



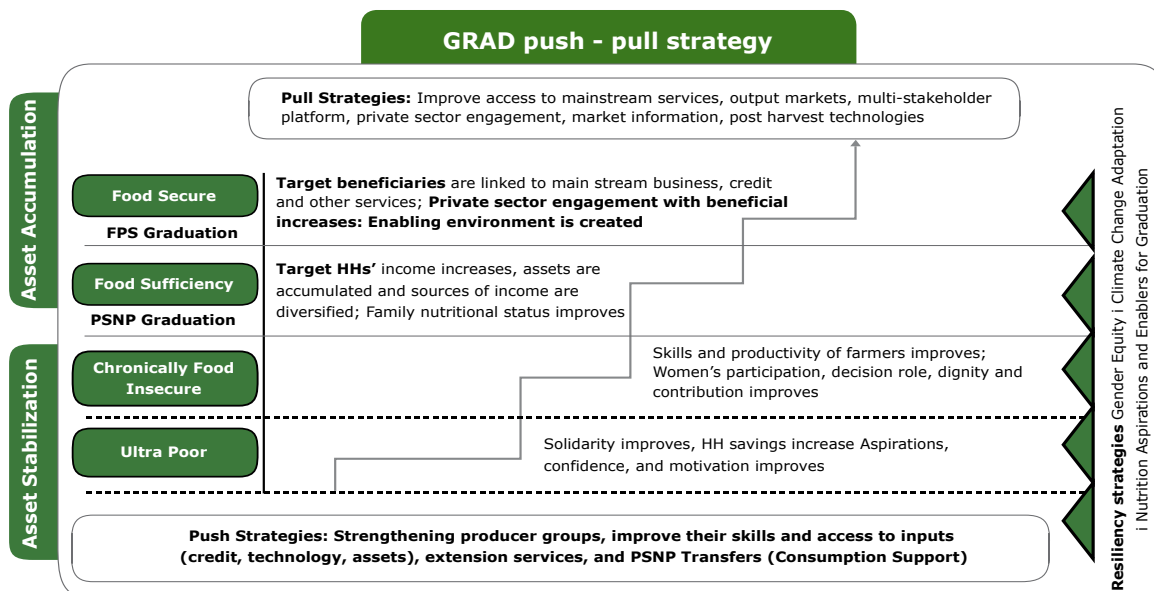
Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development

GRAD: Improving food security and resilience

At a Glance

Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD) aims to improve food security for 65,000 chronically food insecure households in 16 woredas of rural Ethiopia, through three interlinked results: enhanced livelihood options of chronically food insecure households in project areas; improved community and household resilience; and strengthened enabling environment to promote scale and sustainability. GRAD is funded by USAID and implemented by a consortium of NGOs led by CARE. SNV provides technical support on value chain development and agricultural extension, and strategic leadership on input and output marketing. GRAD builds on the lessons learned from GOE's PSNP Plus and the extensive food security programme experience of consortium members.

Coverage	Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray (16 woredas)
Duration	2012-2016
Donor	USAID-CARE
Persons benefitting	65,000 households
Implementing Partners	CARE, CRS/MCS, ORDA, REST, ASE, Tufts University Feinstein Centre
Clients/Partners	HABP, AGP, Private Sector, Sector Ministries, Sector Associations



The Development Challenge

Most of the estimated eight million Ethiopians who live in chronic food insecurity depend on rain-fed agriculture and lack access to financial services, market information and linkages. Production constraints lead to unpredictable agricultural productivity, so that an estimated 60-75% of rural households have food shortages between June and October each year.

Barriers to the food security and resilience of poor rural households include lack of purchasing power, resulting from low cash crop production and limited alternative income-generation and employment opportunities, as well as gender inequities and climate change. As a result, many households are caught in a cycle of poverty and income disparity and are vulnerable to external shocks.

