behavior change communication to create demand for nutritious food, and research for a broader understanding of the social and cultural drivers of malnutrition is also needed. Lastly, there is a need to broaden the evidence base for nutrition-driven programs, as well as evidence on impacts of nutrition-specific interventions.

Filling data and knowledge gaps requires upgraded knowledge management and information-sharing systems. Participants identified a need for better systems to share data, knowledge, and lessons learned both among and between stakeholders and sectors. One example could be creating a database of research findings to inform policy formulation and programming. Monitoring and evaluation systems that provide continuous feedback mechanisms to inform programs at all levels should be set up or improved.

2. Develop policies and accountability for better nutrition

As issues of nutrition cut across many sectors, accountability should also be shared. Starting from the highest levels, nutrition should be a mandate that cuts across relevant line ministries, sectoral policies, and donors. Experiences in Ethiopia with mainstreaming issues of gender and HIV across sectors can provide examples for doing so with nutrition. Nutrition financing and an accountability structure should be developed.

Policies should help to improve nutrition outcomes of consumers, particularly poor consumers. For example, the government can establish dietary guidelines and communicate those guidelines to improve proper utilization of food. Additionally, agricultural policies that promote horticulture along with staple crops can help to make agriculture more nutrition-driven and improve nutrition outcomes for consumers. Forward-thinking policies should also be developed to address and prevent overweight and obesity.

Further, a framework or strategy should be developed to ensure quality and safety of food. This includes a plan to improve production and laboratory capacities, implement tests and inspections, create and regulate quality standards, and develop a legal framework that works for large and small farms.

3. Enhance implementation and scale-up of programs

As Ethiopia begins to implement the Seqota Declaration, it is crucial to build in systems for monitoring and evaluation in order to learn lessons and refine programs for scale up. Also, opportunities to harmonize implementation and build on synergies across sectors and actors need to be exploited. For example, agriculture and social protection programs should be driven by nutrition outcomes; school feeding programs can buy nutritious foods from agricultural cooperatives; and complementarities in enhancing nutrition can be found in advancing improved WASH infrastructure and providing irrigation. Further, health professionals should also be engaged in nutrition-driven practices. The vast network of

extension workers should be trained and leveraged to provide information on best practices in nutrition at the household level.

4. Improve coordination

No one sector or organization can end hunger and undernutrition alone, and coordination is key to complement each other's efforts while avoiding duplication. While mechanisms are in place to coordinate across sectors and actors, existing platforms should be strengthened. Participants suggested that a high office—at the level of the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister—could act as a body to coordinate efforts and track progress from multiple actors. Additionally, coordinating committees should have greater decision-making authority. Participants also recommended creating a platform for private sector groups and cooperatives to get involved.

Coordination should be strengthened at all levels of government, down to the *woreda* level, and such coordination should direct efforts toward common targets. Joint planning and budgeting can help to improve cooperation across sectors.

5. Strengthen capacity

There is a need to strengthen in-country capacity at all levels, especially for nutrition knowledge and food safety standards. Nutrition knowledge should be improved by establishing a focal person for nutrition in each *woreda*. Furthermore, joint capacity building activities should be implemented for actors across sectors working at the community level. A nutrition curriculum should be developed to train workers on the ground in good nutrition practices.

Along the food value chain, capacity must be strengthened in order for all parties to enhance nutrition and to meet food quality and safety standards. At the household level, greater capacity, knowledge, and accountability are needed to accelerate progress. Improving household knowledge on proper utilization of food and sharing knowledge on nutrition can help to fill this gap.

Conclusion and next steps

Ethiopia has made strong progress in reducing poverty, hunger, and undernutrition in recent decades. National commitments buttressed by support from numerous partners and stakeholders who work at national and subnational levels throughout the country help advance food security and nutrition. However, in order for Ethiopia to meet its goals, including ending hunger and undernutrition by 2030, progress must be accelerated.

There are many opportunities to fill gaps in research, policy, and implementation in order to accelerate progress. Developing research on context-specific, agriculture-nutrition pathways can help improve implementation. Further, generating more evidence, synthesizing lessons on success stories in food security and nutrition, and effectively communicating those findings can help to influence decision makers and inform practitioners.

Agricultural policies, technologies, and partnerships can help increase food production while achieving simultaneous wins of accelerated economic growth, poverty alleviation, resilience-building, climate-smart action, and resource efficiency. Coordination across sectors and stakeholders can help to accelerate progress by leveraging synergies and reducing duplication of efforts. Implementation of nutrition policies and interventions must be rolled out to all *woredas*, especially those that face higher rates of hunger and undernutrition. Providing mechanisms for tracking and monitoring will be critical for

learning, correcting, and improving programs and interventions and for effective scale-up of successes. Stimulating innovations for new solutions in policy, technology, and implementation and sharing knowledge on what works and can help fill these gaps within Ethiopia and beyond.

Responding to the needs identified at the roundtable discussion, Compact2025 will set up a Knowledge and Innovation Hub in Ethiopia, ideally within the Prime Minister’s Office in partnership with relevant ministries and stakeholders. The hub will work to support country goals, processes, and programs with demand-driven research for the purpose of accelerating progress. It will help to collect data, strengthen capacities, and enhance tracking and monitoring systems. The hub will stimulate innovation, synthesize lessons and compile, share, and communicate information and best practices within Ethiopia and beyond. It will also leverage existing networks, including the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) located in Addis Ababa. Outputs of the hub will include a freely accessible website, which will be set up so that it can be accessed by farmers and individuals in local communities through their mobile phones. A follow-up roundtable will be held next year to reconvene stakeholders, evaluate progress, identify action gaps, and fine-tune next steps toward ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025 in Ethiopia.

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Annex

Table 1: National Development Frameworks and Sector Strategic Plans relevant to Food Security and Nutrition

Policy/Strategy/Program/Action	Lead institution	Policy objective(s)	Key outcome indicators and targets for Food Security and Nutrition	Observation
Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II)	Government of Ethiopia (GoE), Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reaching lower-middle-income status by 2025 - Achieving annual average real GDP growth rate of 11 percent within stable macroeconomic environment - Pursuing aggressive measures toward rapid industrialization and structural transformation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sustain rapid, broad-based, and equitable economic growth and development; b) Increase productive capacity and efficiency of productive sectors (agriculture and manufacturing industries); d) Build the capacity of the domestic construction industry, bridge critical infrastructure gaps; f) Accelerate human development and technological capacity building; g) Build democratic institutions and good governance h) Promote women’s and youth empowerment i) Build climate-resilient green economy 	
The Seqota Declaration	GoE	Eliminate malnutrition in all its forms to propel sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Zero stunting in children less than 2 years b) 100% access to adequate food all year round c) Transform smallholder productivity and income d) Zero loss of food e) Sustainable food systems f) Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) g) Education h) Social protection 	<p>The Seqota Declaration is planned to be implemented in three phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Innovation Phase: Learning by doing (2016–2018) (ii) Expansion to more vulnerable communities (2019–2020) (iii) National Scale Up (2020–2030)
Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP, 2015/16–2019/20)			Nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation are among the priorities of the HSTP.	<p>Four transformation agendas to help achieve HSTP goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Transformation toward quality and equity in health service (ii) “woreda transformation” (iii) a movement toward compassionate, respectful, and caring health professionals (iv) information revolution
Agriculture sector strategic/				

Policy/Strategy/Program/Action	Lead institution	Policy objective(s)	Key outcome indicators and targets for Food Security and Nutrition	Observation
transformation plan				
Other key sector plans				

Table 2: Overview of ongoing strategic objectives and actions based on the National Nutrition Programme Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective	Selected implementation mechanisms/modalities	Overview/observations
1: Improve the nutritional status of women (15–49 years) and adolescents (10–19 years).	Ante- and postnatal care, targeted supplementary feeding, school-based deworming and feeding, school clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low rate of implementation across all planned initiatives and activities - Most initiatives are ‘school-based’; difficulty reaching out-of-school adolescents - Stronger participation of education sector in next phase of NNP may allow for acceleration of planned nutrition activities
2: Improve the nutritional status of infants, youth, and children under 5	Growth-monitoring and promotion (GMP), ante- and postnatal care, vitamin A supplementation, deworming, oneWASH national programme, Joint Action Plan, PSNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most ongoing NNP initiatives and activities are nutrition-specific interventions taking place under this objective - Main challenges are on implementation, that is, the coverage and quality in service delivery, and public understanding of purpose/importance of the service
3: Improve the delivery of nutrition services for communicable and noncommunicable/lifestyle related diseases	Health Extension Program (HEP), Women Development Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moving toward full integration of nutrition actions into routine health services delivery systems. - Nutrition mainstreaming process is still ongoing and pace of the process should be adapted to the expansion and strengthening of the capacity of the Health Extension Program.
4: Strengthen implementation of nutrition sensitive interventions across sectors	Homestead/community/urban/school gardening, Nutrition unit in MoA, Farmers Training Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited and scattered implementation, often with limited coverage of only a few <i>kebele</i> and households - Most proposed nutrition sensitive programs are within the agricultural sector where implementation has been slow; however, a wide range of initiatives are starting up
5: Improve multisectoral coordination and capacity to ensure NNP implementation	Training for primary healthcare units, NNP coordination committee, NNP monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NNP coordinating mechanism has been at place at national level since 2008 but only recently at <i>woreda</i> level - <i>Woreda</i> officials conveyed excitement about integrated nutrition training sessions

Strategic Objective	Selected implementation mechanisms/modalities	Overview/observations
	tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern that one training session would not be enough to manage nutrition planning, implementation, and reviews - They emphasized need for continued high-level and effective advocacy and communication actions to maintain strong public support on nutrition
Source: Adapted from Ljungqvist 2015.		

Table 3: Government and partners cross-cutting policies and action plans relevant to Food Security and Nutrition

Policies and plans	Lead institution	Objective (s)	Key targets/milestones	Observation
National Nutrition Strategy (NNS)/ National Nutrition Programme (NNP)	National Nutrition Coordinating Body (chair: MoH, co-chairs: MoANR and MoE)	To ensure that all Ethiopians are able to achieve an adequate nutritional status in a sustainable manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improve the nutritional status of women (15–49 years) and adolescents (10–19 years) ii. Improve the nutritional status of infants, youth children, and children under 5 iii. Improve the delivery of nutrition services for communicable and noncommunicable/life style-related diseases (all age groups) iv. Strengthen implementation of nutrition sensitive interventions across sectors v. Improve multisectoral coordination and capacity to ensure NNP implementation 	..
Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Strategic Plan	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource (MoANR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To increase the production and access to diverse, safe, and nutrient-dense foods for all at all times. ii. To improve household consumption of nutritious, diverse, and safe food by all Ethiopians. iii. To protect vulnerable populations using social transfer schemes or programs, pro-poor food security interventions, and emergency food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Leverage nutrition into agricultural policy, strategies, and program documents at all level; ii. Establish and strengthen structure responsible for nutrition mainstreaming, and build the capacity of the agriculture sector; iii. Enhance resilience of vulnerable communities and households prone to climate change and drought; iv. Increase year-round availability, access, and consumption of diverse, safe, and nutritious food; 	Overall goal: To contribute to the NNP goal of reducing child and women undernutrition by increasing the quantity and quality of food available, accessible, and affordable and promoting utilization of diversified foods for all Ethiopians.

Policies and plans	Lead institution	Objective (s)	Key targets/milestones	Observation
		relief.	v. Gender (women empowering and promoting labor- and energy-saving technologies); and vi. Developing strong multisectoral coordination.	
Agricultural Growth Program II (AGP-II) (2015–2020)	MoANR	Contribute to the higher-level objectives of poverty reduction, and climate change mitigation and adaptation through supported climate-smart agriculture initiatives. It aims to achieve increased yield of crops and livestock, increased sales of crop and livestock products, and increased household dietary diversity.	Percentage increase in agricultural yields of participating households and Percentage increase in total marketed value of targeted crops and livestock products per participating household will be used as key program development objective level indicators.	Public agricultural support services (extension, crop and livestock health, soil fertility, NRM, scaling-up best practices); research (adaptation and generation of technologies, popularization); small-scale irrigation; agricultural marketing and value chains; and capacity building.
Eastern Africa Agricultural Productivity Program II (EAAPP-II) (2015–2019)	..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Enhance regional specialization in agricultural research; ii. Enhance collaboration in agriculture training and technology dissemination; and iii. Facilitate increased transfer of agricultural technology, information, and knowledge across national boundaries. 	..	Capacity building, technology generation, training and technology dissemination, technology multiplication in nine regional states, Dire Dawa, and Addis Ababa City Administrations
Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Program (PLRP)
Productive Safety Net Program IV (PSNP-IV) (2015–2020)	MoANR, DRMFSS Technical Committee under Rural	Resilience to shocks and livelihoods enhanced and food security and nutrition improved for rural households vulnerable to food insecurity. It contributes to achievement of four policy objectives: GTP, social protection policy, disaster	Timely and adequate transfer of food to the most food insecure people in the most food-insecure areas; income generation activities; capacity building, credit service for about 10 million chronically food insecure (8.5 mill) and transitory food insecure (1.7 mill)	PSNP IV focuses on system development (to gradually integrate into regular government system in 10 years)

Policies and plans	Lead institution	Objective (s)	Key targets/milestones	Observation
	and Economic Development & Food Security (RED&FS)	risk management, climate-resilient green economy and National Nutrition Programme.	households in all regions except Gambella and BSG;	
Household Asset Building Program (HABP)	MoANR, DRMFS Technical Committee under RED&FS	Improve food security status for male and female members of food insecure households in chronically food insecure (CFI) <i>woredas</i>	Goal: graduating 80 percent of PSNP beneficiaries by 2014.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment creation for rural youth and women for landless and underemployed household members in productive activities; • Value addition through agricultural processing; • Strengthening of rural development centers through service delivery; • Development of commercialization and introduction of modern technologies into rural areas; • Income generation for people living with HIV/AIDS • Nine regional States and DireDawa City Admin.
Sustainable Land Management-II (SLM-II) (2013–2019)	MoA, Technical Committee Sustainable Land	Reduce land degradation, leading to the protection and/or restoration of ecosystem functions and diversity in agricultural landscapes.	..	Land and water conservation, afforestation/reforestation, rehabilitation of degraded areas, protection of ecologically critical ecosystems in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, and SNNPR degraded areas
National School Health and Nutrition Strategy (SHN)	Ministry of Education (MoE)	Promote joint planning, design, and implementation of sustainable and quality health and nutrition interventions across the education sector. Strengthen coordination, linkage, and partnership of SHN interventions by	Enable improved access to better health and nutrition services for 18,850,986 school-age children and some 376,937 teachers through 33,284 government and nongovernment schools (MoE 2012)	To improve access and educational achievement of schoolchildren through health and nutrition interventions in educational establishments in Ethiopia.

Policies and plans	Lead institution	Objective (s)	Key targets/milestones	Observation
		relevant ministries, communities, and other stakeholders.		
Health Extension Programme	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift healthcare resources from predominantly urban to rural areas • Improve access and equity of health services at village and household levels • Ensure ownership by increasing health awareness, knowledge, and skills among community members • Promote gender equality in access • Improve the utilization of peripheral health services through health extension workers (HEWs) • Reduce maternal and child mortality • Promote an overall healthy lifestyle 	..	By mid-2008/09, the FMoH has successfully deployed over 30,190 health extension workers throughout Ethiopia
Agriculture Extension Programme	MoANR	Similar to Health Extension Programme, the Agriculture Extension Programme has community-level structure
Small-Scale Irrigation (SSI) Project (2011–2016)	Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Energy	Expand irrigated agriculture; improve irrigation water-use efficiency and agricultural production efficiency; develop irrigation systems that are technically and financially sustainable; and address waterlogging problems in irrigated area and increase production	The irrigation projects are expected to benefit farmers and pastoralists located in different regions by bringing 510,603 ha under irrigation when completed in 2016.	Targeted for small scale farmers, <i>woreda</i> experts, Das in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, SNNPR, and Harari Regions

Policies and plans	Lead institution	Objective (s)	Key targets/milestones	Observation
		and productivity.		
Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Program (PLRP) (2013–2017)	IGAD, led in Ethiopia by MoANR	To contribute to poverty reduction, food security, and sustainable economic growth through enhanced rural incomes	..	Natural resource management (NRM); Market access and trade (MAT); Livelihood support (LH); and Pastoral risk management (PRM) for pastoral and agropastoral households with small herds and flocks operating in 15 <i>woredas</i> of Afar and Somali Regional States of Ethiopia
OneWASH	Ministries of Water Resources, Health, Education, and Finance & Economic Development	To modernize water and sanitation service delivery; improve health situation, decrease the drop-out rates of children in schools, make financing for WASH more effective.
Community-based nutrition (CBN) program	Ministry of Health, with overall responsibility for CBN within the <i>Woreda</i> Health Office	Nutrition service delivery at community level	..	CBN activities are conducted by Volunteer Community Health Workers (VCHWs) in <i>kebeles</i> (villages), supervised by Health Extension Workers (HEWs), from health posts. The CBN activities plausibly had a significant benefit on child anthropometry and other aims, well exceeding targets, for example for stunting.

Table 4: Select development partners operating in Ethiopia

Implementing agency	Overview
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World Bank	The World Bank has provided lending for more than 150 projects in Ethiopia that have focused on infrastructure, the delivery of basic services, and food security and education, among other things. As of August 2015, the portfolio has 25 active projects with a commitment value of more than US\$7 billion.
Ethiopia-Canada Cooperation Office (ECCO)	ECCO (was called CIDA) is one of the major funding sources for mega agricultural programs such as AGP, RCBP, SLM and supporters of projects implemented by NGOs. Ethiopia is a country of focus for Canada’s international development assistance, and Canada is the third largest bilateral country donor to Ethiopia. Canada’s bilateral development cooperation program is focused on food security, agricultural growth and sustainable economic growth. Interventions also recognize the importance of advancing democracy and human rights to ensure that Ethiopia’s development progress is inclusive and sustainable. In 2011–2012, Canada provided \$207.64 million in development and humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia through bilateral and multilateral channels as well as through Canadian NGOs.
USAID	USAID supports development and food and nutrition security programs of Ethiopia through its different programs: Feed the Future, AGP, and New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. Through Feed the Future , USAID is helping vulnerable households participate in economic activities and generate demand for products. The program components include nutrition, climate change adaptation, humanitarian assistance, private sector development. USAID’s Feed the Future Strategy in Ethiopia focuses on three core components: agricultural growth-enabled food security, linking the vulnerable to markets, and fostering a regulatory environment and private sector conducive to economic growth and targeting 149 <i>woredas</i> containing a combined population of approximately 16 million people. For example, it supports Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic opportunities (ENGINE), implemented by Save the Children in 100 <i>woredas</i> . USAID supports the Agriculture Growth Programme (AGP), especially funding the market and value chain component of the program, which is implemented by ACDI/VOCA. In addition, USAID also works with the Government of Ethiopia to improve the enabling environment to support private sector growth and investment in agriculture through the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. Moreover, USAID is the largest bilateral donor to PSNP, contributing 20 percent of the budget for 2010–2014. The design phase for the future generation of PSNP and Household Asset Building Program (HABP) officially started in June 2013. USAID’s Ethiopia mission, with nine other donor partners, is actively engaged in jointly shaping the vision for the next generation program together with the Government of Ethiopia.
Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy (KNE)	KNE developed a Multi-Annual Strategic Plan (2014–2017) which guides its support of programs in Ethiopia. The Embassy developed projects under three strategic pillars: (i) Reduce household vulnerability—supporting PSNP, Resilience Building, Improving food security and strengthening community cohesion in Gambella Region, and Compact2025; (ii) Increase agricultural productivity and market access—supporting AGP II, Capacity Building for Scaling-up of Evidence-based Best Practices in Ethiopia (CASCAPE), Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD), Small Scale and Micro Irrigation Support Project (SMIS), Sesame Business Network (SBN), Enhancing Dairy Sector Growth in Ethiopia (EDGET), Bilateral Ethiopian Netherlands Effort for Food, Income and Trade Partnership (BENEFIT), which is an umbrella project comprising the four current WUR projects: CASCAPE, SBN, ISSD, ABSF, enabling them to work in a more integrated fashion, Smallholder horticulture development project; (iii) Increase competitiveness of agribusiness, income and employment—supporting Agri-Business Support Facility (ABSF), will continue under the name Trade facility for Agribusiness (TAG) under the BENEFIT umbrella project, Ethio-Dutch Programme for Horticultural Development Project (ED-HDP), Dairy Business Information and Service Project (Dairybiss), Food Security and Rural Entrepreneurship (FSRE) Fund; and (iv) Contributing to other pillars: Gambella & Central Rift Valley Sustainable Landscapes Programme, Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), and Development Assistance Group (DAG) round 5. Overall, KNE allocated 33.7 million Euro for the year 2016.
DFID	DFID funded projects, include Wealth Creation; Climate Change; Governance and Security; Education; Health; Water and Sanitation; Poverty, Hunger and Vulnerability and Humanitarian during 2010/11–2014/15 with £195 million. The program aims to (i) reduce child mortality by a quarter in 5 years; (ii) put 4 million more children in primary school; and (iii) protect almost 8 million poor people from hunger by 2015.
European Union (EU)	EU has food security facility which supports projects implemented by civic organizations and NGOs. Different projects are currently being carried out across a wide range of sectors in Ethiopia. EU assistance focuses in particular on support for infrastructure development, food security, good

	governance, and capacity building. EU funding for projects in Ethiopia is provided in the form of grants, sectoral support, and protection of basic services, and productive safety nets support. The projects financed by EU fall under the following thematic areas: (i) Governance, democracy, human rights, and support for economic and institutional reforms; (ii) Rural development, territorial planning, agriculture, and food security; (iii) Water and energy; (iv) Human development; (v) Infrastructure; (vi) Environment and sustainable management of natural resources; and (vii) Multi-sectors. The project covers food insecure and marginal areas including pastoral communities.
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	JICA's development support through technical assistance and grants includes many sectors including education, health, agriculture and rural development, water resources and disaster management, transport, and private sector development (including the Project on Capacity Building for Dissemination of Quality and Productivity Improvement [KAIZEN]).

Table 5: Select NGOs' development projects and programs areas: objectives and activities

Implementing agency	Major project/program objectives	Major project/program activities
Sasakawa Global 2000 (SG 2000) to Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To transfer effective appropriate technologies to locally and externally available improved food production to local farm-level circumstances. To increase production and productivity and help achieve food security and increase farmer incomes. 	Postharvest opportunities, and especially on improving the access of women farmers and agro-processing groups to agricultural extension advisory services. Strengthen public/private partnerships to help strengthen extension advisory delivery systems. Improve extension service delivery to smallholder farmers for increased food security and income at household level. Introduce diversified and innovative agricultural technologies and approaches to the FTCs, builds DA capacity and introduces revenue generation activities.
World Vision International/Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase agricultural production; To increase the level of household income; To enhance local leadership and technical capacity; To enhance the capacity of stakeholders; To enhance socio-economic infrastructure development; To enhance the efficiency of management and leadership capacity of stakeholders; and To increase livestock production and productivity. 	Small-scale irrigation development, Veterinary clinic/post construction, Natural resource conservation, Agricultural extension support, Pest and disease control, Community and government staff capacity building (training).
		Irrigation development. Flood protection. Tractor operation. Veterinary clinic construction. Capacity building (training). Horticulture demonstration. Natural resource conservation. Support extension service. Support early warning system. Pest and disease control.
		Irrigation development. Farmers and line-offices staff training. Material support to government partner office. Provision of veterinary facilities.
		Irrigation development. Provision of credit for the purchase of agricultural inputs. Provision of capacity building training for the community, government, and World Vision–Ethiopia staff.
Agri-Service Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve crop production and productivity. To enhance livestock productivity. To conserve and develop natural resources. 	Vegetable production. Local-level seed production. Promotion of organic farming. Backyard livestock production. Forage seed production and development. Provision of local veterinary service. Sheep production. Forestry, soil and water conservation.
		Provision of awareness training for the community. Vegetable production. Local-level seed production. Promotion of organic farming. Forage development. Poultry production. Bee-keeping improvement. Provision of veterinary service.

