

**BUREAU OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RESILIENCE FOOD SECURITY ACTIVITY: SPIR II**



**DONOR:** USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs  
**LOCATION:** Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray  
**TIME FRAME:** September 2021 to September 2026  
**PARTNERS:** CARE, IFPRI, ORDA

## Overview

Strengthening PSNP Institutions and Resilience II (SPIR II) is dedicated to addressing food and nutrition insecurity in Ethiopia's Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray regions. This five-year (2021-2026) program funded by USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs as a Resilience Food Security Activity is led by World Vision in collaboration with partners CARE, IFPRI, and ORDA. The program forms a resilient ecosystem, uniting public, private, and community partners to uplift participants from poverty, ensuring lasting income and food security improvements.

## Goal

Improved food security of vulnerable households in targeted PSNP communities, contributing to a sustained reduction in rural poverty.

## Objectives

- Increased income, productive assets, and equitable access to nutritious food for vulnerable women, men, and youth
- Improved health extension, health-seeking behaviors, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, and dietary diversity

## Key Project Models

**Men Engagement Groups:** Change men's attitudes and behaviors towards women. Improve social and cultural norms around gender roles and responsibilities.

**Village Economic and Social Associations (VESAs):** Facilitate member savings and lending. It also serves as a platform for the dissemination of nutrition and health information, to build social cohesion and enhance mutual understanding and trust.

**Extended Market Agents (EMAs):** Build linkages with input suppliers and agro-dealers that expand PSNP clients' access to products, services, and market opportunities.

**Community-based Participatory Nutrition Promotion (CPNP):** Tackles deep-rooted causes of limited consumption of animal-sourced foods, including perceived social, religious, and gender-based taboos, by focusing on the engagement of key religious leaders.

**Group Problem Management Plus:** GPM+ is a psychological intervention certified by the World Health Organization (WHO) to address common mental health problems by non-specialist professionals after brief training and with ongoing supervision. The intervention addresses depression in mothers and fathers and society-wide stresses and anxiety in a supportive group setting including VESA.

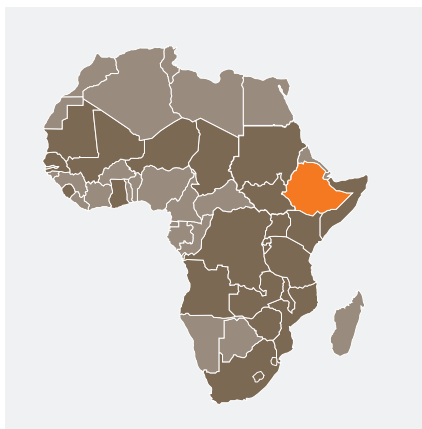
**Timed and Targeted Counseling:** World Vision's signature methodology for improving nutrition and health-seeking behaviors through counseling that is correctly timed to motivate appropriate behaviors by caregivers in the first 1,000 days.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**Budget:** \$206,492,920

**Direct Participants Reached:**  
615,465 (293,013 males, 322,452 females)

**Direct Activity Participating Households:** 255,017



## BUREAU OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RESILIENCE FOOD SECURITY ACTIVITY SPIR II

## Result Highlights – Fiscal Year 2023

### Purpose 1: Vulnerable households and individuals have sufficient quantity, quality, and diversity of food at all times

- SPIR II distributed 31,399.32 MT of wheat (2,534.29 MT), sorghum (25,252.72 MT), yellow split pea (2,778.70 MT), and vegetable oil (833.6126 MT) to 500,888 participants, achieving 100% of the target and enabling communities to have better access to nutritious food.
- The Nurturing Care Group (NCG) model up-skilled 74,388 pregnant and lactating mothers to improve child meals with dried meat powder and germinated legume flour. These efforts exceeded the annual target by 8%.
- Frontline workers were trained in home gardening that benefited 9,505 caregivers, exceeding the FY23 target by 25%.
- SPIR II's GPM+ intervention benefited 2,914 participants and reduced depression and disability scores by 45%.
- 14,306 female participants engaged in nutrition-sensitive agricultural activities, with 14.8% meeting minimum dietary diversity, surpassing the FY23 target of 6.2%.
- The Men's Engagement Model trained 1,428 male advocates, which in turn translated into 11,432 men equipped to promote and make joint decisions in households.
- SPIR II reached 36,662 children under five with nutrition-specific interventions, surpassing the FY23 target by 47%.
- A total of 733 communities were verified as "open defecation free."

### Purpose 2: Vulnerable community members' livelihoods transformed

- SPIR II trained 1,856 new adult VESAs with 36,758 (20,628 F) members, and 120 youth VESAs with 2,451 (958 F) members, exceeding the annual targets by 20% for adult VESAs and meeting 100% of the youth targets. VESA members increased support to petty trade, poultry, and vegetable production businesses.
- 1,585 (944 F) participants—through SPIR II facilitated linkages to financial service providers (FSPs)—accessed \$423,224 in agriculture-related finance to procure agricultural inputs and services.
- SPIR-II trained 17,958 (8,930 F) PSNP participants in value chain commodities, over-shooting the annual target by 3%. The training included business plan development and measures to ensure environmental safety and sustainability.
- SPIR-II provided livelihood cash transfers to 9,927 (4,806 F) participants, exceeding the annual target by 15%.
- SPIR-II established and provided marketing, group management, and record-keeping training to 180 Producer Marketing Groups



(PMGs) with 6,675 (3,658 F) members, exceeding the annual target by over 30%.

- SPIR II linked 19,677 (9,162 F) PMG members to existing input suppliers to purchase inputs including pullets, concentrate feed, molasses, and hand tools.
- 5,969 (2,799 F) participant farmers accessed, through SPIR-II's facilitation, different types of veterinary services for 5,437 small ruminants, and 6,367 cattle.
- Five male wholesalers and 244 saleswomen, who benefited from SPIR-III micro-financing and business skills, generated US\$10,998 in income.

### Purpose 3: PSNP systems deliver accountable, effective, and shock-responsive services

- SPIR II trained 1,299 (284 F) watershed committee members, 434 foremen/women, and 334 experts. Those trained have helped 44,971 people to improve water resources management, exceeding the FY23 target by 20%.
- Communities experienced flood reduction and improved water management because of 16 million biological stabilizer tree seedlings that SPIR-II planted.
- 22 mini multi-purpose nurseries were established, supporting 108 youth with income and increased access to fruit trees and vegetable plots in remote locations.
- Improved land management practices on 17,158 ha contributed to increased biomass and vegetation, surpassing the annual target by almost 50%. The project constructed nine water schemes, 12 irrigation schemes, and social infrastructures that benefited thousands, reduced water collection time, and enhanced access to markets and transportation services.
- Trained 574 PSNP frontline workers on gender provisions, empowering 734 women as leaders in transforming gender roles and community influence.