SNV Solutions

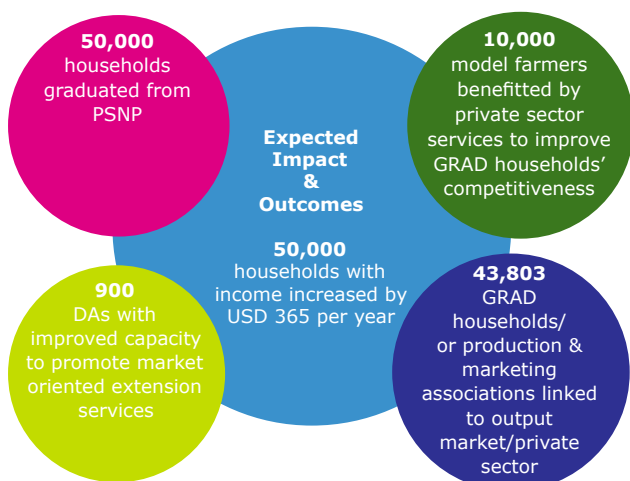
Sustainable markets: SNV believes that by facilitating private sector participation in GRAD activities it is possible to integrate smallholder farmers into long-term sustainable markets. SNV focuses on pull (market) strategies which have a potential to increase the effectiveness of push (production) related activities.

Food and nutrition security: The increased income resulting from market linkages can enable GRAD households to buy more and better quality food. The nutrition security aspect of GRAD is led by CARE.

Climate smart agriculture: SNV has assisted with a climate screening of selected value chains and income generating activities and recommended specific strategies and actions to enhance resilience to the effects of climate change.

Gender and youth: GRAD programme activities consciously aim to further gender equality and woredas are sharing experience on gender mainstreaming, through visits. A project study on gender in value chains has highlighted women's lack of access to finance and services.

Systemic change: GRAD addresses sustainability and the massive potential for wide indirect impact through informing national food security policy and programming, especially the Household Asset Building Program (HABP), with evidence of proven and scale-able models and through joint research and learning.



How is SNV supporting change through GRAD?

Business Development: SNV is contributing to the enhanced livelihood options of food insecure households by providing technical expertise to GRAD in the development of selected value chains: honey, livestock, pulses, red peppers, onions, potatoes and malt barley. SNV engages the private sector in the provision of services, input supply and market opportunities for GRAD farmers, promotes technologies, disseminates market information and facilitates business-to-business relationships and market linkages. SNV also provides training, coaching and mentoring of extension workers on market oriented extension services. Training is provided to animators and promoters of Village and Economic and Social Associations (VESAs) in business skills and business plan preparation, and to members in improved technologies and practices to enhance productivity, quality and competitiveness.

Agro-dealerships: To help GRAD households supply quality value chain commodities to the market they are linked with input and service providers and extension services. In each project woreda an agro-dealer has been identified and received training in entrepreneurship, business skills, record keeping, customer handling and financial management, as well as financial support from the GRAD/SNV private sector development fund.

Sector Development: Building on SNV's rich previous experience in facilitating Multi-Stakeholder Processes (MSPs), GRAD has formed MSPs for the selected value chains in all the project regions, based on detailed analysis for each value chain of contexts, actors, dynamics, governance structures and existing opportunities and constraints. MSPs are organized to coincide with the major production and marketing seasons of each product, and are making significant contributions to sector development through identifying and addressing constraints, promoting appropriate agronomic practices and technologies, sharing market information and building business-to-business linkages. GRAD MSPs are attended by representatives of concerned government offices, development partners, research centres, regional seed enterprises, private input suppliers and individual traders, cooperatives and unions and model farmers, and have succeeded in initiating innovative approaches to influence policy and establish collaboration between private and public stakeholders, as well as other food security programmes.

Knowledge Development: GRAD has been working through collaborative relationships to identify and promote its cost-effective and scalable best practices in the areas of microfinance, value chains, agricultural extension, gender, nutrition, and climate change adaptation. An internal results assessment and mid-term evaluation have contributed learning for GRAD stakeholders, a Participatory Performance Tracking tool is yielding useful data and a joint learning agenda to facilitate action research has been developed. To share progress updates and lessons from implementation GRAD distributes a newsletter to implementing partners and other internal and external stakeholders.



Shafi Aliyu, an agro-dealer in Meskan Woreda, SNNPR, received technical training on input distribution and business management from the GRAD project in 2013, as well as financial support for shop renovation. Shafi's input

supply shop mainly distributes animal feed, equipment and seeds. The improved business has both increased Shafi's income and provided farmers in the area with better access to agricultural inputs and information.

SNV is working on GRAD project in Ethiopia with the support of:

