

JIMMA UNIVERSITY



COLLAGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

DEPARTEMENT OF CIVIC AND ETHICAL STUDIE

**THE PRACTICE AND CHALLENGES OF PRODUCTIVE SAFETY NET
PROGRAM AND FOOD SECURITY: THE CASE OF SEKELA WOREDA,
WEST GOJAM OF AMHARA NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE.**

MA THESIS

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JIMMA, ETHIOPIA

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**THE PRACTICE AND CHALLENGES OF PRODUCTIVE SAFETY NET
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WEST GOJJAM OF AMHARA NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE.**

**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS
AND ETHICAL STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF MASTERS OF ARTS DEGREE (MA) IN CIVICS
AND ETHICS**

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APPROVAL SHEET

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ANDUALEM TILAHUN IS ACCEPTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN CIVIC AND ETHICAL
STUDIE.**

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this research was to explore the practice and challenges of Productive Safety Net Program and the level of food security in Sekela woreda. For the purposes of this study, three rural Kebeles with a high number of PSNP beneficiaries were chosen using purposive sampling. Descriptive survey and explanatory research design was used with mixed research approach. Field observation, focus group household interviews, and questionnaires were employed as primary data sources while document analysis was used as a secondary source.

Questionnaire was distributed for 45 purposively chosen key informants from six separate bodies: 's Agriculture extension workers (9), Kebele principals, coordinators, and managers (13), Woreda agriculture office and food security experts (5), Woreda administrators and rural development office personnel (4), NGO coordinators and development donors (5), Kebele food security task force members (9). The diverse groups of respondents were chosen to assess the effectiveness of the PSNP and food security from multiple perspectives. The researcher aimed to gather comprehensive insights into the program's impact and challenges.

Inferential statistics was used to show the extent of factors affecting the program. Moreover, the result of this study revealed that money transfer through PSNP is not compatible to the current livelihood situation of the beneficiaries. The study confirmed that the absences of minimum acceptable food diet for the entire family members manifest the state of food insecurity in Sekela Woreda. Lack of access to farming lands, natural disaster, climate change, and family size were the commonest causes for food insecurity in the study area. There is much reduced food intake by household members. Low average value of asset holdings by the majority of households and the absence of different income sources above all manifest food insecurity level of the rural community in Sekela Woreda.

PSNP beneficiaries have a wide range of confusion and misunderstanding on the inherent goal particularly in the eyes of beneficiaries. As evidenced by the high inclusion ratio of non-poor households in the program, the practice of targeting the poor is rife with nepotism and corruption. Other issues affecting the program include inadequate institutional ties and a lack of strong community participation in decision making. To sum up, program monitoring and evaluation had a critical problem followed by the household targeting mechanism which highly affected the PSNP. Therefore, beneficiaries should be aware of the ultimate goal of the program and PSNP coordinators should emphasis on targeting the exact households to the program.

Key Words: Food Security, Agriculture, PSNP, Public Work, Direct Support

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ACRONYMS

- **ACSI: Amhara Saving and Credit Institution**
- **APL: Adaptable program loan**
- **ADLI: Agricultural Development Led Industrialization**
- **CCAF: Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security**
- **CALM: Climate Action through Landscape Management Program**
- **CCT: Conditional Cash Transfer**
- **CSA: Central Statics Authority**
- **FDRE: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**
- **FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization**
- **FC: Facilitator for Change**
- **GCAO: Government Communication Affairs Office**
- **IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development**
- **PSNP: Productive Safety Net Program**
- **UNDP: United Nations Development Programme**

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Food security is fundamental to national development, influencing both human survival and the broader socio-economic stability of nations. The concept of food security encompasses the availability, accessibility, and utilization of adequate, safe, and nutritious food necessary for an active and healthy life (*World Food Summit, 2023*). Despite significant advances in global agricultural production, food insecurity remains a pressing issue, particularly in developing regions.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations reported that over 800 million people were chronically undernourished as of 2012 (*FAO, 2014*). More recent figures indicate that approximately 842 million people still experience chronic hunger due to their inability to afford sufficient food, even though global food production exceeds current needs (*FAO, 2014*). This paradox is especially pronounced in rural areas of developing countries, where over 70 percent of the world's food-insecure population resides, often as low-paid laborers or subsistence farmers (*FAO, 2023*).

The contemporary food security landscape is characterized by an imbalance between sufficient global agricultural supplies and persistent shortages in developing countries. Factors such as structural constraints on food production, challenges in accessing international markets, and adverse weather conditions like droughts and floods exacerbate food insecurity in already vulnerable regions. The situation is notably severe in many African countries (*FAO, 2023*).

The issue of food security gained global prominence in the 1970s, culminating in the 1974 World Food Conference in Rome, where it was recognized as a critical concern for humanity (Napoli, 2011). The 2008 food price crisis and the impacts of global warming have further elevated food security and climate change as major international issues, underscoring the need for integrated approaches to address both challenges (*FAO, 2009*).

Productive Safety Net Programs (PSNPs) are designed to support vulnerable populations in developing countries by providing a combination of direct cash transfers, food assistance, and community-based projects (*Devereux & Sabates-Wheeler, 2019*). In Africa, where food insecurity is prevalent, these programs are crucial in stabilizing livelihoods and promoting long-term development (*Mudege & Davis, 2021*). Africa's challenges related to food security include climatic variability, conflict, and economic instability (*Smith, 2020*). These factors contribute to chronic poverty and food insecurity, making PSNPs an essential tool for addressing these issues and supporting vulnerable populations (*Johnson, 2021*). The primary objectives of PSNPs include ensuring food security, providing income support, and fostering community development (*Gertler et al., 2018*). By focusing on these areas, PSNPs aim to improve both immediate relief and long-term resilience (*Devereux & Sabates-Wheeler, 2019*).

Food is crucial not only for survival but also for maintaining individual well-being and economic stability. Inadequate food intake can lead to lethargy, irritability, and a decline in productivity. Food insecurity, defined as the lack of access to nutritionally adequate and safe foods, is closely linked to health issues, including hunger and related diseases (*Smith & Haddad, 2020*). Despite global food production, nearly 828 million people experience hunger, with the majority living in developing regions, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa (*FAO, 2023*).

The challenge of food insecurity is compounded by the phenomenon of "hidden hunger," where individuals have access to enough calories but lack essential micronutrients, leading to malnutrition and related health problems. The global demand for food is projected to increase by 70% by 2050, yet even with such growth, an estimated 400 million people will still lack access to adequate food (*FAO, 2009*).

In response to these challenges, social safety nets have become increasingly important. Many developing countries now operate multiple social safety net programs. As of 2015, every country had at least one such program, with 1.9 billion people benefiting from various forms of assistance, including in-kind transfers, cash-based transfers, and fee waivers (*World Bank, 2015*). In Ethiopia, the government has implemented programs such as the Urban Productive Safety Net, which is integrated into the country's five-year development plan, aiming to address food insecurity and contribute to poverty reduction (*Mekuria, 2015*).

Agriculture remains a crucial tool for sustainable development and poverty reduction. A significant portion of the rural poor in developing countries relies on agriculture for their livelihoods. Promoting agricultural development is essential for achieving goals related to poverty and hunger reduction (World Bank, 2018). Despite progress, Ethiopia continues to face challenges related to food security, with recurrent food crises and a reliance on emergency and safety net interventions.

Ethiopia has made notable strides in economic development, but it remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with a significant portion of its population living below the poverty line (World Bank, 2021). Food insecurity is prevalent, exacerbated by factors such as recurrent droughts, high population growth, and limited agricultural productivity (FAO, 2022). In response, the Ethiopian government has developed the PSNP to provide both immediate relief and long-term support to food-insecure households.

The Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Ethiopia is designed to support food-insecure households by providing assistance in the form of cash and/or in-kind transfers. The program targets chronically and seasonally food-insecure households, offering support based on the ability of household members to engage in public works or the absence of able-bodied members (Mekuria, 2015). The effectiveness and challenges of such programs in ensuring food security and promoting sustainable development warrant further examination, particularly in the context of Sekela Woreda, West Gojam of the Amhara National Regional State.

This study aims to explore the practice and challenges of the Productive Safety Net Program in Sekela Woreda, examining its impact on food security and identifying areas for improvement.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Ethiopia is situated in one of the most food-insecure region globally, with a significant portion of its population living at subsistence levels. This population heavily relies on agriculture, which is highly susceptible to severe droughts, rapid population growth, and the expansion of urban areas over the past 35 years. As a result, Ethiopia's fragile food security situation has escalated into severe famine conditions (World Bank, 2022). Food security in Ethiopia is particularly sensitive to climate risks. Historical and recent climate-related events, such as the food security crises of 2008/2009 and 2011 in the Horn of Africa, have underscored the profound effects of droughts

and floods on agricultural production, market access, and income from farming activities (*WFP, 2023*).

While significant progress has been made globally toward poverty alleviation, Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, continues to lag behind. Projections indicate that this trend may worsen unless effective preventive measures are implemented. Food security on the continent has deteriorated since 1970, and the proportion of the malnourished population has remained consistently high, between 33% and 35% in Sub-Saharan Africa. The prevalence of malnutrition varies significantly by region, with the lowest rates in Northern Africa at around 4% and the highest in Central Africa at approximately 40% (*FAO, 2023*).

Ethiopia lies within one of the most food insecure regions in the world, with a large number of its population living at subsistence levels and dependent on farm production which is highly vulnerable to severe droughts, population growth, expansion of the city several times over the past 35 years, Ethiopia's precarious food security has tipped over into full blown famine (*Resal Ethiopia, 2001*). Food security is highly sensitive to climate risks in Ethiopia. Historical and more recent climate related events such as the 2008/2009 and 2011 food security crises in the Horn of Africa have highlighted the impact of droughts and floods on food production, access to markets and income from agricultural activities(*WFP,2015*) cited in (*Tewodros and Tesfaye 2016*).

The agricultural sector to produce more and able to feed the growing population; it needs the introduction of new modern agricultural technologies and/ or inputs like fertilizer, improved seeds, pesticides, herbicides and large number of agricultural experts so as to support the economy and maximize productivity. Scholars have no preservation on the importance of agriculture to achieve food security by supplying food crops and generating income for the majority of rural population. However, agricultural sector is highly responsible to meet the growing demand of food crops at national level; in fact it is not in apposition of playing its own decisive role. The price of food and food crops increases alarmingly from time to time in Ethiopia particularly after the turn of the new millennium. The increase in food price is not only in urban areas but also in the country side (rural areas where food crops and raw materials for food are available without any forms of processing and transportation); this shows the extent of the problem of food security reaches in its climax stages.

The PSNP has been implemented by the government of Ethiopia since 2005, with technical and financial support from joint donor groups that includes the department for international development and the World Bank. The first phase of PSNP implementation was run until 2006; during which the necessary institutional structure, implementation capacity financing modalities and financial management systems are being in place. Also during a comprehensive appraisal is being under taken on several aspects related to the implementation and impact of the PSNP. The appraisal includes studies on PSNP targeting institutional and program linkage and economic trends (*Devereux, et al, 2006*).

It is difficult to ensure food security without taking in to account the existing dominant economic activity (agriculture) and the major food security strategy PSNP. The state of food security (insecurity), agricultural productivity, PSNP (the major food security strategies in the study area and the country at large) and other interfacing elements cannot be separately understood, hence they are integrated each other. There exist a number of factors which necessitate the government and rural community to work together to address issues of food insecurity. Handling Problems in the agricultural sector and better implementation of PSNP contribute too much towards food security. It is very important to inspect the extent of food insecurity in Sekela Woreda in Amhara regional state and how food security program particularly PSNP is implemented. The entire procedure and criteria of selecting beneficiaries, the money and kind transfer of the program and the gaps in the agricultural sector in line with the use of modern agricultural technologies is also very important.

Previous studies related to food security and the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in the study area includes: Abineh Tilahun and Bogale Teferie (2015), who investigated "The Roles of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Soil and Water Conservation Practices in Sekela Woreda.", Chanie T., Tarekegne S. Ketema K., and Alemayehu M. (2018), who examined "Household Food Insecurity Status and Associated Factors in Sekela Woreda." However, neither of these studies addresses the challenge of ensuring equitable distribution of the PSNP benefits across the community.

The major problem during the start of the PSNP targeting of relatively richer households led to the exclusion of the poorest households and division within communities. In some extents the problem of exclusion of the poorest households exists even today. The current problem above all

lies on the one hand the difficulty of clearly differentiating the exact poor from relatively better economic potential households and on the other hand the quota given for each kebele in each phase of the program which cannot adequately enough for all food insecure households.

The overall food security strategies in general and the implementation of productive safety net program (one of the most important element of food security strategy) in particular always need improvement from time to time and from situation to situation. Ensuring food security and better implementation of productive safety net program above all requires high level of transparency and accountability both during the process of targeting and graduation of beneficiaries. Careful follow up and assessing the entire trend has an extra effort contribution on the process of creating food secure society through productive safety net program.

This study aims to address the gaps in the implementation of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and identify the challenges associated with its management in Sekela Woreda. By examining these issues, the study seeks to contribute to enhancing food security and improving the effectiveness of safety net programs in the region.

1.3. Basic Research Questions

This study aims to address the following fundamental research questions, which the final research results are expected to answer:

1. What are the current practices of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Sekela woreda?
2. What are the underlying causes of food insecurity in sekela woreda?
3. What are the key challenges faced in implementing food security strategies within the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)?
4. To what extent do modern agricultural technologies, inputs, agricultural extension services, and food aid contribute to enhancing agricultural productivity?

1.4. Objectives of the Study

1.4.1. General Objective

The overall objective of the study is to examine the current practice and major challenges of Productive Safety Net Program and food security in Sekela Woreda, West Gojjam Zone of Amhara region.

1.4.2. Specific Objectives

The study aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

1. Assess the current practices of the Productive Safety Net Program in Sekela Woreda.
2. Identify the primary causes of food insecurity in Sekela Woreda.
3. Examine the challenges encountered in implementing food security strategies, with a specific focus on the Productive Safety Net Program.
4. Analyze the relationship between the use of modern agricultural technologies, inputs, agricultural extension services, and food aid, and their impact on agricultural productivity.

1.5. Scope of the study

Geographical Scope: This study is geographically limited to Sekela Woreda in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. Within this woreda, the research focuses on three specific kebeles: Kolel, Lecha, and Jabola. These kebeles have been selected due to their active implementation of Productive Safety Net Programs (PSNP), allowing for a targeted examination of the program's impact and challenges in areas where it is operational.

Focus of the Study: The study specifically concentrates on the challenges and practices associated with the PSNP at the beneficiary level. This involves assessing how effectively the program addresses food insecurity and supports vulnerable households within the selected kebeles. The focus is on understanding the real-world experiences of beneficiaries, including the program's effectiveness, benefits, and the obstacles faced.

Conceptual Scope: Conceptually, the study is confined to households that benefit from the PSNP. It does not cover all kebeles within Sekela Woreda due to limitations in time and

resources. By concentrating on the three selected kebeles, the research aims to provide a detailed analysis of the PSNP's impact on a representative sample of beneficiaries.

Methodological Scope: The study employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to address the research questions comprehensively.

1.6. Significance of the Study

This study holds several key implications for improving the implementation of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and addressing food insecurity in Sekela Woreda:

Promoting Fairness: The study will highlight the importance of equitable practices in PSNP implementation, raising awareness among rural communities about fairness and potentially leading to more just and effective program execution. Informing Policy: By identifying the causes and extent of food insecurity, the research will provide valuable insights to guide policy formulation and interventions, helping to develop more effective strategies to combat food insecurity. Supporting Decision-Making: The study will offer data-driven insights that can improve the PSNP's effectiveness and inform related food security strategies, enabling better decision-making. Benchmarking for Future Research: The findings will serve as a benchmark for further large-scale investigations into food insecurity and PSNP implementation, contributing to the body of knowledge in this field. Guiding Agricultural Experts and Policymakers: The research will offer valuable information for agricultural experts, policymakers, and development agents, helping them address food insecurity and enhance PSNP implementation.

Informing Donors and International Organizations: The study will provide evidence that can help donor countries and international organizations rethink and adjust their funding strategies for food security programs, based on the challenges identified in the study. Overall, the study aims to improve the effectiveness of the PSNP and contribute to better food security outcomes through informed, evidence-based approaches.

1.7. Limitations of the Study

The researcher encountered several challenges during the course of this study: Response Delays: Some respondents were reluctant to complete and return the questionnaires within the expected

timeframe, which affected the data collection process. **Data Access Issues:** There was reluctance among certain office workers and experts to provide secondary data, which limited the availability of comprehensive information. **Incomplete Information:** Some respondents were unwilling to disclose details such as family size, age, and landholding information, which impacted the accuracy of the study. The study faced time limitations, which constrained the depth of data collection and analysis. The workload and the sensitive nature of the issues being studied also posed challenges.

Despite these limitations, the researcher made efforts to mitigate their impact through careful planning, timely problem resolution, and efficient management of the research process.

1.8. Definition of Operational Terms

- **Food Insecurity:** A condition where individuals lack "physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life."
- **Food Security:** The state of having "ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, and an assured ability to acquire acceptable food in a socially acceptable manner."
- **Household Food Insecurity:** A situation where a household experiences "limited or uncertain availability of food, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in a socially acceptable manner."
- **Hunger:** A potential consequence of food insecurity characterized by "prolonged, involuntary lack of food, leading to discomfort, illness, weakness, or pain that goes beyond the usual sensation of hunger."
- **Challenge:** Refers to "obstacles that constrain the effectiveness and distribution of PSNP tasks in Sekela Woreda during its intervention operations."
- **Poverty:** Defined as "pronounced deprivation in well-being, including low incomes and the inability to acquire basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity."
- **Safety Net:** A collection of "critical, publicly funded programs designed to help families meet their basic economic needs and support their healthy development."