Implementing agency	Major project/program objectives	Major project/program activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase disposable household income of families. To enhance capacity building and Community Empowerment. 	Soil and water conservation. Reforestation. Small-scale irrigation development. Support agricultural extension. Support veterinary services. Support pest control.
Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane-Yesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To rehabilitate and develop degraded farms and grazing lands. To build the capacity of the rural community, particularly rural women. To continue management of tree nurseries. To continue follow-up visits to afforestation and horticulture contact farmers. To continue training and providing extension services. 	Natural resources conservation and development. Provision of credit and saving services. Support vegetable production. Training of farmers in information communication and in nursery practices/management. Conduct workshops. Organizing study tour for the project and staff of line-offices.
		Soil and water conservation. Afforestation. Animal husbandry and development. Crop production and protection. Introduction of appropriate technology (wood processing, soap making, handcraft technology /clay/ etc.). Support extension service. Training of farmers and staff.
		Afforestation. Support horticultural production. Assisting livestock production. Provision of training for the target farmers in nursery management, garden management, vegetable production and improved forage production.
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase agricultural production. To maintain natural resource base. To increase household income. To enhance emergency response capacity. To improve health status. 	Diversification of crops and application of fertilizer. Provisions of farm oxen on credit basis for households who have no oxen. Development of agroforestry. Improvement of irrigation development. Training of farmers in appropriate agricultural practices. Improvement of livestock development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support agricultural development of farmers in regions. 	Introduction of improved small-scale dairy farming, poultry farming, bee keeping, fruit orchards, seedling production and vegetable production.
Care International/ Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase crop production/productivity. To improve animal husbandry. To promote income-generating activities. 	Provision of credit for agricultural inputs. River diversion for irrigation. Forage development. Improvement of dairy production. Provision of veterinary services. Improvement of bee keeping.
Menschen für Menschen Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase major agricultural crops and livestock. To rehabilitate the environmental resource base of the target area. To increase the levels of household income of landless women and youth. 	Provision of better extension service. Provision of irrigation facilities and other farm inputs. Improvement of fodder production. Improvement of environmental protection awareness and knowledge of the direct beneficiaries. Support self-employment through skills training and facilitating credit.
Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the coverage and number of hectares of community grazing lands. To increase the area of community fodder production that is protected by soil conservation measures and/or managed with the cut and carry system. To increase the annual cereal and non-cereal crops production of beneficiary households. 	Promotion of vegetable and fruit production. Provision of training for communities and line-office staff. Conducting of seminars/workshops to line-offices/departments concerned.
		Community fodder production. Homestead fodder production. Training of farmers in use and application of fertilizer and improved seeds, the control of pre- and postharvest losses, and the maintenance of the natural resource base. Demonstration of improved farming practices on "lead" farmers' plots. Provision of basic farm inputs for poor farmers through cooperatives. Improvement of existing small-scale irrigation scheme.
Water Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To secure the survival of parts of the population who are unable to feed themselves, due to poor harvests or insufficient own production capacities. 	Promotion of afforestation. Application of soil and water conservation measures. Development of small-scale irrigation practices. Promotion of sustainable agronomic practices. Development of forage development strategies. Identification of suitable strategies for livestock development. Provision of

Implementing agency	Major project/program objectives	Major project/program activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To rehabilitate the natural resources as a precondition for the population to regain their capacity for self-reliance. To enhance the population's potential for self-help and food security initiatives through appropriate measures in different agricultural and off-farm spheres. 	improved veterinary extension services. Provision of training for the target farmers, development agents, etc. in various activities.
SOS-Sahel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop practical mechanisms for local government to promote and support community initiatives through a program of accountable and effective employment schemes, and community-managed grain banks. 	Establishment of Employment Generating Scheme (EGS) fund. Animation of communities for grain bank initiation. Construction of grain banks. Training of community management committees. On-going training of local partners.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To offer a variety of crops with high nutritional values to 20% of children in the target area. 	Conducting crop husbandry training. Promotion of compost preparation as biological fertilizer. Establishment of nursery site and satellite sites. Raising fruit-bearing and multipurpose trees. Identification of target families for improved livestock production. Conducting animal husbandry training. Conducting biological water conservation training. Construction of veterinary posts and livestock crushes.
Oxfam–Great Britain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the nutritional cover of the food insecure and vulnerable section of the community. 	Support afforestation through the provision of tree seeds for the establishment of private tree nurseries. Assist soil and water conservation through the construction of check dams.
Oxfam America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the right to food for poor men and women 	Investment in productive water; strengthening agricultural extension system, R4 Rural resilient initiatives; Increasing Smallholder Agricultural Productivity through Improved Farmer Training Centers (ISAP) project. The programs involve capacity building, investment in livelihood, creating access to credits, gender, etc.
Save the Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To initiate a process of demand-driven agricultural research for marginal and drought-prone areas. To equip agriculture with proven working methodologies for effective farmer-led extension. To allow a program of scaling-up to be initiated. 	Provision of training for farmers, development agents (DAs), MoA experts, etc. Extension package demonstration. Selecting and training of farmer and extension staff. Credit and input supply to overcome constraints of the existing credit system. Implementation of research activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the household food security situation of vulnerable farmers by reducing crop losses due to pests. 	Development of integrated pest management technologies and methodologies. Training of DAs. Spraying chemical pesticides. Establishment/strengthening of revolving funds. Institutional support.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist and build capacity of target groups. To improve incomes by provision of external inputs. To improve nutritional value of food for project target group. 	Empowerment of rural women participating in the project by provision of training related to planning, management, etc. of their daily activities. Income generation through vegetable production. Improvement of nutritional quality and quantity of food available to project participants and their dependents. Improvement of traditional methods of fishing and provision of training to women on fishing to increase quantity and quality of fish caught. Improvement of transportation of fish to markets. Purchase and provision of female goats and ewes to project participants.