1.9. Organization of the Study

This research is organized into five chapters: chapter one introduction, this chapter includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitations, and definitions of key terms. Chapter two, Literature Review: This chapter provides a review of relevant literature related to the study topic. Chapter three: Research Methodology, this chapter outlines the research design, approach, methods, and sources of data, data analysis techniques, and ethical considerations. Chapter four Presentation, Analysis, and Interpretation of Data: This chapter presents, analyzes, and interprets the data collected during the research. Chapter five: Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendations: This chapter summarizes the findings, draws conclusions, and offers recommendations based on the study results.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Introduction

This chapter provides a comprehensive assessment of the conceptual and empirical foundations relevant to the study. **Conceptual Framework:** The first part presents conceptual clarifications and theoretical underpinnings, focusing on key concepts such as food security, food self-sufficiency, and food sovereignty. **Empirical Literature Review:** The second part reviews empirical literature related to agriculture and development. It addresses challenges in agriculture, the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), and different types of PSNP interventions. This structure ensures a thorough understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects related to the study.

2.2. Conceptual Framework: Food Security, Food Self-Sufficiency and Sovereignty

People often mix up food security with food self-sufficiency and food sovereignty. It may therefore be useful to distinguish between these three concepts. Food security is a broader concept than self-sufficiency; to the extent that it encompasses the possibility of a country using its capacity to import food and not depend just on its national production capacity to meet its food needs. Food security and food self-sufficiency do not have the same goal: while the sole objective of food security is to satisfy all the food requirements of the population, regardless of the source, self-sufficiency gives at least the same level of priority to achieving political and economic independence (*Maetz, 2011*).

Food Security: Food security is a complex and multifaceted concept that encompasses various aspects of the food system, including production, distribution, and consumption. It is often defined as a condition in which all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 2023). Measuring food security involves evaluating both quantitative and qualitative aspects of food availability, access, utilization, and stability over time.

Food Insecurity: In contrast, food insecurity refers to the lack of consistent access to adequate food and is more straightforward to measure and analyze. It is commonly assessed through indicators such as household food consumption patterns, dietary diversity, and coping strategies (*Azzarri et al., 2020*). Food insecurity is a broader term that encompasses varying degrees of access issues, from occasional shortages to severe, chronic conditions.

Differentiating Food insecurity from Famine and Hunger: Food insecurity, famine, and hunger are interconnected but distinct concepts. Food insecurity pertains to inconsistent access to sufficient, nutritious food, reflecting systemic issues in food availability and accessibility (*FAO, 2022*). Famine is an extreme form of food insecurity, characterized by widespread scarcity leading to severe malnutrition, starvation, and high mortality rates (Maxwell, 1996). Hunger refers to the physical discomfort from prolonged lack of food, causing weakness and health problems (*FAO, 2022*). Understanding these distinctions is crucial for developing effective policies to address food security and related challenges.

2.2.1. Food Security

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (*FAO*) defines food security as food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (*FAO, 2008*). Those who do not fulfill the conditions stated in the definition are considered as food insecure.

Concern about food security can be traced back to the Hot spring conference of food and agriculture in 1947, since which time the issue under gone several redefinitions. The 1943 conference evolved the concept of ‘‘a secure, adequate and suitable supply of food for everyone’’ a concept that was subsequently taken up at an international level. The next step was the setting up of bilateral agencies by donor countries such as USA and Canada in the 1950s, where by their agriculture surplus would be shipped overseas to countries in need. By the 1960s there was a growing realization that food aid could actually hamper a country’s to self-sufficiency and thus was born the concept of Food for Development and in 1963 its institutional expression, the World Food Program (WFP). However the era of an abundant of food was coming to an end and

the 1972-1974 food crises marked the beginning of fluctuating food supplies and prices (Napoli, 2011).

From an economic point of view, food security relies heavily on international trade, selling goods that the country produces efficiently and importing goods that it is not so good at producing, following the principle of “comparative advantage”. Food security can therefore be achieved by a country that does not produce sufficient food for itself but has the money required, by exporting other products, to purchase food on the world market.

2.2.2. Food Security - An Evolving Concept

Food security has evolved from a straightforward focus on the availability of food to a more comprehensive concept that includes various dimensions essential for ensuring that all people have consistent access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. The modern understanding of food security encompasses four main dimensions: The dimensions together provide a holistic view of food security, addressing not just the quantity of food but also the quality, accessibility, and reliability necessary for a healthy and secure food system.

1. Availability: This refers to the physical presence of food, which is influenced by agricultural production, import policies, and food distribution systems. Historically, food security was predominantly concerned with ensuring that food supplies were sufficient to meet the needs of the population (FAO, 2022).

2. Access: This dimension addresses the ability of individuals to obtain food, which is closely linked to economic resources, infrastructure, and market dynamics. Access involves both economic access (affordability) and physical access (proximity to markets).

3. Utilization: This aspect focuses on the proper use of food, which includes nutritional quality, food safety, and how food is prepared and consumed. Effective utilization depends on factors such as health, education, and sanitation, impacting how well individuals can convert food into energy and nutrients (Hoddinott & Kinsey, 2001).

4. Stability: Stability refers to the consistency of food availability, access, and utilization over time. It encompasses resilience to shocks such as economic downturns, natural disasters, or conflicts that might disrupt food systems and access (*Barrett, 2010*).

The evolving concept of food security reflects a broader understanding of these interconnected dimensions, emphasizing that ensuring food security requires addressing not only the availability of food but also how it is accessed, used, and maintained over time. This holistic approach is crucial for creating sustainable solutions to food insecurity in a changing global context. (*FAO, 2008*)

Back in the 1970s the whole problem of food security was basically seen as one of supply, stemming from a series of food crises and major outbreaks of famine that the hoped-for promises of the Green revolution had done little to avert. The main focus was on guaranteeing the availability of food as well as attempting to ensure price stability both nationally and internationally through increased food production and the use of food surpluses (*Napoli, 2011*).

The Green revolution of the 1980s began to deliver some of its promise and levels of food production did in fact increase; however, the problem of famine did not go away and it was at this point that it was realized that the underlying cause was not so much food supply as the purchasing power of specific social groups. The definition of food security now took in the economic as well as the physical aspects of food availability and attention was drawn to ways to alleviate poverty and enhance the role of women in the development process (*Napoli, 2011*).

Although access is an important factor in food security it can only prevent hunger if accompanied by stability. By 1986 and the publication of the World Bank's report "Poverty and Hunger" another component in the food security picture was making an appearance, namely the time element. Food insecurity could be categorized as either chronic or transitory with the former representing a situation where the lack of food is a permanent feature and the latter describing a temporary shortage. Chronic food insecurity basically means that the risk of famine is high and that to guarantee food security that risk must be tackled and eliminated (*Napoli, 2011*).

Whereas food security was previously foremost an issue of malnutrition in the developing world, the concept of food security is increasingly broadened to include food related issues from the developed world. This means that not only hunger but also dietary excess are considered a threat to food security, as dietary excess is a growing cause of health problems. Although the literature on food security addresses both types of problems, it is obvious that fighting hunger and malnutrition in the developed world requires a different policy approach than fighting obesity in the developed world definition of food insecurity (*De Ridder, 2011*).

2.2.3. Food Self-Sufficiency

Food self-sufficiency is the ability of a country to meet all its food needs through domestic production, without relying on imports. This concept is often pursued to enhance national security, reduce dependence on international markets, and promote economic and political stability. Food self-sufficiency refers to a nation's capacity to produce all the food its population requires within its own borders. It is a measure of how much of a country's food supply comes from domestic production versus imports. Achieving food self-sufficiency is often associated with enhancing national sovereignty and reducing vulnerability to external economic and political pressures (*Maetz, 2011*).

2.2.4. Food Sovereignty

Food Sovereignty is defined as the right of peoples, communities, and nations to control their own food systems, including agricultural, fishing, and land policies, in ways that are ecologically sustainable, socially just, economically viable, and culturally appropriate to their specific contexts (*Patel, 2009*). It emphasizes prioritizing local decision-making and empowerment over market-driven and corporate interests, ensuring that food production and distribution systems meet the needs of those directly involved (*La via Campesina, 2011*).

Key Pillars of Food Sovereignty:

1. **Right to Nutritious and Culturally Appropriate Food:** Ensures access to healthy, culturally appropriate food produced through sustainable methods, particularly benefiting marginalized and vulnerable groups. This principle underscores the importance of addressing nutritional needs and respecting cultural practices in food production (*Patel, 2009*).

2. **Recognition of Food Producers:** Acknowledges and supports the roles of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, artisanal fishers, and indigenous communities, as well as the contributions of women and men involved in food production and transformation. This principle highlights the value of these groups in maintaining and developing food systems (*La via Campesina, 2011*).
3. **Local and Localized Food Systems:** Promotes the creation and strengthening of local food systems, with a focus on enhancing interactions between producers and consumers. Decision-making processes should center on local needs and priorities, fostering community engagement and sustainability (*Wittman, Desmarais, & Wiebe, 2010*).
4. **Mechanisms of Local Control:** Advocates for local control over resources such as land, water, seeds, and livestock, ensuring that local producers have the authority to manage their resources. This principle emphasizes the respect for and protection of local rights and governance over food systems (*McMichael, 2014*).
5. **Sustainable Practices and Environmental Harmony:** Encourages agricultural and fishing practices that align with ecological principles, using agro-ecological methods and low-input techniques to enhance ecosystem services, resilience, and adaptation to climate change. This principle aims to work harmoniously with natural systems (*Altieri, 2009*).

Food sovereignty emphasizes local control, sustainable practices, and the right to culturally appropriate food, advocating for a just and resilient food system that prioritizes the needs of communities over market and corporate interests.

2.2.5 Food Safety

It is also important to note that there is often confusion between the terms food security and food safety, especially when translations are being made. Food safety is concerned especially with the assurance that food is not damaging to the health of consumers because of contamination by harmful organisms or toxic products (*Maetz, 2011*). Food safety concerns are primarily about protecting consumers from foodborne illnesses and ensuring that food products are not contaminated by pathogens, chemicals, or other hazards (*World Health Organization, 2020*). This involves measures to prevent, detect, and respond to food contamination issues throughout the food supply chain.

2.2.6. Right to Food

The right to food was first articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. This declaration set forth a broad range of human rights and freedoms, including the right to an adequate standard of living, which encompasses the right to food (*United Nations, 1948*). The UDHR served as a foundational document advocating for the end of various forms of injustice and oppression, and its principles were widely supported by a diverse array of nations, reflecting a global consensus on the importance of human rights (*FAO, 2013*).

Building on the principles established in the UDHR, the right to food was further enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), adopted in 1966. Article 11 of the ICESCR explicitly recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, and obligates states to take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right (*United Nations, 1966*).

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights emphasizes the importance of both availability and accessibility of food, and mandates that states undertake measures to improve food security and protect the right to food as a fundamental human right (FAO, 2013). The covenant represents a commitment by states to work towards the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, recognizing that the realization of the right to food is integral to human dignity and well-being.

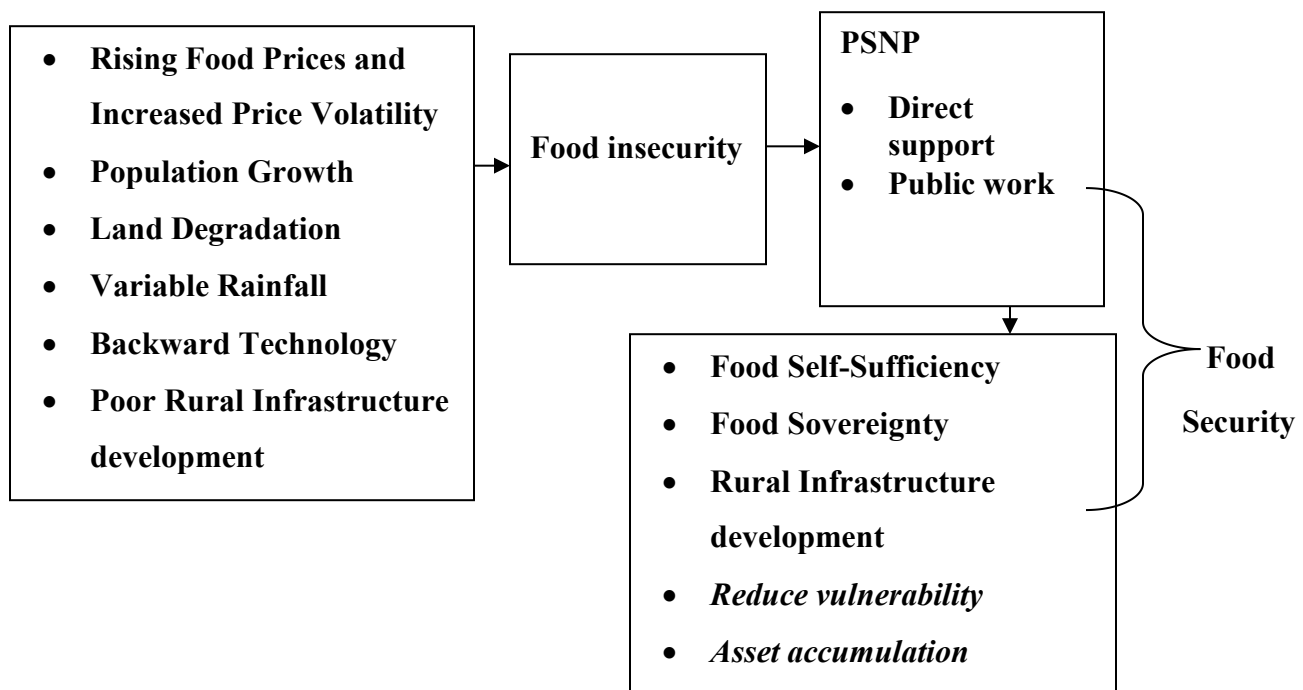


Figure 1: Conceptual frame work (own developed)

2.3. Empirical Literature Review: Overview of Food Security and Strategic Components for National Food Security

Despite the global food supply being adequate in terms of calories, there are significant deficiencies in the availability of healthy and nutritious food, particularly in micro-nutrients. Approximately one-third of the world's food supply is wasted, while around one-sixth of the global population remains hungry (*De Ridder, 2011*). The current state of food security is shaped by a complex interplay of economic, environmental, and social factors. Challenges persist across all dimensions of food security: ensuring food availability, improving access, enhancing utilization, and maintaining stability.

Global Trends: According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the global food security situation has worsened in recent years. Factors such as conflict, climate change, and economic instability have contributed to an increase in food insecurity. In 2023, an estimated 828 million people were undernourished, marking a troubling trend of rising hunger after years of decline. **Regional Disparities:** Food insecurity remains unevenly distributed across regions. Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of South Asia are particularly affected, with high levels of chronic hunger and malnutrition. These regions often face compounded challenges, including economic instability, conflict, and adverse climatic conditions.

Impact of Climate Change: Climate change exacerbates food security issues by affecting agricultural productivity through extreme weather events, changing precipitation patterns, and rising temperatures. This impacts both food availability and access, particularly for vulnerable populations dependent on subsistence farming. **Economic Factors:** The global economic landscape also plays a critical role in food security. Rising food prices, supply chain disruptions, and inflation can reduce access to food, particularly for low-income households. The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted vulnerabilities in food systems, impacting both food production and distribution. Addressing these challenges requires integrated approaches that enhance food systems' resilience, improve access to nutritious food, and mitigate the impacts of climate change and economic volatility. (*FAO 2023*)

Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires integrated strategies to enhance the resilience of food systems, improve access to nutritious food, and mitigate the impacts of climate change and economic volatility.

2.3.2. What Can Agriculture Do for Development?

Agriculture is a vital development tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goal that calls for halving by 2015 the share of people suffering from extreme poverty and hunger. Three out of every four poor people in developing countries live in rural areas, and most of them depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods (WB, 2008, p.6). Agricultural production and productivity has a great role to ensure food security, creating job opportunity and supplying raw materials for industries (GCAO, 2014).

The FAO report 2008 confirms agriculture is considered as one of the sectors that can play a significant role towards food security in the country. The report stated that the majority of people were in direct need of food especially in rural areas. The report furthermore revealed that the majority of people living in rural areas had access to land but lacked the necessary skills and access to recourses to farm sustainably (Du Toit, 2011).

The reforms pertaining to agriculture were necessary because agriculture is pivotal economic sector in Ethiopia. It provides food for conception, raw material for industry, either directly / indirectly, generates foreign exchange through export (Kinfe, 2001).

1. Agriculture as an Economic Activity

Agriculture can be a source of growth for the national economy, a provider of investment opportunities for the private sector, and a prime driver of agriculture related industries and the rural non-farm economy. Two thirds of the world's agricultural value added is created in developing countries. In agriculture-based countries, it generates on average 29 percent of the GDP and employs 65 % of the labor force (World Bank, 2008). The non- farm sector is performing an important role in the overall economy both providing employment opportunity to different categories of skilled and unskilled labor force and contributing in the income of both farm and non- farm households (Mehta, 2003).

2. Agriculture as a Livelihood

Agriculture is a source of livelihoods for an estimated 86 % of rural people. It provides jobs for 1.3 billion smallholders and landless workers, “farm-financed social welfare” when there are urban shocks, and a foundation for viable rural communities. Of the developing world’s 5.5 billion people, 3 billion live in rural areas, nearly half of humanity. Of these rural inhabitants an estimated 2.5 billion are in households involved in agriculture, and 1.5 billion are in smallholder households. Contrary to common perceptions, migration to cities has not been the main instrument for rural and world poverty reduction (*World Bank, 2008*).

Agriculture offers great promise for growth, poverty reduction, and environmental services, but realizing this promise also requires the visible hand of the state providing core public goods, improving the investment climate, regulating natural resource management, and securing desirable social outcomes. To pursue agriculture for-development agendas, local, national, and global governance for agriculture need to be improved (*World Bank, 2008*).

The spatial distribution of population revealed a fall in land holding and per capita food output, due to rapid rate of growth of population and environmental degradation. As the population increased from 23.5 million in 1960/61 to 48.6 in 1989/90, the per capita food output declined from 240.2kg to 141.7kg in the same period. At the same time per capita land holding almost diminished from 0.28 ha to 0.10 ha (*Workineh, 2008*).

2.3.3. Use of Modern Farming Technology

From the 17thc onwards, selective breeding of crops and animals began to improve yields and the use of crop rotation allowed land to be used continuously. The greatest impact on agriculture comes with the industrial revolution and the development of new farm machinery, leading ultimately to the development of highly intensive and factory farming methods (*Keriski & Ross, 2005*). Low labor productivity on the smallest farms may reflect not only the excessive amount of labor used, but also the farming technologies applied. In many of the countries considered, both large and small farms make limited use of mechanized technologies and improved seeds, but use is particularly limited on smaller farms. Although the low levels of mechanization reflect the abundance of family labor, there would also seem to be much scope for increasing

agricultural productivity by promoting greater use of existing technologies and farming processes (FAO, 2014).

2.3.4. Impacts of Irrigation on Poverty and Food Security

Where vibrant markets for irrigated production are present, farm incomes and food security have been transformed. The constant support by FAO and IFAD to smallholder irrigation has become an integral part of national food security program. Irrigation reduces poverty through increased food output, higher employment, and higher real incomes. It also supports the poor through a multiplier effect which drives an increase in non- farm rural outputs and employment as the level of rural spending rises (FAO, 2010).

2.3.5. Climate Change and Agriculture

Agriculture on which we all depend for our food is under threat from climate change. There is no doubt that systems worldwide will have to adapt, but while consumers may barely notice in developed countries, millions of people in developing countries face a very real and direct threat to their food security and livelihoods. Water is becoming scarce in many regions. Climate change could be the additional stress that pushes systems over the edge. The contribution of agriculture itself to climate change is often overlooked. Current practices, including the conversion of forests and grasslands for crops and pastures, results in significant releases of greenhouse gases- the intergovernmental panel on climate change (IGPCC) estimated that 31% of the total emissions in 2004 come from agriculture and forestry (Moorhead, 2009).

Agricultural drought is said to occur when soil moisture and rain fall are inadequate during the growing season so as to support its uninhibited growth to the harvest. Meteorological drought is a situation when there is a significant decrease in rain fall from climatologically expected amount over the wider area (Sinha, 2006).

2.3.6. The Role of the Agricultural Sector in Ethiopia

Agriculture is a cornerstone of Ethiopia's economic development due to several key roles it plays. Provision of Food and Raw Materials: Agriculture is essential for providing both food and raw materials to other sectors. It ensures food security and supplies inputs for various industries, which is crucial for maintaining the economic framework (Bezabih, 2018).

Market Expansion and Aggregate Demand: An expanding agricultural sector boosts market growth by increasing aggregate demand. This expansion supports economic activity in other sectors, including manufacturing and services (*Ayele, 2006; Rukundo, 2020*). Employment in the Industrial Sector: Agriculture contributes to employment in the industrial sector by providing labor. Improved agricultural productivity often leads to a shift of labor into industrial jobs, facilitating industrial sector growth (*Hassan & Pardo, 2014*). Source of Investment Capital: The agricultural sector generates surplus capital that can be invested in other areas of the economy. This investment is crucial for promoting growth in various industries and supporting broader economic development (*Deininger & Byerlee, 2012*). Foreign Exchange Earnings: Exports from agriculture are vital for earning foreign exchange, which is necessary for importing capital goods and machinery. This foreign exchange supports rapid industrialization and overall economic growth (*Teshome, 2017*).

2.3.7. How Can Agriculture Contribute to Ethiopia's Development?

Agriculture holds significant potential for driving development in Ethiopia due to its central role in the country's economy and society. Here's a detailed explanation of how agriculture can contribute to Ethiopia's development across various dimensions:

Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition: Agriculture plays a crucial role in ensuring food security and nutrition. Improving agricultural practices and increasing production can help address deficiencies in micro-nutrients and food availability. Implementing high-yield and nutrient-rich crop varieties and promoting sustainable farming practices can enhance dietary quality and food security (*FAO, 2021*).

Promoting Rural Development and Poverty Reduction: Agriculture significantly impacts rural development and poverty reduction by creating jobs and improving incomes. Expanding agricultural activities and supporting smallholder farmers can enhance economic stability in rural areas. Investments in rural infrastructure also play a crucial role in improving market access and reducing post-harvest losses (*World Bank, 2018*). **Supporting Economic Growth:** Agriculture drives economic growth by developing value chains, expanding exports, and encouraging private sector investments. Improving the efficiency and value of agricultural products through processing and better market access can stimulate economic development and enhance Ethiopia's economic growth (*World Bank, 2020*).

Advancing Sustainable Land Management: Sustainable land management practices are essential for maintaining agricultural productivity and environmental health. Techniques such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and efficient water management help sustain agricultural output while preserving natural resources (*Sulieman & Alemayehu, 2016*). **Creating Employment Opportunities:** Agriculture is a significant source of employment, particularly in rural areas. Expanding agricultural sectors and supporting agribusinesses can generate jobs and contribute to economic development. Promoting entrepreneurial ventures within agriculture also helps in creating employment opportunities (*World Bank, 2018*).

Improving Rural Infrastructure: Investing in rural infrastructure supports agricultural productivity and market access. Developing roads, storage facilities, and irrigation systems improves logistics, reduces post-harvest losses, and enhances water availability for farming (*African Development Bank, 2019*). In summary, agriculture can drive development in Ethiopia by enhancing food security, promoting economic growth, supporting sustainable practices, creating employment, and fostering innovation. Addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities within the agricultural sector can lead to significant improvements in the country's overall development.

2.3.8. Major Obstacles to the Development of Agricultural Sectors

Regarding the agricultural sector in supplying increasing amounts of food to the growing population, one need only reiterate the fact that large segments of the agricultural producers in such countries as Ethiopia are still unable to produce the minimum amounts required for their own consumption. Developing nations like Ethiopia do make some investments for the purpose of promoting the development of the agricultural sector (*Fassil, 2005*).

1. Land Degradation: Studies reveal that because of the topography of the land 50 percent of the cultivated land of Ethiopia is exposed to various level of soil erosion. Protracted crop production without fertilizer resulted in net outflow of vital nutrients from the soil exacerbating land degradation (*Ayele, 2006*).

2. Variable Rainfall: It is a matter of fact that the Ethiopian agriculture is heavily dependent upon unreliable rainfall which may produce surplus only in years of favorable weather. What is more it has not always been timely. Sometimes it comes early or late. Other times it falls short of

the required amount or fall overly (excessive rainfall). This resulted in underproduction and hence food insecurity (*Ayele, 2006*).

3. Land Fragmentation: The increasing population size of rural Ethiopia and the limited total land area, especially, in the highland farming area has been the cause for declining per capita land holding. Studies suggest that on the average, small land holding is less than one hectare per household. As the land is too small to produce any marketable surplus under the prevailing conditions, subsistence and survival are the overriding concern of the farmers. This resulted in lack of cash for investment, purchase of commercial inputs and purchase of oxen for land preparation (*Ayele, 2006*).

4. Land Tenure: Uncertainty about the possible communalization of land and the continuing land redistribution erodes the incentive to invest in permanent conservation and improvement on individual holdings. Prior to 1974, a large number of the rural population especially in the South was landless and the oppressive tenant-land lord relationship was deterrent to agricultural development. In the Imperial era, the different system of land tenure in the South and North coexisted. The system of land tenure in the central and Southern part of Ethiopia was known as Gult system wherein the peasants were required to hand-over a large portion of their output to the landlords. In the northern part of the country where the communal (Rest) system was practiced, individuals could inherit the right to use land (*Ayele, 2006*).

5. Backward Technology: In Ethiopia the small-holder farming is characterized by dependence on traditional tools and farming practices. Land preparing, is done by oxen- drawn plough (Maresha), planting is generally performed by manual broadcasting which hampers effective weeding and spraying activity. Weeding is done manually and harvesting is also performed manually with the help of sickle. Threshing is also carried out by animals trampling the harvested crop (*Ayele, 2006*).

6. Poor Rural Infrastructure: In moving from a subsistence economy into commercialized modern economy a lot of infrastructural problems are likely to arise. As the Ethiopian economy is largely subsistence the country's transport and communication systems are poorly developed. Rural Ethiopia is virtually inaccessible by commercial transport and various studies reveal that about 75 percent of farms are more than half a day walk away from an all-weather road, and

Ethiopia has the lowest road density in Africa. Agricultural output is usually carried long distance by traditional transport means like pack animals or by humans, to sales place. The poor infrastructure has severely hampered socio- economic development particularly in the rural area (*Ayele, 2006*).

To address these challenges and enhance agricultural productivity, Ethiopia needs to implement comprehensive strategies that focus on improving land management practices, investing in modern technology, and developing rural infrastructure. These efforts will be crucial for achieving sustainable food security and supporting the country's economic growth.

2.3.9. Reasons for Food Insecurity

Food insecurity arises from a complex interplay of various factors that affect people's ability to access sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. These factors can be broadly categorized into economic, social, environmental, and political dimensions. Here are some key reasons for food insecurity:

A. Rising Food Prices and Increased Price Volatility: Food insecurity is significantly influenced by rising food prices and increased price volatility. This situation arises from the complex interplay between strong demand and unevenly distributed supply. Recent years have seen an unprecedented surge in food prices, exacerbated by export restrictions imposed by countries facing domestic food shortages. These restrictions distort global markets and contribute to further price increases (*De Ridder, 2011*). Inflation, which reflects the general rise in the price level of goods and services, has also impacted food security. In Ethiopia, inflation reached a peak in 2012, threatening efforts to reduce poverty and stimulate investment (*GCAO, 2009*).

B. Climate Change: Climate change is a critical factor affecting food security by causing damage to crops and leading to failed harvests. Extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, wildfires, and hurricanes are becoming more frequent and severe due to global warming. According to the Earth Policy Institute, every 1°C increase in global temperature is associated with a 10% reduction in grain yields (*De Ridder, 2011*). These changes disrupt agricultural productivity and exacerbate food scarcity.

C. Developments in the Energy Market; The energy market also plays a crucial role in food security. Rising oil prices increase the cost of farming operations, as fuel is required to run

agricultural machinery. Additionally, higher natural gas prices elevate the cost of nitrogen fertilizers. Increased oil and gas prices also lead to higher transportation costs for food, further driving up prices and impacting food availability (*De Ridder, 2011*).

D. Population Growth: Demographic trends and increasing global prosperity contribute to food insecurity through rising population pressures. The fast-growing global population demands increased food production, with an estimated need to raise agricultural output by 50% by 2030 and another 50% by 2050 to meet the demands of a projected 9 billion people (*De Ridder, 2011*). Most of this population growth occurs in developing countries, where food supply is already constrained compared to developed regions.

F. Poor Infrastructure: Inadequate infrastructure, such as poor transportation networks, limited storage facilities, and inefficient market systems, affects food distribution and availability. Poor roads can hinder the movement of food from rural production areas to urban markets, leading to high food prices and losses due to spoilage. Effective infrastructure is essential for improving food supply chains and ensuring that food reaches those in needs (*World Bank, 2020*).

G. Agricultural Productivity Issues: Low agricultural productivity can be due to various factors, including outdated farming techniques, lack of access to modern inputs, and inadequate agricultural extension services. Inefficiencies in farming practices and limited access to high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation technologies contribute to poor crop yields and food shortages (*IFAD, 2019*).

H. Social Factors: Social factors, including inequalities in land ownership, gender disparities, and social exclusion, affect food security. In many regions, marginalized groups, such as women and smallholder farmers, may lack access to resources and decision-making power, limiting their ability to achieve food security. Addressing social inequalities is crucial for improving food security outcomes (*UNDP, 2020*).

2.3.10. Productive Safety Net Program

PSNP is another component of the national food security strategy. The main objective of the PSNP is provision of transfers to the food insecure population in chronically food insecure Weredas in order to prevent assets depletion (protect asset) at household level and create assets at the community level. The program is also believed to support rural transformation process by

preventing long-term consequence of short-term consumption shortages; encouraging households to engage in production and investment activities; enhancing household purchasing power; and promoting market development (*Workneh, 2008*).

2.3.11. Types of Social Safety Net Program

According to the World Bank (2015), report there are 6 types of social safety net programs: conditional cash transfers, unconditional cash transfers, school feeding programs, unconditional in-kind transfers, public works, and fee waivers (*World Bank, 2015*).

1. Conditional Cash Transfers: Conditional cash transfers are periodic monetary benefits to poor households that require beneficiaries to comply with specific behavioral requirements to encourage investments in human capital, the case in Philippines categorize this (*World Bank, 2015*).

2. Unconditional Cash: Unconditional cash transfers provide cash without particular co-responsibilities for beneficiaries; they may spend the cash as they wish. Examples embrace various cash transfer programs targeted to particular categories of people, such as the elderly (also known as social pensions); family allowances, including birth grants and supplements for adult dependents; and cash transfers specifically targeted to children, including orphan and foster family allowances. The Hunger Safety Net Program in Kenya is an example. Although sometimes similar, UCTs differ from CCTs since they are not conditioned on pre-established behavioral requirements (*World Bank, 2015*).

3. School Feeding Programs: Like CCTs, school feeding requires forms of compliance, such as ensuring a certain level of monthly school attendance. However, the form of transfer is in kind. Sometimes these programs also include “take-home” food rations for children’s families E.g. Brazil (*World Bank, 2005*).

4. Unconditional in-Kind Transfers: Unconditional in-kind transfers allow the distribution of food or other in-kind transfers without any form of conditionality or co-responsibility. Examples include the provision of fortified food supplements to malnourished pregnant women and children e.g. Mozambique. Unconditional in-kind transfers and public works are most prevalent in Africa, where 42 and 39 countries (out of 49), respectively, have such programs. CCTs,

historically a trademark of the Latin America region, are expanding in all regions, especially in Africa (*World Bank, 2015*).

5. Public Work Programs: Public works programs engage participants in manual, labor-oriented activities such as building or rehabilitating community assets and public infrastructure. Examples include seasonal labor-intensive works for poor and food insecure populations. Public works implemented under the Productive Safety Net Program in Ethiopia illustrate this type of safety net (*World Bank, 2015*).

Watershed management must take into account land capability classification, since atypical Watershed may include lands suitable for cropping, trees, pastures. Watershed management implies rational utilization of land and water resource for optimum and sustained production, with minimum of hazard to natural resources (*Singh & Sharma, 2007*).

6. Fee Waivers :Fee waivers assist households in meeting the cost for a defined class of services, particularly related to education, health, and housing. Waivers can apply to either partial or discounted fees, as well as to other charges or expenditures. The Capitation Grant Program in Ghana, which helps households“ access primary health care services at no cost for them, epitomizes this category. The five largest social safety net programs in the world account for about half of global coverage, reaching over 435 million people. They are all in middle-income countries. The Chinese Dibao is the largest UCT program, reaching about 75 million individuals. With more than 70 million beneficiaries, Bolsa Familia in Brazil is the largest CCT in the world. Two Indian programs are among the largest in each of the types. The School Feeding Program (reaching 105 million people) and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (reaching 58 million people) are the largest-scale social safety nets globally. The Child Support Grant in South Africa is the largest social safety net in Africa, followed by Ethiopia’s PSNP (*World Bank, 2015*).

2.3.12. Overview of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Ethiopia

The Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) is a significant social protection initiative launched by the Ethiopian government to enhance food security and reduce poverty among vulnerable populations. Initiated in 2005, the PSNP aims to provide predictable and reliable support to households that face food insecurity due to environmental shocks or economic hardships. The

program is designed to improve resilience by combining food or cash transfers with community-based projects that promote development and self-sufficiency.

Until 2005, the main response to poverty and hunger came through annual emergency appeals. There was an appeal for humanitarian assistance every year since the famine of following the drought in 2002-2003, when more than 13 million Ethiopians a record number required assistance the government established the New Coalition for Food Security and sought a new approach to tackling food insecurity (*World Bank, 2011*). The PSNP was launched by the Government of Ethiopia, with the support of a group of development partners, in January 2005. The PSNP targeted approximately five million chronic food insecure people living in 262 “chronically food insecure Woredas” in 2005, but the number of PSNP beneficiaries was increased to eight million in 2006 (*Workneh, 2008*). PSNP aims to provide predictable transfers to meet predictable needs. In other words, chronically food insecure households will receive support for several months of the year for up to five years, bridging their annual food consumption gap and building their resilience, until they are no longer chronically food insecure and are better able to cope with moderate shocks. At this point, the household is considered to be food sufficient and is ready to graduate from the PSNP. Although emergency relief would continue to be required in years of severe shocks, if the PSNP is successful then large numbers of people would be taken off the annual emergency appeal process (*World Bank, 2008*).

Food insecurity in Ethiopia is normally understood in terms of recurrent food crises and famines, and responses to food insecurity have conventionally been dominated by emergency food-based interventions. In the ten years from 1994 to 2003, an average of five million Ethiopians were declared “at risk” and in need of emergency assistance, and since 1998 the numbers of food aid beneficiaries in Ethiopia have fluctuated between 5 and 14 million every year. However, a high proportion of households that receive emergency food aid, or work on public works projects, every year are not “famine prone” but are “chronically food insecure” they face predictable annual food deficits caused by agricultural production constraints and poverty. These “predictably food insecure” people are also exposed to recurrent shocks, usually triggered by drought, that raise their vulnerability further, by forcing them to dispose of their assets to survive. This results in a gradual deterioration of their food security status overtime, which decades of

large-scale food aid deliveries have done little to prevent. Instead, dependency on food aid has steadily increased over time (*Deverue, et al, 2008*).

The PSNP's objectives include smoothing household food consumption and protecting assets, strengthening household and community resilience to shocks, and breaking Ethiopia's chronic dependence on food aid. In reality, a high proportion of families that receive food aid every year are not at risk of famine, but are chronically food insecure i.e. permanently unable to meet their food needs because of inadequate productive assets (*Deverue, et al, 2008*).

2.3.13. Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Ethiopia

The World Bank's support for Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) began with an Adaptable Program Loan (APL). The initial phase of the project, known as APL1, was designed with significant involvement from the World Bank, which provided a credit of US\$ 14.3 million and a grant of US\$ 55.7 million. This funding was approved on November 30, 2004, and the project officially commenced on January 1, 2005, concluding on December 31, 2006 (*World Bank, 2011*). At the outset, the nutritional status of the Ethiopian population was notably poor, with daily caloric intake falling below the recommended level of 2,200 calories per person per day. In rural areas, access to safe drinkingwater and basic health services including immunization, was severely limited (*Workneh, 2008*). The PSNP was designed to address these deficiencies by providing predictable support to food-insecure households, improving their access to essential resources, and enhancing their resilience to economic and environmental shocks.

2.3 14. Components of Productive Safety Net Program

As *Workneh Nigatu (2008)* stated in Digest of Ethiopian National Policies, Strategies and Program, the productive safety net program in Ethiopia consists of two components: public works and direct support.

A. Public Work: Public works are labor-intensive community-based activities. They are designed to provide employment for able-bodied and chronically food insecure people. Activities that are under taken through public works are carried out on community land and resources. However, certain activities can be undertaken on private lands. Activities allowed on private holdings are labor activities like construction of water-harvesting structures on lands belonging

to female-headed households with no labor. The types of activities that are practiced by public works for communities are to be designed in such a way to contribute to solving crucial local problems identified (*Workneh, 2008*).

B. Direct Support: Direct support is the provision of direct and unconditional transfer of cash or food to vulnerable households with no able-bodied members to participate in public works (*Workneh, 2008*). Large-scale program such as the PSNP are political as well as economic and social resources. In all countries whether developing or industrialized, safety net and social welfare program are subject to political promises and campaigns (Taylor, 2006). The launch of the PSNP coincided with the 2005 legislative election campaign. As a result, many local administrators were unsurprisingly more preoccupied with campaigning and supervising the elections than with overseeing the start-up of the PSNP. The timing of the Safety Net's inception also made it possible for the PSNP to be used a political resource both before and after the elections (*Taylor, 2006*).

2.3.15. An Overview of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Sekela Woreda

The Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) is a cornerstone of Ethiopia's strategy to improve food security and support rural livelihoods. Launched in 2005, the program provides food or cash transfers to vulnerable households, aiming to reduce poverty and enhance resilience to economic shocks (Ethiopian Federal Government, 2005). The PSNP was rolled out gradually across different regions and districts, including Sekela Woreda in the West Gojam Zone. In Sekela Woreda, the program began its initial phases around 2006-2007, shortly after the national rollout. This timeline is consistent with the general expansion of the PSNP into rural areas and woreda-level implementations. Sekela Woreda, situated in the West Gojam Zone of the Amhara National Regional State, is one of the regions where the PSNP is actively implemented.

2.3.16. Objectives and Components Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Sekela Woreda

Supporting Food-Insecure Households: The program offers regular food or cash transfers to food-insecure households to meet their immediate needs and mitigate food shortages (Amhara National Regional State Bureau of Agriculture, 2020).

Promoting Asset Building and Community Development: Beneficiaries participate in public works projects, which include infrastructure improvements such as road construction and soil conservation. These projects not only benefit the community but also help households build assets and improve resilience (*Sekela Woreda Agricultural Office, 2023*).

Encouraging Sustainable Livelihoods: The PSNP provides training and access to microfinance, facilitating income diversification and long-term livelihood improvements for participating households. **Sustainability Concerns:** Ensuring the sustainability of public works projects and the lasting impact on beneficiaries' livelihoods requires ongoing effort and resources (*Ethiopian Federal Government, 2005*).

Implementation in Sekela Woreda: Beneficiary Selection and Coverage: Beneficiaries are selected through community-based targeting methods to ensure that the most vulnerable households receive assistance. The program covers a substantial portion of the population, focusing on those unable to secure their basic needs independently. Despite its benefits, the PSNP in Sekela Woreda faces several challenges: **Resource Constraints:** Limited resources can impact the scale and effectiveness of public works projects, affecting their ability to achieve long-term development goals (Amhara National Regional State Bureau of Agriculture, 2020).

Public Works Projects: Projects in Sekela Woreda address local priorities, such as improving agricultural productivity and infrastructure. These include soil conservation initiatives and water management systems (*Sekela Woreda Agricultural Office, 2023*).

Cash and Food Transfers: Depending on seasonal conditions and market dynamics, beneficiaries receive either cash or food transfers. This flexibility is aimed at providing the most effective support based on local circumstances (*Ethiopian Federal Government, 2005*).

Monitoring and Evaluation: The program's implementation is closely monitored by local authorities and stakeholders. Regular evaluations are conducted to assess the program's impact, address challenges, and refine its execution. **Implementation Issues:** Problems such as delays in transfers and logistical difficulties can hinder the smooth operation of the program (*Sekela Woreda Agricultural Office, 2023*).

2.4.Exploring the Relationship between Independent and Dependent Variables in the Conceptual Framework

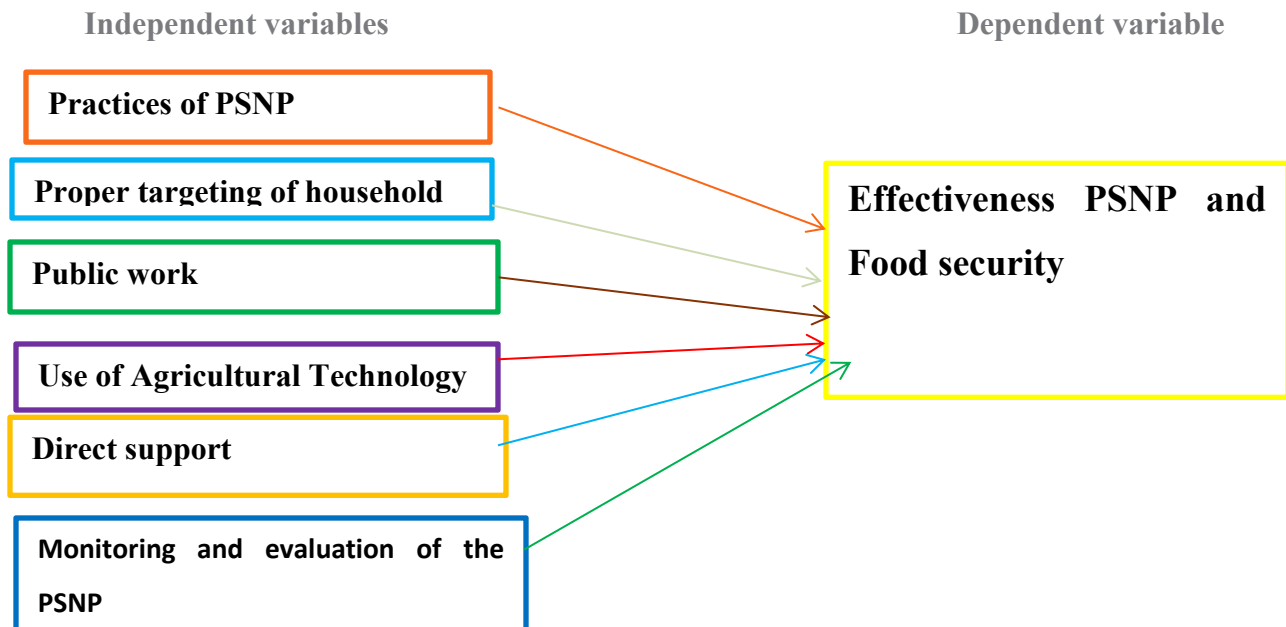


Figure 2: Mapping the Interaction between Independent and Dependent Variables in the Conceptual Framework

- **Practices of PSNP** impact the **effectiveness** of the program by shaping how well resources are allocated and managed.
- **Proper targeting** improves the **effectiveness** and **food security** by ensuring that assistance reaches the most vulnerable households.
- **Public works** contribute to **effectiveness** by creating infrastructure and economic opportunities that support long-term food security.
- **Direct support** directly affects **food security** by addressing immediate needs and stabilizing household food availability.
- **Use of agricultural technology** enhances **food security** by increasing agricultural productivity and income.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation** ensure continuous **effectiveness** by identifying issues and enabling timely adjustments to the program.

In summary, the independent variables contribute to the **effectiveness** of the PSNP and its impact on **food security** by improving program delivery, targeting accuracy, and resource utilization.

2.5. Assessing the Researcher's Position, on the Productive Safety Net Program and Its Impact on Food Security According to the Literature

To formulate my position on food security in relation to the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and its challenges in Sekela Woreda, I recognize several key comparisons and contrasts. First, the PSNP directly supports food security by providing immediate assistance to vulnerable households, which helps ensure access to sufficient and nutritious food. This aligns with my thesis, as it highlights the program's role in addressing food shortages in Sekela. However, while self-sufficiency focuses on domestic food production, it can limit flexibility in responding to local needs and global market changes. Relying solely on local production might hinder the PSNP's effectiveness, given the interconnected nature of today's economy.

Additionally, the PSNP promotes community empowerment through its public works projects, which aligns with the principles of food sovereignty. This positioning supports the idea that empowering local communities enhances their resilience. However, the program's emphasis on immediate cash and food transfers can sometimes prioritize short-term needs over long-term agricultural development, revealing a tension between market-driven solutions and community empowerment.

Economically, the PSNP stabilizes food security during economic shocks, but an excessive focus on self-sufficiency can create vulnerabilities. A balanced approach that integrates food security with elements of self-sufficiency would create a more resilient food system for Sekela Woreda. Emphasizing food security allows for participation in global trade, enhancing food availability, while strict self-sufficiency could isolate the community and increase risks if local production fails.

Culturally and environmentally, the PSNP supports sustainable practices through community involvement, aligning with the ecological focus of food sovereignty. This perspective

emphasizes the importance of local practices for long-term food security. However, traditional food security frameworks often prioritize availability without considering cultural and environmental sustainability, a crucial aspect that my position highlights.

In summary, I advocate for a balanced approach to food security that effectively utilizes the strengths of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) to address immediate needs of vulnerable households. This approach not only focuses on providing essential assistance but also highlights the importance of food sovereignty, which empowers local communities to control their food systems. Additionally, it emphasizes sustainability by encouraging eco-friendly practices that benefit the environment.

By integrating local empowerment and sustainable agricultural practices into the PSNP, we can create a more resilient food system in Sekela Woreda. This means supporting community involvement in decision-making and promoting agricultural techniques that are not only productive but also environmentally responsible.

My position recognizes the complexity of food systems, where immediate needs must be met without sacrificing long-term goals of self-sufficiency and sovereignty. Ultimately, this balanced view seeks to ensure that food security is not just about availability but also about the right of communities to shape their food futures sustainably. This holistic approach aims to build a stronger foundation for food security in Sekela Woreda, ensuring that both current and future generations can develop successfully.

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.1. Description of the Study Area

Sekela Woreda is situated in the West Gojjam Zone of the Amhara Regional State in Ethiopia. It is located approximately 476 kilometers northwest of the capital city, Addis Ababa. The woreda is administratively divided into 27 rural kebeles and one urban kebele, known as Gish Abay, which serves as the administrative center for the area.

3.1.1. Locations

Sekela Woreda is located in the West Gojjam Zone of the Amhara Regional State in northwestern Ethiopia. It is positioned approximately 476 kilometers from Addis Ababa, the capital city, and about 32 kilometers from Tilili town. Covering a total area of 77,792 hectares, Sekela Woreda features a diverse topography and climatic conditions that impact its agricultural practices and overall development. Geographical Boundaries: Southwest Bure Woreda, West AgewZone, North Mecha Woreda, Northeast Yilmanadensa Woreda, East Kuarit Woreda, Southeast Jabitehnan Woreda. The woreda's location provides access to both agricultural opportunities and market hubs within the region. The diverse geographical features of Sekela, combined with its proximity to neighboring woredas, play a crucial role in shaping the local economy, agricultural practices, and socio-demographic dynamics.

3.1.2. Topography and climate condition

Sekela have a population density of 180.39 persons per square kilometer. The area was found 2000-3525 meter above sea level and categorized under climatic condition of 70% Dega and 30 % Weynadega with annual rainfall of 1700 mm. The topography of the area was 10% plate land, 65% mountainous and 25% valley. Average temperature was 18°C. (Sekela Woreda communication affairs office, 2018). The district has four distinct seasons; spring (September-November); winter (December – February), autumn (March- May) and summer (June-August). The end of spring and the beginning of winter is the harvesting time. The data collection period was during the post-harvest season.

3.1.3. Population and demographic characteristics

Sekela Woreda features a varied landscape, including highland areas and rolling hills, typical of the Ethiopian highlands. The altitude ranges from approximately 1,800 to 2,600 meters above sea level, which influences its climate and agricultural practices. The area experiences a subtropical highland climate with a bimodal rainfall pattern, characterized by a rainy season from June to September and a shorter rainy period around March to May. The temperature ranges from moderate to cool, conducive to diverse agricultural activities. The total population of Sekela Woreda is estimated to be 153,056 of whom 76,172 are men and 76,884 women's, 8,722 or 5.7% are urban inhabitants with an area of 768.83 square km. Total of 29,908 households were counted in this woreda, resulting in an average of 4.64 persons to a household, and 29,093 housing units. The majority of the inhabitants practiced Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity, with 99.97% reporting that as their religion.

3.1.4. Socio-economic characteristic

Agriculture, mainly cereal crop production, is the means of livelihood for the majority of inhabitants. The main types of crops produced are teff (*Eragrostis tef*), bean, barely, oat and cowpea. The district has four distinct seasons; spring (September- November); winter (December – February), autumn (March- May) and summer (June-August). The end of spring beginning of winter is the harvesting time. The data collection period was during the post-harvest season.

3.1. 5. Livelihood Bases in Sekela Woreda

Sekela Woreda's economy is predominantly agrarian, with agriculture serving as the primary livelihood source for most residents. The region's varied topography and climatic conditions significantly influence the local economic activities.

Agriculture: The cornerstone of Sekela Woreda's economy is agriculture, encompassing both crop cultivation and livestock rearing. Major crops include maize, teff, barley, and wheat, which are well-suited to the region's climate. Livestock farming, which includes cattle, sheep, and goats, also contributes significantly to the local economy. Farming practices are adapted to the region's mountainous terrain and valley areas, impacting both crop and livestock production (*Sekela Woreda Economic Report, 2024*).

Crop Production: Sekela Woreda's high altitude and adequate rainfall support the cultivation of highland crops. Maize and teff are staple foods, while barley and wheat serve as cash crops. The region practices a mix of subsistence and commercial agriculture, incorporating both traditional and modern methods (*Sekela Woreda Agricultural Survey, 2024*).

Livestock Rearing: Livestock rearing is vital for Sekela's economy, providing food and income through the sale of animals and animal products. Additionally, livestock contribute to agricultural activities as draught power. Cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry are commonly reared (*Sekela Woreda Livestock Report, 2024*).

Forestry and Agroforestry: Agroforestry is practiced in some areas of Sekela Woreda, where trees and shrubs are grown alongside crops. This approach aids in soil conservation, offers fuelwood, and supports the local economy (*Sekela Woreda Forestry Review, 2024*).

Non-Farm Activities: Beyond agriculture, some residents are involved in trade, small-scale enterprises, and artisanal crafts. These non-farm activities provide additional income and are especially significant in urban areas such as Sekela town (Sekela Town Economic Assessment, 2024). In response, they have developed multiple livelihood strategies, including growing of drought tolerant and early maturing crop varieties, increasing wetlands cultivation, water harvesting for small-scale irrigation and participating in off-farming activities such as trade, handicraft, distilling Arakie, honey production, daily labor, charcoal production and others.

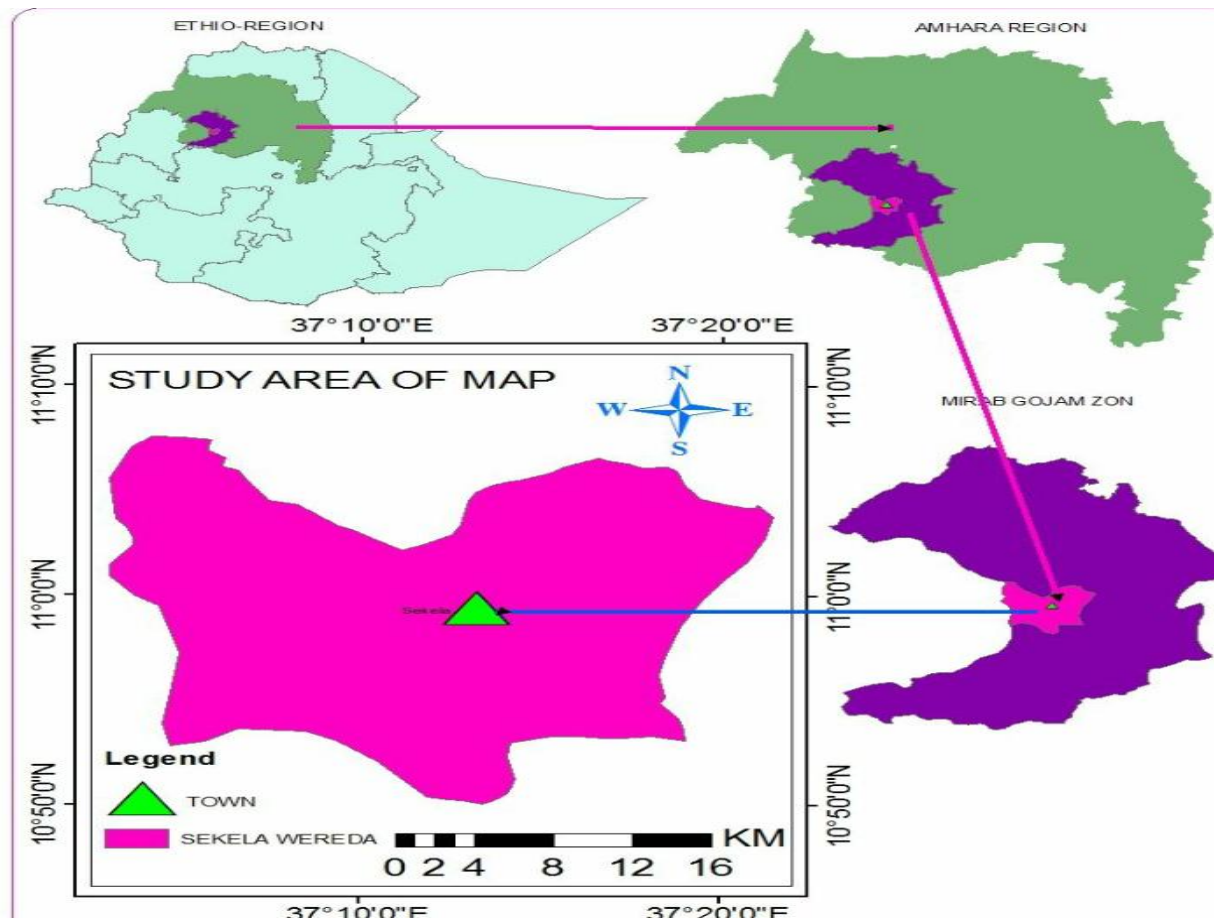


Figure 3: The map of the study area

3.2. Research approach and Design

The researcher employed both descriptive and explanatory research designs to assess and explore the practices and challenges associated with the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and food security in the study area. This combined approach was chosen to effectively address the research questions and provide a comprehensive analysis. Descriptive Research Design this design was used to systematically describe the current state of PSNP practices and food security issues. It involved gathering detailed information about the conditions and characteristics of the PSNP implementation and its impact on food security (*Kerlinger & Lee, 2000*). This approach provided a clear of the overview existing situation and was useful for identifying patterns and trends. Explanatory research design, this design aimed to investigate the causes and effects related to the PSNP and food security. It sought to explain the underlying reasons for observed phenomena and to establish causal relationships. This aspect of the research focused on

understanding how different factors influence the effectiveness of the PSNP and food security outcomes.

3.3. Research Method

The data collected from different source were processed, analyzed and interpreted by using both qualitative and quantitative methods. In this study both qualitative and quantitative data analyzed techniques were employed based on the nature of data. The quantitative data which were collected from the survey through questionnaire were checked for completeness and coded. Then quantitative data collected through questioners were analyzed and interpreted by using descriptive statistical analysis like percentage, frequency, mean , standard deviation and analyze the relation between dependent and independent variable by using SPSS software and result version 27, were presented by using tables.

For qualitative data the existing situation of the major practice and challenge which were collected through focus group interview and personal observation. The qualitative method used to collect and analysis of subjective opinions, attitudes and views of people through interview and also personal observation were organized and analyzed using thematic narrative methods by making summaries of the respondent view parallel to the quantitative as a supplementary. Finally summary, conclusion and recommendations were forwarded based on finding of the study.

3.4. Target Population

A population is a complete set of individual cases or objects with some common observable characteristics (*Mugenda, 2003*). Population also refers to the larger group from which the sample is taken (*Kombo& Tromp, 2009*). Consequently, the population sizes of this study are all households which are engaged in PSNP in the selected kebele in this woreda.

3.5. Study population, sample Size and Sampling Techniques

The Amhara Regional State is divided into 11 zones and 167 woredas (districts), with approximately 3,429 kebeles (the smallest administrative units). For this study, West Gojjam Zone was purposively selected due to the researcher's familiarity with the area and its issues. Within West Gojjam Zone, there are eight woredas. Sekela Woreda was specifically chosen for this study because it is where the implementation activities are most concentrated.

3.5.1. Sample size

Total kebele in the woreda are twenty seven kebele from these there are twenty two benefiting PSNP from each kebele have averagely 694 householders participating in the PSNP of the woreda. Under this study it is impossible to collect data on the whole population considering the size's as well as the time, available to the researcher the study not cover all kebeles in the woreda, because of time and resource constraints. The researcher used purposively select three kebele (Kolel, Lecha and Jabola) who are beneficial from PSNP from all selected kebele.

Total population of householders participating in the PSNP of the woreda under this study is 2082 as of the data gained January 04, 2023, hence Kebele selection was purposive sampling (Judgmental) because the studying deals practice and challenges of PSNP and food security in these Kebeles highly vulnerable to food insecurity and large number of PSNP beneficiaries. In this regard the researcher focused on three highest PSNP beneficiary Kebeles. Among others rural kebele Kolele, lecha and Jabola, were beneficiaries of PSNP and relatively more vulnerable as compared to others rural Kebeles of the woreda according the data that gian from (*Sekela Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Office, Crop Production Department, 2022/23*)

Table 1: Total Household Heads of PSNP beneficiaries in Sample Kebeles

No	Sample kebeles	Public Workers			Direct Support			Public Workers +Direct support		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Kolele	227	193	420	131	189	320	358	382	740
2	Lecha	195	178	373	109	157	266	304	335	639
3	Jabola	219	189	408	129	166	295	348	355	703
	Total	641	560	1201	369	512	881	1010	1072	2082

Regarding sample size determination, representative sample households were selected based on the required precision level and numbers of households in three Kebeles. Therefore, the sample size was determined by using a simplified formula developed by *Yamane (1967)*. For this study, Yamane's formula found to be an appropriate technique to determine sample size.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

$$N=2082$$

$$n=2082/1+2082(0.08)^2 = 2082 /1+12.95$$

$$=2082/13.95 =149.3 \approx 149$$

Where n is sample size, N= total population, e sampling error at 95% of Level of confidence. Thus; using the sample size determining formula a total of 149 participants selected using simple random sampling.

$$\text{Respondent sample size} = \frac{\text{RPS}}{N} \times n \quad \text{kebele 1: } (740 \div 2082) \times 149 = 53$$

$$\text{kebele 2: } (639 \div 2082) \times 149 = 46 \quad \text{kebele 3: } (703 \div 2082) \times 149 = 50$$

RPS= respondent population size N= total population size n=total sample size

Table 2: Determining Sample Size and Selection Techniques for Focus Group Interviews

No	Sample kebeles	PublicWorkers+Direct support			Sample Size for Focus Group Interview Respondents by Kebele	Sample technique
		Male	Female	Total		
1	Kolele	358	382	740	53	Simple random sampling
2	Lecha	304	335	639	46	simple random sampling
3	Jabola	348	355	703	50	simple random sampling
	Total	1010	1072	2082	149	

3.5.2. Sampling Technique

When describing the sampling techniques used in a study, it is important to clarify the methods employed and how they contribute to achieving the study's objectives. The researcher utilized a combination of purposive, proportional stratified, and simple random sampling techniques to

strengthen the study's validity. The initial step involved purposively selecting kebeles (neighborhoods or administrative districts) with the largest number of PSNP (Productive Safety Net Program) beneficiaries. This purposive selection was based on variations in the number of beneficiaries across rural kebeles (*Krueger & Casey, 2014*).

Following this, the researcher applied stratified sampling by categorizing beneficiaries into different groups public work beneficiaries and direct support beneficiaries. This stratification ensured that various subgroups were represented in the study. Within each stratum, simple random sampling was used to select households for the focus group interviews. This approach was designed to minimize bias and ensure a representative sample from each category (*Morgan, 1997*).

The combination of purposive, stratified, and random sampling techniques provided the researcher with a comprehensive understanding of the issue under investigation, offering insights that would be difficult to achieve with a single sampling method alone (*Bloor, Frankland, Thomas, & Robson, 2001*). By utilizing these sampling techniques, the study was able to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the PSNP program and its impact, providing valuable insights into both program implementation and beneficiary experiences.

3.6. Data Collection Instruments

In this study, the researcher employed three primary data collection instruments to gather comprehensive and reliable information: questionnaires, focus group interviews, and observations. Each of these instruments played a distinct role in capturing different dimensions of the research problem, contributing to a with more comprehensive and detailed understanding of the subject. By integrating these three data collection methods, the researcher employed a triangulation approach. This method enhances the validity and reliability of the research findings by cross-verifying data from multiple sources. Triangulation allows for a more comprehensive view of the research problem, reducing the likelihood of bias and providing a fuller understanding of the subject. The combination of quantitative data from questionnaires, qualitative insights from focus group interviews, and contextual information from observations contributed to a well-rounded analysis of the PSNP and food security in Sekela Woreda.

3.6.1. Questionnaires

Questionnaires are widely recognized as flexible tools for collecting both qualitative and quantitative data, offering distinct advantages in research (Singh, 2006). In this study, questionnaires were utilized to gather information through both closed-ended and open-ended questions. The closed-ended questions were designed using a Likert scale, which is commonly employed in descriptive survey research. The scale included the following response options: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree and 5 = Strongly Agree. This format allows respondents to express their level of agreement with various statements, providing structured and quantifiable data (Likert, 1932). The Likert scale is advantageous for its simplicity in construction and the ease with which it facilitates statistical analysis. It provides respondents with a range of options to express their opinions, which can enhance the richness of the data collected (Cohen, Manion, & Morrison, 2011). Open-ended questions were included to allow respondents to provide detailed and subtle responses. This approach enables the researcher to capture qualitative data that may not be fully expressed through closed-ended questions.

The questionnaire was distributed to 45 key informants selected purposively from a range of groups to gather comprehensive insights into the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and food security. The participants included: Agriculture Extension Workers (9), Kebele Principals, Coordinators, and Managers (13), Woreda Agriculture Office and Food Security Experts (5), Woreda Administrators and Rural Development Office Personnel (4), NGO Coordinators and Development Donors (5) and Kebele Food Security Task Force Members (9). These diverse groups were chosen to provide varied perspectives on the effectiveness of the PSNP and food security. By engaging with a range of stakeholders, the researcher aimed to obtain a well-rounded view of the program's impact and challenges.

Table 3: Questionnaires List of Respondent

Respondent	Number of participant	Activity	Tool of data collection
Agriculture extension workers	9	Questionnaires	closed-ended and open-ended questionnaire
Kebeles principal, coordinators and manager	13	Questionnaires	closed-ended and open-ended questionnaire
NGO coordinators and developmental donors	5	Questionnaires	closed-ended and open-ended questionnaire

principle			
Woreda agriculture office and food security experts	5	Questionnaires	closed-ended and open-ended questionnaire
Woreda administrator and rural development office	4	Questionnaires	closed-ended and open-ended questionnaire
Kebele food security task force	9	Questionnaires	closed-ended and open-ended questionnaire

3.6.2. Household Interviews

In this study, the researcher utilized focus groups Interviews to gather data from 149 householders. The combination of structured and flexible questioning in focus groups facilitated an in-depth exploration of participants' views and experiences, contributing to a rich and comprehensive understanding of the research topic. This method serves to solicit participants' attitudes and perceptions, knowledge and experiences, and practices, shared in the course of interaction with different people (*Bromley, et al. (2003)*). Therefore, the interviews allows much greater freedom to ask structured questions. The researcher prepared interview questions and gather data from 149 householders.

Focus group interviews are particularly effective for gathering detailed insights from multiple participants simultaneously. They facilitate rich, in-depth discussions that provide a comprehensive understanding of participants' attitudes, beliefs, and experiences. By engaging several participants in a single session, researchers can explore a wide range of perspectives on a topic, generating extensive data that might be difficult to obtain through other methods (*Krueger & Casey, 2014*). Additionally, focus groups are highly effective for idea generation. The interactive nature of these sessions encourages participants to build on each other's responses, fostering the development of new ideas and solutions. This collaborative process is especially valuable during brainstorming sessions or when seeking creative input on specific issues (*Bloor, Frankland, Thomas, & Robson, 2001*)

3.6.3. Observation

Observation is a qualitative research method that involves collecting data in a natural setting to understand behaviors, actions, and interactions as they occur in their usual context. It provides direct insights into what people say, do, or feel, and allows researchers to gather information that might not be captured through other methods (*DeWalt & DeWalt, 2011*).

In this study, non-participant observation was utilized. This approach involves the researcher observing activities and behaviors without actively participating in them. Non-participant observation enables the researcher to remain an external observer, which helps to minimize potential biases that might arise from direct involvement (*Angrosino, 2007*).

Scope and Focus, Public Works and Service Delivery: The researcher conducted repeated observations of various public works undertaken by PSNP (Productive Safety Net Program) beneficiaries. This included monitoring the implementation of public works projects and inspecting issues faced by rural populations at major service delivery centers where they receive food crops and/or cash.

Agricultural Activities: Observations also covered a range of agricultural activities performed by the rural agrarian population, from the early pre-harvest phase to the late post-harvest season. This comprehensive observation provided insights into the agricultural practices and the challenges encountered throughout the agricultural cycle.

Rationale for Using Observation, Contextual Understanding: Observation was chosen as a key data source due to its ability to provide contextual understanding and real-time data on the activities and conditions affecting PSNP beneficiaries. It allows the researcher to see firsthand the practical aspects of the program and its impact on the community (*Marshall & Rossman, 2016*). Observation is independent of the willingness of respondents to participate and requires less direct cooperation from research participants compared to interviews or surveys. This method is particularly useful for studying behaviors and processes in natural settings where participant responses might be influenced by the presence of the researcher (*DeWalt & DeWalt, 2011*).

By employing non-participant observation, the study was able to gain valuable insight into understanding the real-world implementation of the PSNP and the day-to-day challenges faced by beneficiaries, complementing the data collected through questionnaires and interviews.

3.6.4. Document Analysis

Document analysis is a qualitative research method used to systematically evaluate and interpret various types of documents to gather information and insights relevant to a study. This approach

involves examining existing records, reports, and other written materials to supplement and validate data collected through other methods (*Bowen, 2009*).

Sources of Documents: Documents from the Woreda Agricultural Development Office were analyzed to obtain official records and data related to agricultural activities, program implementation, and outcomes. Records from the Kebele administration were reviewed to understand local administrative processes, PSNP implementation details, and community-level information. Relevant information was also sourced from online databases and books to provide additional context and background on agricultural practices, food security, and related topics. By incorporating document analysis into the research methodology, the study was able to enhance the richness of the data and provide a well-rounded perspective on the PSNP program and food security issues.

3.7. Source of Data

To conduct this study, data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. Each type of data provides different insights and serves distinct purposes in the research process.

3.7.1. Primary Sources of Data

Primary data refer to information collected directly from original sources for the first time, providing fresh and unique insights. In descriptive studies, several methods can be employed to gather primary data, including surveys, interviews, and observations (Creswell, 2014). This direct collection allows researchers to capture specific information relevant to their study objectives and ensures that the data reflect the current context and conditions (Bryman, 2016). For this study, primary data were collected through the following methods: Focus group interviews, Conducted with household members to gather qualitative data on their experiences and perceptions regarding the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). Observations, Performed during fieldwork in selected Kebeles to systematically watching and recording behaviors, events, observe the implementation of the PSNP and its effects on beneficiaries and questionnaires were distributed to purposively selectd key informants to gather and assess various aspects of the PSNP and food security. By utilizing these methods, the study aimed to capture a comprehensive and accurate picture of the PSNP's impact and the challenges faced by beneficiaries.

3.7.2. Secondary Source of Data

Secondary sources of data are those which have already been collected by someone else and which have already been passed through the statistical process *Kotharin (2004)*. The researcher has used Policy document, manuals, reports, books, previous research output, public conference paper, journals, internet, unpublished material consulted and articles, used as a secondary Source of data. Furthermore, secondary data were collected from Amhara Agricultural and Rural Development Bureau, PSNP implementation manual, PSNP monitoring and evaluation guidelines and PSNP reports of Sekela woreda and sample kebeles, journals of research findings and other reports served as the key sources of this data and helped to augment the primary data. By employing these primary data collection methods, the study was able to gather detailed and specific information directly from the field, providing a robust basis for analyzing the PSNP program and its effects on food security.

3.8. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The study employed both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods to comprehensively address the research objectives and understand the complexities of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and food security. Each type of data was analyzed using appropriate techniques to ensure a thorough and accurate interpretation.

Quantitative data were collected through both open and closed-ended questions. The data were then coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM SPSS version 27). Descriptive statistics, including frequency, percentage, correlation, and regression analysis, were employed to analyze and interpret the quantitative data. On the other hand, the qualitative data was collected through observation and focus group interview with program beneficiaries that are analyzed through qualitative way (by narration or discussion). Moreover for qualitative data, the focus group interview was taken by the photo, recording sounds and handwriting notes.

Combined Approach, both qualitative and quantitative data were integrated to address the multifaceted nature of the research problem. This mixed-methods approach allowed for a more comprehensive assessment of the PSNP program. Analysis the integration involved comparing and contrasting the findings from qualitative and quantitative analyses to validate results and provide a holistic view of the issues under investigation. Focusing the combined data analysis

focused on critically assessing the practices and challenges of the PSNP in the study area. It aimed to provide a systematic and detailed interpretation of the data to meet the major research objective

3.9. Data Quality Control and Reliability

Data quality control and reliability are fundamental aspects of research that ensure the accuracy and consistency of the study findings. Addressing both concepts helps to ensure that the research results are credible and can be trusted.

3.9.1. Data Quality Control

Ensuring the quality and reliability of data is essential for maintaining the credibility of research findings. In this study, several strategies were implemented to enhance the validity and trustworthiness of the collected data. A key approach was triangulation, which involved using multiple data sources and methods to cross-validate findings. By combining data from observations, interviews, and secondary sources, we were able to confirm the consistency and accuracy of our results, leading to a comprehensive understanding of the PSNP program and its impacts.

Prior to data collection, data collectors and supervisors underwent a three-day training program that covered study objectives, data collection procedures, confidentiality, and the significance of the research collectors. Additionally, one week before the actual data collection began, the questionnaire was pre-tested with 10% of households in a similar population from non-selected kebeles. This pre-test helped refine the questionnaire based on participant feedback.

During the data collection period, tight supervision and daily follow-ups were conducted to ensure data completeness and consistency, addressing any issues on the spot. To maximize the response rate, we made up to three repeated visits to participants who were unavailable during the initial data collection, and we clearly explained the study's purpose to participants before the interviews began. These combined efforts significantly enhanced the quality and reliability of the data collected in this research.

3.9.2. Reliability

Reliability refers to the consistency and dependability of research findings when studies are repeated under similar conditions. According to Orodho (2004), reliability is crucial for ensuring that results can be replicated and are not influenced by random errors or inconsistencies. To enhance reliability, a pilot study was conducted to test the research instruments and procedures on a smaller scale before the main data collection. This implementation involved 10 respondents, representing approximately 10% of the sample size, who provided feedback on the clarity, relevance, and effectiveness of the questionnaires and interview guides. Importantly, these pilot study participants were not included in the actual data collection to avoid any influence on the final results. Additionally, Cronbach's Alpha, a statistical measure used to assess the internal consistency and reliability of a scale or questionnaire, was calculated for the research instruments. In this study, a reliability coefficient of 0.86 was obtained with 12 items, indicating that the questionnaire items are consistently measuring the intended constructs and that the results are reliable over time. By conducting a pilot study and utilizing Cronbach's Alpha, the research ensured that the instruments were reliable and capable of producing consistent results, significantly enhancing the accuracy and dependability of the study's findings.

3.10. Ethical Considerations

The researcher considers basic ethical principles of conduct research in the processes of data collection. Permission letter was obtained from the college of law and governance at Jimma University. During the conduct of interview and questionnaires respondent were informed about the purpose and benefits of the study along with their full right to refuse completely to participate in study. The respondents have been assured that their responses will be kept confidentially and will be used only for the purpose of this research.

The researcher under consideration like cultural, moral, psychological and religious aspect of the study area the community and also the researcher keep the confidentiality of the selected key informants and participants in most instances as per the interest of the informants. The researchers also ask the consent and interest of the participants and key informants to record their sound and capture their image during interview observation.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1. Introduction

This study investigates the implementation of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and food security states in Sekela Woreda, West Gojjam Zone. The primary objective is to assess the extent of food insecurity and to examine the practices and challenges associated with the PSNP and other food security initiatives in the region.

The research employs a combination of primary and secondary data sources to provide a comprehensive analysis. Primary data was collected through field observations, questionnaires directed at key informants, and focus group interviews. Secondary data was obtained from existing reports and literature relevant to the PSNP and food security. The findings presented below are based on this multifaceted approach, aiming to shed light on both the successes and difficulties encountered in the implementation of these programs in Sekela Woreda.

4.2. Analysis and Interpretation of Data Collected from Household Beneficiaries via Focus Group Interviews and Observations

4.2.1. Demographic Characteristics of Participants and its Interpretation

The beneficiaries of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) from three selected Kebeles in Sekela Woreda formed the basis of this study. Data was collected at the household level, revealing variability across different households in several key demographic factors. These factors include: The number of individuals per household varies, which can influence the distribution and effectiveness of food security measures. Productive labor forces the, availability of labor within households, including the number of able-bodied adults, affects the household's capacity to engage in productive activities and benefit from the PSNP. The age and gender of the household heads play a significant role in determining household dynamics and the management of resources. These factors can impact the effectiveness of program interventions and overall food security. The level of education of household heads is a crucial determinant of how effectively they can manage resources, access information, and implement practices related to the PSNP. Types of PSNP Beneficiaries: Variability exists in the types of beneficiaries within

the PSNP, which may include different forms of assistance such as cash transfers, food aid, or public works.

These demographic characteristics influence the process of achieving food security at the household level and impact the implementation and effectiveness of the PSNP. Understanding these variables is essential for analyzing how well the program addresses the needs of its beneficiaries and identifies areas for improvement.

Table 5: Demographic Characteristics of Sample Respondents (Beneficiaries)

Variables	Alternatives	Frequency	Percentage
Household head (sex)	Male	114	76.51
	Female	35	23.81
	Total	149	100
Age of Household Heads	25-35	48	32.65
	36-45	78	52.20
	46-55	20	13.6
	56 and above	3	2.04
	Total	149	100
Education level	Illiterate	34	23.12
	Read and write only	75	50.3
	Complete Primary school	32	21.76
	Complete Secondary school	8	5.44
	Total	149	100

Source: Household Interview Survey (January 2023)

The study sample comprised 149 household heads from three Kebeles in Sekela Woreda. The demographic distribution of these participants is as follows: Gender of Household Heads: Male-headed households, 114 (76.19%) and Female-headed households, 35 (23.81%), Age Distribution 25-35 years, 48 households (32.65%) ,36-45 years, 78 households (51.70%) ,46-55 years, 20 households (13.60%), Above 56 years: 3 households (2.04%), Educational Attainment, Can read and write, 75 participants (50.3%), Illiterate: 34 participants (23.12%), Completed primary education, 32 participants (21.76%), Completed secondary education: 8 participants (5.44%)

These demographic variables, including gender, age, and educational level, significantly impact the effectiveness and implementation of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and food security initiatives. For instance, the predominance of male-headed households might influence the distribution and management of resources within the program. The age distribution reflects a

mostly middle-aged population, which may affect labor availability and the ability to participate in program activities. Educational levels also play a role in the participants' capacity to engage with and benefit from the PSNP, as literacy and educational attainment can enhance understanding and application of program resources and strategies.

4.2.2. Household Size of Sample Respondents (Beneficiaries)

Table 6: Household Size of Sample Respondents (Beneficiaries)

Variables	Alternatives	Frequency	Percentage
Ranges of household size	1-2	26	17
	3-4	68	45.5
	5-6	45	30.2
	7-8	7	4.76
	Above 9	3	2.04
	Total	149	100

Source: Household Interview Survey January (2023)

Household Size Distribution: The table provides an overview of the distribution of household sizes among the sample respondents (beneficiaries) of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). The majority of respondents belong to households with 3-4 members, accounting for 45.5% of the sample. Households with 5-6 members represent 30.2% of the sample. Smaller households (1-2 members) make up 17% of the sample. Larger households (7-8 members) and very large households (above 9 members) are less common, comprising 4.76% and 2.04% of the sample, respectively.

This distribution helps in understanding the household demographics of the beneficiaries, which may be relevant for analyzing the impact and effectiveness of the PSNP. The data depicts that the beneficiary had different household size which in turn had impact on work force cash and food aid distribution.

2.2.3. Family Sizes per Public Work and Direct Support Beneficiaries

Table 7: Family Sizes per Public Work and Direct Support Beneficiaries

No	Family Size	Public workers		Direct support		Total	
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1	1-2	9	9.17	26	55.5	35	17.68
2	3-4	48	46	19	44.4	67	45.34
3	5-6	39	37.5	-		39	30.6

4	7-8	3	5.83	-		3	4.76
5	Above 9	5	2.5	-		5	2
	Total	104	100	45	100	149	100

Source: Household Interview Survey January (2023)

The data reveals significant variations in household sizes among different types of PSNP beneficiaries. According to Table 7, the distribution of household sizes for public workers and direct support beneficiaries is as follows: Public Workers: 3-4 members: 46%, 5-6 members, 37.5%, 1-2 members, 9.17%, 7-8 members, 5.83%, above 9 members, 2.5%. The household sizes for public workers range from one to nine members, with the most common sizes being 3-4 and 5-6 members. Direct Support Beneficiaries: 1-2 members: 55.56% and 3-4 members: 44.44%. The household sizes for direct support beneficiaries predominantly range from one to four members.

Comparison of Household Sizes, the data indicates a notable difference in household sizes between public workers and direct support beneficiaries within the PSNP program. Public workers tend to have larger household sizes, with the majority falling into the 3-4 and 5-6 member categories. In contrast, direct support beneficiaries generally have smaller households, with the majority in the 1-2 and 3-4 member categories.

This variation in household size suggests different needs and challenges between these two groups. Public workers, with larger households, might have different resource requirements and constraints compared to direct support beneficiaries who tend to live in smaller households. Understanding these differences is crucial for tailoring the PSNP interventions to better address the specific needs of each beneficiary group.

4.2.4. Productive Labor Forces within PSNP Beneficiaries

Table 8: Productive Labor Forces With in PSNP Beneficiaries

Types of PSNP					
Public work			Direct support		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
123	143	266	-	-	-

Table 8 presents the distribution of the productive labor force among the PSNP beneficiaries: Public Workers: Males 123 and Females 143. The public worker group includes a total of 264 individuals who are actively engaged in productive labor. This group comprises both males and females, reflecting a diverse and active workforce. Direct Support Beneficiaries: No household members are involved in public work. The direct support group, in contrast, does not contribute to public works, as these households are primarily composed of individuals who are disabled or elderly.

Impact on food security, the productive labor force within the PSNP beneficiaries significantly affects food security levels: Active Contribution of Public Workers: The public worker group, with its substantial productive labor force, is actively involved in public works. This active participation likely enhances their ability to secure and manage resources, thereby potentially improving their food security status. Direct Support Beneficiaries: The absence of a productive labor force among direct support beneficiaries suggests that these households rely heavily on the support provided by the PSNP. These households, consisting primarily of disabled and elderly individuals, face more significant challenges in securing food and managing resources due to their limited capacity for productive work.

Correlation between Labor Force and Food Security, the level of food insecurity is inversely correlated with the size of the household's productive labor force. Households with a larger and more active labor force generally experience lower levels of food insecurity. This correlation underscores the importance of having an active and productive labor force for maintaining food security. Additionally, the size and age composition of the family further influence food availability, as younger and able-bodied members contribute more effectively to productive activities. This analysis provides insights into how the productive capacity of PSNP beneficiaries affects their food security and highlights the need for tailored interventions based on the specific characteristics and capabilities of different beneficiary groups.

4.2.5. Assets of PSNP Beneficiaries

Table 9: Assets of PSNP Beneficiaries

No	Assets of PSNP Beneficiaries	Public work		Direct support		Total	
		F	%	F	%	F	%

1	Pair oxen	33	26			33	22
2	Single ox	89	74.2	6	22.3	95	64
3	Cow(s)	21	17.5	2	7.4	23	15
4	A house corrugated by Iron	54	45	2	7.4	56	38.1
5	A house corrugated grass	68	56	25	93.6	93	63
6	No ox or cow at all	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Household Interview Survey January (2023)

Table 9 provides insights into the housing conditions of PSNP beneficiaries: Types of Housing: Grass-Corrugated Houses 93 respondents (61.6%) and Iron-Corrugated Houses 56 respondents (38.09%), among those with iron-corrugated houses: Public Workers: 54 houses (45%) and Direct Support Beneficiaries: 2 houses (7.4%). The majority of respondents in both categories live in substandard housing conditions: Direct Support Beneficiaries: 93.6% live in inadequate housing that fails to protect them from the elements. Public Work Beneficiaries: 55% live in similar subpar conditions. This disparity highlights the poorer housing conditions faced by direct support beneficiaries, who are often more vulnerable and have less access to better housing resources compared to public workers.

Agricultural Assets, the data on agricultural assets reveals significant limitations among PSNP beneficiaries: Oxen Ownership: Pair of Oxen: 33 beneficiaries (22.08%) and Single Ox: 95 beneficiaries (64.6%). This distribution indicates that a majority of beneficiaries have limited agricultural assets, with a substantial proportion owning only a single ox or none at all. Cow for Milking, 23 beneficiaries (15.64%). The relatively low percentage of beneficiaries owning a cow for milking suggests limited access to dairy resources, which are crucial for both subsistence and potential income.

Implications, the data underscores several critical issues: Housing: A significant portion of PSNP beneficiaries, especially direct support recipients, lives in inadequate housing that does not offer protection from weather conditions. This can exacerbate their vulnerability and impact their overall well-being. Agricultural Assets: The limited number of oxen and dairy cows among beneficiaries reflects a broader issue of insufficient agricultural resources, which directly affects their productivity and food security. The lack of adequate housing and agricultural assets highlights the need for targeted interventions to improve living conditions and enhance access to essential resources for both public workers and direct support beneficiaries. Addressing these

issues is crucial for improving the overall effectiveness of the PSNP and ensuring better support for all beneficiaries. This structured analysis captures the key findings related to housing and agricultural assets, offering a clear picture of the challenges faced by PSNP beneficiaries.

4.2.6. Constituents of PSNP

The Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Sekela Woreda is designed to address food insecurity and support livelihoods through two primary forms of assistance: Direct Support and Public Works. Each component serves different needs within the community and contributes to the overall objectives of the program.

PSNP and Direct Support: Direct Support is a component of the PSNP designed to provide assistance to individuals who cannot participate in public works due to their age, disability, or other significant barriers. This form of support typically involves: Elderly individuals, people with physical and mental disabilities, those with long-term illnesses, and orphans. Recipients receive regular transfers throughout the year, which can be in the form of cash, and occasionally in-kind support such as food crops. This form of support aims to provide a safety net for the most vulnerable members of the community, ensuring they have access to basic needs despite their inability to contribute labor.

PSNP and Public Works: Public Works is another key component of the PSNP, targeting households with at least one able-bodied member who can contribute to communal development activities. Key aspects include: Participation in public workers engage in development activities for six months of the year, with the remaining six months free from public work obligations. These activities typically span from January to June. Work Schedule, beneficiaries with one family member involved in public works work for five days a month, four hours each day. The amount of work increases with the number of beneficiaries in the household. Payment, both Public Work and Direct Support beneficiaries receive similar forms of assistance (cash and in-kind) if the number of targeted individuals in the family is comparable. Program Participation, households can participate in either Public Work or Direct Support, but not both simultaneously.

Challenge, Observations and Implementation Variability, the actual implementation of public works varies significantly between Kebeles. Some areas have higher participation rates and more

consistent engagement, while others experience lower participation and irregular involvement. This variation can be attributed to the timing of public works, which often conflicts with peak agricultural periods. Impact on Agriculture: Public work schedules can disrupt agricultural activities, as beneficiaries must balance their time between public works and farming. Complaints from beneficiaries indicate that the timing and workload of public works negatively affect their agricultural productivity. Administrative Issues: There are reports of beneficiaries being pressured into additional work outside of the public work season, benefiting local administrators and development workers rather than the intended community projects. This practice undermines the program's objectives and contributes to dissatisfaction among beneficiaries. Project Awareness: Beneficiaries often lack awareness of the broader goals of the public works, leading to issues such as the destruction of work done during the day, particularly with water shade development projects. Confusion and dissatisfaction arise from the exclusion of some family members from the program, creating tensions and perceptions of unfairness. Timing Conflicts: Public work periods from January to June overlap with critical agricultural seasons, affecting both post-harvest activities and pre-harvest preparations, thus impacting overall productivity and program effectiveness.

4.2.7. Areas of Public Works

The PSNP has facilitated various developmental projects in Sekela Woreda, including: Water and Soil Conservation, activities such as water-shade development and terracing on farmlands and elevated areas to prevent soil erosion and enhance water retention. Infrastructure development, construction of bridges over small rivers, road infrastructure between and within rural Kebeles, and maintenance of existing roads. Community facilities, development and maintenance of schools and clinics to improve access to education and healthcare services. These projects aim to enhance the overall infrastructure and environmental sustainability of the region while providing public work opportunities for beneficiaries. This detailed explanation highlights the key components and challenges of the PSNP, providing a clear picture of its implementation and impact on beneficiaries.





Figure 4: public work during Reforestation and meeting

Overview of infrastructure development, in Sekela Woreda has been significantly influenced by various programs and initiatives, including the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and contributions from multiple development donors. Key players and their roles include PSNP Provides and Public Works, contributing to infrastructure projects and community development.

Development Donors: Ethiopia Climate Action through Landscape Management Program **(CALM)**: Focuses on large-scale landscape management projects, including afforestation and soil conservation. Facilitator for Change **(FC)**: Engages in various developmental and environmental projects. Afforestation and Ex-Closure Area Management Projects: Work on reforestation and managing areas previously used for agriculture to restore natural habitats. These contributions collectively enhance the infrastructure and environmental resilience of Sekela Woreda.

Focus Areas of Public Works, recently, public works under the PSNP have increasingly concentrated on: Water and Soil Conservation Projects, Large-Scale Initiatives: Implementing extensive projects for water conservation and soil management. These projects are typically conducted within specific Kebeles but sometimes span across multiple Kebeles. Types of Projects: Includes activities such as water shade development, terracing, and construction of erosion control structures.

Despite the positive impacts of these projects, several challenges and issues persist: Transactional Participation, many beneficiaries participate in public works primarily to receive cash or in-kind transfers, rather than out of a sense of responsibility or commitment to environmental conservation. There is often a lack of genuine ownership and motivation among participants, who may not fully understand or value the long-term benefits of the projects. There is a deep-rooted misunderstanding concerning the objectives and benefits of PSNP projects. This can result in: Misalignment, beneficiaries may not fully grasp how their involvement in projects like water shade development contributes to broader environmental goals. Limited Engagement, without a clear understanding of the projects' purpose, participation may be less enthusiastic and less effective. Sustainability Concerns: The emphasis on immediate benefits (cash or in-kind transfers) can overshadow the long-term goals of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Ensuring that infrastructure projects are maintained and managed effectively after the initial implementation phase is crucial but can be challenging.

The problem related to the protection of natural resources particularly of water shade development is that the larger rural populations participate in such activities for the sake of receiving cash or kind transfer not at all feels the sense of responsibility and belongingness. There is deep rooted misunderstanding concerning the overall PSNP projects throughout the entire rural Kebeles.



Figure 5: Description of beneficial area by development donors

4.2.8. Money Transfer of PSNP Beneficiaries

The sample of money transfer deducted from public work beneficiaries indicate significant number of public workers are not in apposition of engaging on work. This again has a strong side effect both on the effectiveness of public works and the process of graduation from the program. The most important problem and strong complain in PSNP is the report of development workers to the concerned body, Kebele development workers simply report to Woreda food security office without proper follow up and there is widespread favoritism to some PSNP beneficiaries which were not properly engaged in public works. By addressing these issues and implementing the recommended improvements, the PSNP can enhance its effectiveness, ensure fair and

equitable treatment of beneficiaries, and better support the goal of achieving long-term food security and economic stability.

4.2.9. Kind Transfer of PSNP Beneficiaries

The Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Sekela Woreda utilizes a system of kind transfers to provide food assistance to beneficiaries. This system involves two food transfer centers in the study area and has specific protocols for food distribution.

There are two primary food transfer centers serving the study area. These centers are crucial for distributing food to PSNP beneficiaries. The primary food items distributed include sorghum, maize, and wheat. The quantities each individual beneficiary receives 15 kg of cereal and 0.45 liters of cooking oil. The amount of food provided increases with the number of beneficiaries in the family, up to a maximum of five family members. Distribution Frequency in some selected months, food is distributed, though the frequency and consistency of these transfers can vary.

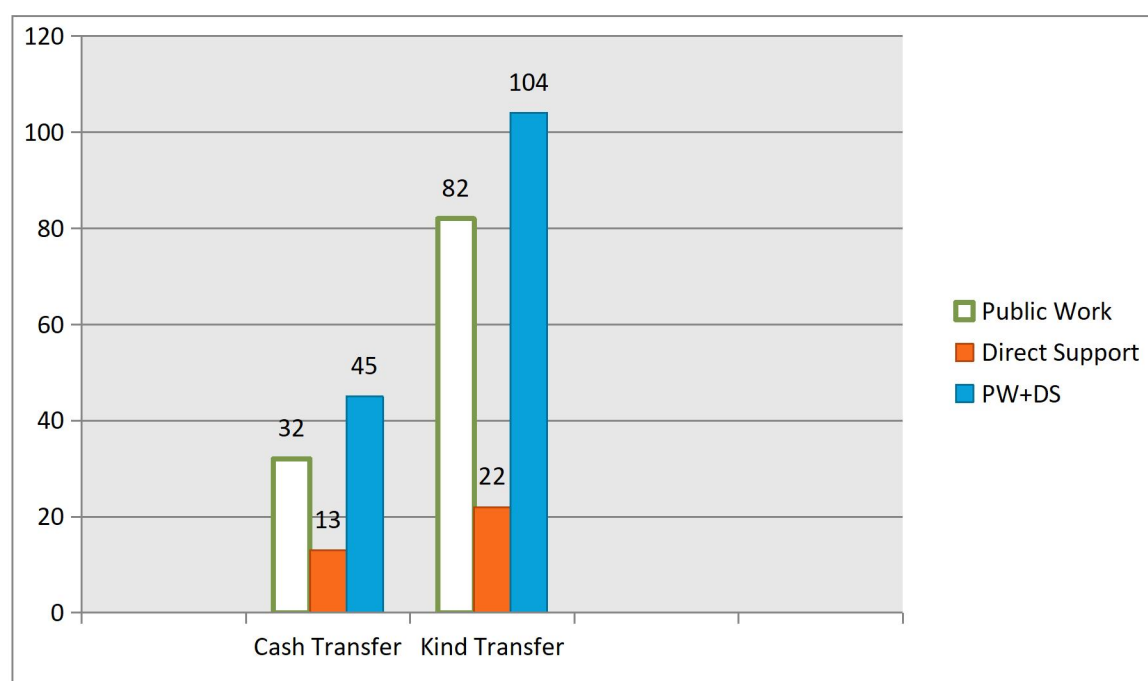
Challenges faced by beneficiaries often experience long wait times at the food transfer stations. This issue can cause significant inconvenience and delays in receiving the food assistance they need. Transportation Costs, many beneficiaries have to travel long distances to reach the food transfer centers, often on foot. This journey can cost up to 100 Ethiopian Birr for transportation. The cost of transportation adds to the financial burden of beneficiaries, particularly affecting those who are already economically disadvantaged. Risk of not receiving food, Some beneficiaries arrive at the food transfer stations only to find out that food is not available due to misinformation or other issues. This can lead to wasted time and resources, as well as frustration among beneficiaries. Sale of Food Transfers, due to the difficulty in transporting food and other logistical issues, some beneficiaries are compelled to sell their food assistance at the transfer stations. This often occurs among those who find it challenging to carry the food back to their homes or need immediate cash for other expenses.

Direct support beneficiaries, who are typically elderly, disabled, or otherwise vulnerable, face additional challenges. Their incapacity to transport the food or manage the process exacerbates their difficulties in accessing the assistance provided.

By addressing these issues, the concerned body the PSNP can enhance the effectiveness and fairness of its food transfer system, ensuring that beneficiaries receive the support they need in a more timely and efficient manner.

4.2.10. Preference of PSNP Beneficiaries on Transfer (Kind or Cash)

Figure 6: preference of PSNP Beneficiaries on transfer (kind or cash)



Source: Household Interview Survey (2023)

From the total participants of the study 45 (36.2%) prefer cash and 104 (63.8%) prefer kind transfer. The preference depends on the specific conditions of particular households. However, it was understood that cash transfer was not preferred by the households. Some of the household's said that they did not prefer the cash transfer because they did not use the money properly for long last purpose.

4.2.11. The status PSNP beneficiaries & use of modern Agricultural technologies and inputs

Table 10: PSNP beneficiaries & use of Modern Agricultural Technologies and inputs

No	use modern agricultural input	Yes			No		
		Public Workers	Direct Support	Total	Public work	direct support	Total

1	Improved seeds	54	6	60	66	21	87
2	Fertilizer	18	0	18	102	27	129
3	Pesticides/ insecticides	44	4	48	76	23	99
4	Other technologies	0	0	0	104	45	149
5	Assll together (1,2,3)	22	2	24	98	25	123

Source: Household Interview Survey (January2023)

According to table 8, only 60 (40.81%) household heads of PSNP beneficiaries used improved seeds and 18(12.24%) of them used modern fertilizer, 48 (32.65%) use insecticides and pesticides. There was no household reported that it used some other agricultural technologies far apart from the aforementioned technologies and inputs. 24(16.32%) of the entire population used improved seeds, fertilizers and use improved seeds, and insecticides and pesticides. However, 87(59.18%), 129(87.75%) 99(67.34%), and all of the household interview respondents did not use improved seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides and other technologies respectively. The most important problem concerning the use of modern agricultural technologies is that farmers use technology individually not in combination. Surprisingly the researcher cannot find PSNP beneficiaries use the combination of fertilizer, improved seeds, insecticides and pesticides.

4.2.12. Food Security and Agricultural Land Ownership

The majority of the respondents criticized the absence of enough agricultural lands for farming. It is believed that land ownership and the state of food security have positive relationship. The most acceptable and common reason both in the eye of research participants and key informants for food insecurity are shortage of enough agricultural lands, however the respondents also put other impeding factors like family size, inadequate rain fall, low habit of using modern technologies and inputs and productive labor force within the family.

Table 11: PSNP Beneficiaries and Agricultural Land Ownership

Agricultural Land Ownership	Yes			No		
	Public work	Direct support	Total	Public work	Direct support	Total
	88	16	104	32	13	45

Source: Household Interview Survey (January2022)

As far the table 9 is concerned, from the entire population 149 respondents 104(69.38%) from which 88(59.33%) public work and 16(10.7%) direct support beneficiaries own agricultural lands. 45(30.61%) of the respondents (both direct support and public workers) did not own farm

lands because different reasons. The size of agricultural land they owned was so small and was also complained by the respondents of the study. Public workers without agricultural lands mainly because they were under aged during the time of land measurement and direct support beneficiaries were not found in their locality during time of land measurement. Some of the public work beneficiaries plough the lands of other elderly people and some other take small plots of land from their parents. It is clearly seen that lack of farm lands profoundly affects the households' productivity and food security.

4.2.13. Study variables, Dependent Variable (Outcome Variable) and Independent Variables

The effectiveness of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) is the outcome variable. It represents the overall success and impact of the PSNP in achieving its objectives, such as improving food security, reducing poverty, and enhancing the livelihoods of beneficiaries.

Independent Variables (Practices of PSNP): These are the factors or practices that are believed to influence the effectiveness of the PSNP. They include: Proper Targeting of Households: Ensuring that the program reaches the intended beneficiaries, particularly the most vulnerable and needy households. Public Works: The implementation of public works projects as part of the program, aimed at providing employment and improving infrastructure. Direct Support: Financial or material assistance provided directly to beneficiaries, such as cash transfers or food aid. Use of Agricultural Technology: The adoption and application of modern agricultural technologies and practices promoted by the program. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E): The processes of tracking the program's implementation and assessing its outcomes to ensure that objectives are being met.

In this context, the effectiveness of the PSNP is the dependent variable, reflecting the overall impact of the program. The practices of PSNP including targeting, public works, direct support, agricultural technology use, and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) are independent variables that influence the effectiveness of the program. Proper measurement of these variables involves a combination of quantitative data, such as financial records and productivity statistics, and qualitative data, such as beneficiary surveys and program evaluations.

4.2.14. Definition, Measurement and Interpretation of outcome variables

To effectively measure the impact of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), a range of parameters is utilized, as detailed by Hoddinott and Tefera (2001) in their study, “*The Impact of the Productive Safety Net Program on Food Security*”. These parameters can be classified into social, economic, and developmental indicators. Here are several key parameters used to evaluate the program:

Reduction in Food Insecurity: The PSNP's role in alleviating food insecurity by providing regular cash or food transfers to help vulnerable households meet their basic dietary needs, particularly during emergencies.

Targeting and Coverage of Beneficiaries: The effectiveness of the PSNP in including eligible households and excluding ineligible ones, measuring the precision and equity of the targeting process.

Improvement in Livelihoods: The enhancement of beneficiaries' livelihoods through investments in productive assets, leading to increased agricultural productivity and income.

Beneficiaries' Income Status: The effect of the PSNP on household income, which impacts consumption, savings, access to health services, and educational opportunities.

Infrastructure Development: The contribution of the PSNP to improvements in local infrastructure, such as roads, education, health facilities, and utilities in kebeles. (*Hoddinott, J., & Tefera, A. 2001*)

Access to Financial Services: The availability and use of financial services by PSNP participants, facilitating their ability to save and manage cash transfers effectively.

Health and Nutrition Outcomes: Improvements in health service utilization and nutrition among beneficiaries, focusing on maternal and child health.

Environmental Sustainability: The adoption of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices promoted by the PSNP, ensuring the protection of soil health and biodiversity.

Home Equipment: The provision of essential home equipment by the PSNP, which improves living conditions and efficiency for beneficiaries.

Asset Accumulation refers to the process of increasing the value of assets over time. In development programs like the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), it involves acquiring physical asset. (Moser, C. 2009)

Table 12 :Dependent Variable Measurement Question

Dependent Variable	Measurement Question	Response Options
Parameters to measure PSNP effectiveness for beneficiaries	Dummy variable for measuring participation in the PSNP program.	
Beneficiaries' Income Status	Has the income status of beneficiaries improved as a result of the program?	1 = Yes, 2 = No
Access to Finance	Do beneficiaries have access to financial services as a result of the program?	1 = Yes, 2 = No
Reduction in Food Insecurity	Has there been a reduction in food insecurity among beneficiaries?	1 = Yes, 2 = No
Health and Nutrition Outcomes	Have health and nutrition outcomes improved for beneficiaries?	1 = Yes, 2 = No
Improvement in Livelihood	Has the program led to an overall improvement in the beneficiaries' livelihood?	1 = Yes, 2 = No
Asset Accumulation	Have beneficiaries been able to accumulate more assets as a result of the program?	1 = Yes, 2 = No
Home Equipment	Has the program led to improvements in home equipment for beneficiaries?	1 = Yes, 2 = No
Infrastructure Development	Has there been development in infrastructure as a result of the program?	1 = Yes, 2 = No
Environmental Sustainability	Has the program contributed to environmental sustainability?	1 = Yes, 2 = No
Targeting and Coverage of Beneficiaries	Do you believe the program effectively targets and covers all intended beneficiaries?	1 = Yes, 2 = No

Interpreting the results of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) based on focus group interviews with households involves a detailed look at how well the program works and the

specific problems it faces. This means evaluating how the program affects beneficiaries' income, identifying obstacles such as insufficient support and difficult economic conditions, and looking at issues with access to financial services due to factors like lack of partnerships and geographic barriers. It also includes analyzing how well the program addresses food insecurity in the face of challenges like supply chain problems and limited coverage, assessing health and nutrition outcomes related to the quality of interventions and access to care, and reviewing improvements in livelihoods and asset accumulation to find gaps in support. Additionally, the program's impact on home equipment, infrastructure development, and environmental sustainability is examined for effectiveness and quality of execution. Finally, the effectiveness of targeting and coverage strategies is reviewed to ensure the program reaches all intended beneficiaries, providing a clear understanding of the PSNP's performance and areas that need improvement.

The PSNP is currently facing several major challenges that affect its ability to improve beneficiaries' income and food security. Key problems include inadequate support that doesn't provide enough financial help, and tough economic conditions that worsen poverty and food insecurity. Corruption and favoritism also complicate matters by misdirecting resources and leaving the most vulnerable households without enough assistance.

Additionally, poor targeting and limited program coverage mean that the program often misses the neediest households, resulting in gaps in support. This misallocation undermines the program's goals of reducing food insecurity and improving livelihoods. Efforts to develop infrastructure and promote environmental sustainability are also affected by insufficient funding and poor management. Inadequate infrastructure limits access to essential services, and environmental projects may not be effective, affecting long-term sustainability.

To address these issues, the PSNP needs to improve transparency and accountability, refine its targeting methods, and build better partnerships with financial institutions. Enhancing supply chain management, ensuring full support across all beneficiary needs, and increasing funding for infrastructure and sustainability projects are crucial steps. By tackling these challenges, the program can better achieve its goals of increasing income, enhancing food security, and improving the overall well-being of its beneficiaries.

4.3. Interpretation of Key Informant Responses Collected through Questionnaires

4.3.1. Food Security and PSNP

Table 13: Key Informants Responses on Food Security and PSNP Practice

No	Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Food security is the potential problem in the selected kebeles.	26(57%)	10(23.4%)		9(20.6%)	
2	All food insecure households are targeted in the program.			4(3.42)	30(76.9%)	11(20.1%)
3	The targeting process depends purely in economic status.		14(23.8%)		25(62.8%)	6(14.3%)
4	There is a form of favoritism while targeting	6(11.9%)	24(51.4%)	5(12.3%)	10(24.8%)	
5	Conflict arises from problems in the targeting process.	9(9.7%)	19(52.1%)		11(32.6%)	7(6.6%)
6	The program is reaching the exact poor		12(17.1%)		28(74.3%)	5(8.6%)
7	Public work beneficiaries participate equally.		11(17.1%)	9(11.4%)	19(63.8%)	6(8.6%)
8	The state of food security shows progress from time to time.	9(22.8%)	16(34.2%)	4(8.6%)	16(34.2%)	
9	The public work is effective since the program is started.		16(34.2%)		25(43.7%)	4(22.8%)
10	Better awareness of rural population on the objective of PSNP is created.		4(8.6%)		31(79.8%)	10(11.4%)
	Grand mean and SD	2.5011(.43500)				

Source: Questionnaires (February 2023)

4.3.1 Food Security and PSNP

Table 13 provides a detailed account of key informant responses regarding food security and the implementation of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Sekela Woreda. A significant majority, comprising 57% of respondents who strongly agreed and 23.4% who agreed, identified food insecurity as a pressing issue in the kebeles, highlighting a strong consensus on its prevalence. When asked about the program's effectiveness in targeting all food-insecure households, 76.9% disagreed, indicating serious gaps in reach, while 20.1% strongly disagreed, reflecting widespread concern about inclusivity.

In examining the targeting process, 62.8% of respondents disagreed that selection is based purely on economic status, suggesting other factors may influence decisions. Additionally, 51.4% agreed that favoritism exists in targeting, with 24.8% disagreeing, which points to perceptions of bias. Regarding conflicts arising from targeting issues, 52.1% agreed that such tensions are present, indicating that targeting problems may lead to social discord within communities.

When it comes to the program's ability to reach the poorest households, 74.3% of respondents disagreed, emphasizing concerns about targeting the most vulnerable populations. In terms of equal participation among public work beneficiaries, 63.8% noted a lack of equality, suggesting favoritism in implementation. Perceptions of progress in food security were mixed; 34.2% of respondents agreed that improvements have been made, while an equal number disagreed, signaling uncertainty about the program's effectiveness. Furthermore, 43.7% disagreed that public works have been effective since the program began, while 34.2% believed they have been beneficial, reflecting concerns about overall efficacy.

A striking 79.8% of respondents indicated that better awareness of the PSNP's objectives has not been achieved among the rural population, highlighting a significant gap in outreach and education. Overall, with a grand mean of 2.5011 and a standard deviation of 0.43500, responses tended toward neutrality, yet they reveal considerable concerns about the effectiveness, targeting, and awareness of the PSNP. These findings underscore the challenges faced by the program in Sekela Woreda and emphasize the urgent need for improvements in its implementation to enhance food security for vulnerable populations.

4.3.2. Agriculture and the Use of Modern Technologies

The main tenet of agricultural policy was that agriculture and rural areas should be the focus of the country's overall development, while agricultural led development should serve as the foundation for the rural sector (Dessalegn, 2008). Extraordinary contributions to the fight against food insecurity have come from rapid agricultural development. The agricultural community's only option for combating food insecurity is the scientific application of modern agricultural technologies. The mere use of contemporary agricultural inputs and/or technologies is useless without adhering to the recommended procedural steps according to agricultural experts.

Table 14: Key Informants Response on Farmer's Use of Modern Agricultural Technologies, inputs, food aids and the extension

No	Variables	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
	Use of Modern Agricultural Technologies and inputs	Grand mean, SD : 2.03(0.83)				
1	Farmers have good habits of using modern technologies and inputs.				76(79.8%)	17(20%)
2	Rural farmers are economically capable to use modern technologies and inputs.	8(5.71%)	19(17.14%)		51(63.7%)	15(14.3%)
3	There is shortage of technologies and or inputs to distribute.	68(71.3%)	25(28.5%)			
4	Modern agricultural inputs are affordable by the ordinary rural farmers.		14(14.3%)		31(34.2%)	48(51.3%)
	Use of food aids to secure sustainable development	Grand mean, SD : 2.36 (1.07)				
5	Beneficiaries believe that they are aided for limited period of time.				79(91.2%)	14(8.6%)
6	Beneficiaries are aware of the goal of the PSNP and push to ensure their food security.		27(28.5%)		66(71.5%)	
7	The food aid generally helps households to secure sustainable food security and agricultural development.	13(13.2)	28(29.9%)		27(28.5%)	
	Use of the extension provided by done by kebele principle and cordinatera better agricultural productivity.	Grand mean, SD : 3.19(1.44)				
8	Households have a positive attitude to the extension program.	43(39.9%)	30(31.3%)		9(11.4%)	11(17.5%)
9	The extension program is selective and implementable.	21(28.5%)	17(25.6%)		48(39.9%)	7(5.7%)
10	The extension program truly help households to increase their agricultural productivity	6(5.7%)	29(22.8%)		42(54.1%)	16(17.6%)

Table 14 presents the responses from key informants regarding farmers' use of modern agricultural technologies, inputs, food aids, and the effectiveness of extension services in Sekela Woreda. For the use of modern agricultural technologies and inputs, the overall grand mean is 2.03 with a standard deviation of 0.83. A significant 79.8% of respondents agreed that farmers have good habits of using modern technologies and inputs, indicating a positive perception of farmers' engagement with these resources. However, when asked about economic capability, only 5.71% strongly agreed that rural farmers are economically capable of using modern technologies, while 63.7% disagreed. This suggests that economic constraints are a significant barrier to the adoption of modern agricultural practices.

Furthermore, 71.3% of respondents acknowledged a shortage of technologies and inputs available for distribution, reinforcing the idea that access to resources is a critical issue. In terms of affordability, a large majority (51.3%) disagreed that modern agricultural inputs are affordable for ordinary rural farmers, with only 14.3% agreeing. This highlights the financial challenges farmers face in accessing necessary agricultural resources.

The section on the use of food aids, with a grand mean of 2.36 and a standard deviation of 1.07, reveals that 91.2% of beneficiaries believe they receive aid only for a limited period. This perception raises concerns about the sustainability of food security. Additionally, while 28.5% of respondents agreed that beneficiaries are aware of the PSNP's goals and are motivated to ensure their food security, a substantial majority (71.5%) remained neutral or disagreed, suggesting a lack of awareness or engagement with program objectives. Regarding the effectiveness of food aid in securing sustainable food security and agricultural development, responses were mixed. Only 13.2% strongly agreed that food aid helps households achieve sustainable food security, while a notable portion (28.5%) disagreed. This indicates skepticism about the long-term impact of food aid on agricultural development. In evaluating the extension services provided by the kebele principle and coordinator, the grand mean of 3.19 with a standard deviation of 1.44 suggests a more favorable view of these programs. While 39.9% of respondents had a positive attitude towards the extension program, 17.5% strongly disagreed. Furthermore, regarding the program's selectivity and implementation, 28.5% agreed that it is selective, but a significant 39.9% remained neutral, indicating uncertainty about its effectiveness. Finally, when assessing whether the extension program genuinely helps households increase agricultural productivity, responses

varied. Only 5.7% strongly agreed, while 54.1% were neutral, suggesting that many informants are unsure of the program's efficacy in enhancing productivity.

Overall, these findings highlight both the potential and the challenges facing farmers in Sekela Woreda regarding modern agricultural practices, food aid, and extension services. The data indicate a need for improved access to resources and better alignment of the PSNP with the agricultural and economic realities of rural farmers to enhance food security and productivity in the region.

4.3.3. Problems in Targeting Households

Table 15: Problems in Targeting Households (answered by repetition)

No	Challenges	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Done by keebel principal and coordinator	31(79.8%)	14(20.2%)			
2	Lack of information and appropriate contact	19(62.7%)	11(17.7%)		9(14.3%)	5(5.7%)
3	Lack of request and pressure	19(43.5%)	7(12.6%)		12(32.4%)	7(12.6%)
4	Lack of time to select	11(22.8%)	11(22.8%)		17(39.9%)	6(14.3%)
5	Aged and disabled are included	10(20.3%)	7(5.7%)		16(41.3%)	12(31.8%)
	Grand Mean, (SD)	2.3946 (.45534)				

Source: Questionnaires (February 2023)

Table 15 presents the challenges associated with targeting households for the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) as perceived by key informants in Sekela Woreda. The overall grand mean of 2.3946, with a standard deviation of 0.45534, indicates a moderate level of agreement on these issues. A significant 79.8% of respondents strongly agreed that the targeting process is primarily conducted by kebele principals and coordinators, suggesting concerns about a top-down approach that may limit inclusivity and transparency. Additionally, 62.7% of respondents highlighted a lack of information and appropriate contact as a barrier to effective targeting, underscoring the importance of clear communication in identifying and reaching food-insecure households.

Community engagement also emerged as a crucial factor, with 43.5% of respondents agreeing that the absence of requests and pressure from the community hampers the targeting process, while 32.4% disagreed. This indicates that active community participation is essential for effectively identifying eligible beneficiaries. Time constraints were another challenge noted by respondents; 22.8% strongly agreed that there is insufficient time to thoroughly select beneficiaries, which may compromise the effectiveness of the targeting process. A significant portion (39.9%) remained neutral on this point, reflecting mixed opinions about the impact of time on targeting.

Regarding the inclusion of vulnerable groups, only 20.3% of respondents strongly agreed that aged and disabled individuals are adequately considered in the targeting process, while 31.8% strongly disagreed. This disparity suggests gaps in the program's ability to account for the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Overall, these findings highlight several challenges in the PSNP targeting process, emphasizing the need for improved information dissemination, enhanced community engagement, and a more inclusive approach to ensure that the most vulnerable households receive the support they need.

4.3.4. Challenges PSNP Implementation

Table 16: Challenges PSNP Implementation

No	Challenges	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Non-poor inclusion	18(39.2%)	9(22.8%)		6(11.4%)	12(27.3%)
2	Exclusion of the neediest	28(68.7%)	17(31.3%)			
3	Corruption	22(74.1%)	6(5.7%)		10(11.4%)	7(8.6%)
4	Lack of community participation	26(62.6%)	19(37.4%)			
5	Lack of consideration of aged and disabled	20(62.7%)	4(5.7%)		12(17.4%)	9(14.3%)
6	Less consideration of female headed households	26(71.3%)	12(17.4%)		7(11.4%)	
	Grand Mean, (SD)	2.3796 (.47406)				

Source: Questionnaires (February 2023)

Table 16 outlines the challenges faced in the implementation of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) as identified by key informants in Sekela Woreda. The grand mean of 2.3796, with a standard deviation of 0.47406, indicates a moderate level of agreement on the identified

challenges. A primary concern is the inclusion of non-poor households, with 18 respondents (39.2%) strongly agreeing and 9 (22.8%) agreeing that this issue is prevalent, while 12 (27.3%) disagreed, suggesting that resources intended for the most vulnerable populations are being misallocated. Conversely, a significant 28 respondents (68.7%) strongly agreed that there is an exclusion of the neediest individuals from the program, indicating a critical gap in the targeting process that fails to reach those who are most in need.

Corruption was also highlighted as a major challenge, with 22 respondents (74.1%) strongly agreeing that it affects the program's implementation, underscoring the detrimental impact that corruption can have on resource allocation and program efficacy. Additionally, 26 respondents (62.6%) agreed that a lack of community participation further complicates effective implementation, suggesting that the program would benefit from more active engagement with local populations. The challenges extend to the inclusion of vulnerable groups, with 20 respondents (62.7%) agreeing that the needs of aged and disabled individuals are not adequately considered, while 26 respondents (71.3%) noted less consideration for female-headed households.

Overall, these responses reflect significant challenges in the PSNP's implementation, including issues of exclusion, corruption, and inadequate consideration for vulnerable populations. Addressing these challenges is essential for improving the effectiveness of the PSNP and ensuring that it fulfills its intended goal of supporting food security for the most vulnerable households in Sekela Woreda

4.3.5. Challenges of Monitoring and Evaluation

Table 17: Challenges of Monitoring and Evaluation

No	Challenges	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	There is a clear monitoring and evaluating checklist prepared by the agriculture office.		10(28.2%)		22(40.9%)	13(31.3%)
2	A timely monitoring and evaluation over the task is carried out.	4(5.7%)	9(19.6%)		19(46.9%)	13(28.5%)
3	Measurements are taken based on the results of evaluation.	8(14.3%)	4(5.7%)		20(54.1%)	13(25.6%)

	Grand Mean, (SD)	2.4005 (.48024)
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Source: Questionnaires (February 2023)

Table 17 highlights the challenges associated with the monitoring and evaluation of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) as identified by key informants in Sekela Woreda. With a grand mean of 2.4005 and a standard deviation of 0.48024, the responses indicate a moderate level of agreement regarding these challenges.

A significant issue is the clarity of the monitoring and evaluation checklist prepared by the agriculture office; only 10 respondents (28.2%) strongly agreed that it is clear, while 22 respondents (40.9%) disagreed, suggesting a lack of confidence in the evaluation framework. Additionally, when asked about the timeliness of evaluations, only 4 respondents (5.7%) strongly agreed that evaluations are conducted promptly, with a notable 19 respondents (46.9%) expressing disagreement. This raises concerns about delays in oversight, which could hinder program effectiveness.

Furthermore, regarding the question of whether actionable measurements are taken based on evaluations, 8 respondents (14.3%) agreed that evaluations lead to measurable outcomes, while 20 respondents (54.1%) disagreed, indicating a significant gap in translating evaluation results into practical actions. Overall, these findings collectively underscore the urgent need for improvements in the monitoring and evaluation processes within the PSNP. The lack of a clear monitoring mechanism, timely evaluations, and effective use of measurements are critical challenges that must be addressed to enhance the program's effectiveness and its ability to support food security in Sekela Woreda.

Table 18: Summary of Mean and Standard Deviation of challenges of PSNP practice and food security (n=45)

Variables	N	Mean	Standard. Deviation
Challenges of Targeting the households	45	2.3946	.45534
Challenges PSNP Implementation	45	2.3796	.47406

Challenges of Monitoring and Evaluation	45	2.4005	.48024
Effectiveness of PSNP and food security practice	45	2.5011	.43500

Source: SPSS

Table 18 summarizes the mean scores and standard deviations of various challenges associated with the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) as perceived by respondents in Sekela Woreda. The data reveals that the mean scores for challenges in targeting households (2.3946), PSNP implementation (2.3796), and monitoring and evaluation (2.4005) are relatively close, indicating a consensus among respondents about the moderate difficulties encountered in these areas. Notably, the challenges related to monitoring and evaluation received the highest mean score, suggesting that these aspects are viewed as particularly problematic within the program.

In contrast, the effectiveness of the PSNP in enhancing food security received a mean score of 2.5011, which, while still moderate, reflects a slightly more favorable perception compared to the challenges. This score also has the lowest standard deviation, indicating a more consistent agreement among respondents regarding the program's benefits in improving food security. Overall, the interpretation of these findings suggests that while there are significant challenges associated with the targeting, implementation, and monitoring of the PSNP, respondents also recognize its potential positive impact on food security in the region. This dual perspective emphasizes the need for addressing the identified challenges to fully realize the program's benefits.

4.4. Inferential data Analysis

Inferential analysis is essential for drawing conclusions about broader patterns and relationships within data (*Smith, 2022*). In the context of the thesis titled "The Practice and Challenges of the Productive Safety Net Program and Food Security: The Case of Sekela Woreda," this analysis investigates how various independent variables specifically, proper targeting of households, monitoring and evaluation of the PSNP, and practices of the PSNP affect the dependent variables of program effectiveness and food security.

4.4.1. Correlation Analyses

Correlation analysis deepens our understanding of the findings by examining the strength and direction of relationships between independent and dependent variables. It specifically highlights how challenges related to targeting, monitoring, and evaluation correlate with the perceived effectiveness of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and overall food security in Sekela Woreda. By identifying these correlations, that gain valuable insights that can guide policymakers and stakeholders in addressing challenges and enhancing the program's impact on food security.

Table 19: Correlation analysis result of challenges that affecting the effectiveness of PSNP (n=45)

Variable		Effectiveness PSNP and Food security
Problems in Targeting Households	Pearson Correlation	.691**
	Sig.(1tailed)	.000
	N	45
Challenges PSNP Implementation	Pearson Correlation	.542**
	Sig.(1tailed)	.000
	N	45
Challenges of Monitoring and Evaluation	Pearson Correlation	.624**
	Sig.(1tailed)	.000
	N	45
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed).		
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).		

Point-biserial correlation was used in this analysis because it specifically assesses the relationship between a binary variable and a continuous variable, making it a particular case of Pearson correlation. This method assumes that the continuous variable is normally distributed within the groups defined by the binary variable. The correlation coefficient, denoted as r_{pb} , ranges from -1 to 1, reflecting the strength and direction of the relationship (Keller, 2018). Together, these analytical methods offer a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics within the PSNP, highlighting both its successes and areas that need improvement.

From the above table 19 shows in examining the effectiveness of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Sekela Woreda, several strong correlations were identified with various challenges faced by the program. Notably, there is a strong positive correlation between the effectiveness of the PSNP and issues related to targeting households, with a Pearson correlation coefficient of $r=0.691$ and a statistically significant p-value of 0.000. This suggests that as targeting problems increase, the perceived effectiveness of the program tends to decline. The analysis reveals a moderate positive correlation between challenges in the implementation of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and its effectiveness, with a Pearson correlation of $r=0.542$ and a significance level of $p=0.000$. This indicates that as implementation challenges increase, the effectiveness of the program in achieving food security tends to decrease. Furthermore, the correlation is statistically significant at the 0.01 level, highlighting the importance of addressing these challenges to improve the program's outcomes. Additionally, a moderate positive correlation was observed between the effectiveness of the PSNP and challenges in monitoring and evaluation, indicated by a correlation coefficient of $r=0.624$, which is likewise statistically significant at $p = 0.000$. These findings imply that the challenges related to targeting households, implementation of the PSNP, and monitoring and evaluation significantly impact the effectiveness of the PSNP and its food security practices. Addressing these challenges is crucial for improving the program's outcomes and ensuring better support for vulnerable populations.

4.4.2. Regression Result Analysis

This section presents the regression analysis results, examining how various factors affect the effectiveness of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). By analyzing the coefficients, gain insights into the relationships between these factors and the program's performance. This analysis helps understand the importance of targeting households, implementation challenges, and monitoring and evaluation in enhancing the PSNP's effectiveness. Ultimately, it provides a clearer picture of how improvements in these areas can contribute to better food security outcomes.

In regression analysis, "significant" and "not significant" refer to the statistical significance of results, commonly assessed through p-values. A p-value is a statistical measure used to determine the significance of findings, with common thresholds including $p < 0.05$, which

indicates strong evidence against the null hypothesis (suggesting a meaningful effect), and $p < 0.01$, signifying very strong evidence. Conversely, a p-value of $p \geq 0.05$ suggests insufficient evidence to establish a meaningful relationship between variables (Field, 2013).

Table 20: Regression Analysis Result

Model summary								
Independent variable	Dependent Variable: Effectiveness of PSNP	B	S.E.	Wald	Df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I. for Exp(B)
Targeting Household		1.807	0.825	4.799	1	0.028	6.090	1.210 to 30.663
Challenges of PSNP Implementation		-0.533	0.841	0.403	1	0.526	0.587	0.113 to 3.047
Monitoring and Evaluation		-3.061	1.150	7.088	1	0.008	0.047	0.005 to 0.446
Constant		2.334	1.181	3.908	1	0.048	10.316	

In this regression analysis, table shows as we understand how independent variables Challenges of PSNP Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Targeting Households affect the Effectiveness of the PSNP, which is the dependent variable.

Targeting Households: The analysis shows a positive and significant relationship between effective targeting of households and the effectiveness of the PSNP (coefficient = **1.807**, $p = 0.028$). This means that when households are accurately targeted for assistance, the effectiveness of the program increases. Specifically, for each unit improvement in targeting, the effectiveness of the PSNP increases by about **1.807 units**. This suggests that enhancing targeting mechanisms is crucial for maximizing the program's impact on food security.

Challenges of PSNP Implementation: The coefficient for implementation challenges is **-0.533** ($p = 0.526$), indicating that there is no statistically significant relationship between these challenges and the effectiveness of the PSNP. This implies that the challenges faced during implementation may not have a direct impact on how effective the program is perceived. However, it could suggest that the implementation challenges are not severe enough to meaningfully alter the program's outcomes or that other factors may be at play.

Monitoring and Evaluation: There is a significant negative relationship between challenges in monitoring and evaluation and the effectiveness of the PSNP (coefficient = **-3.061**, $p = 0.008$). This means that as the challenges in monitoring and evaluation increase, the effectiveness of the program decreases substantially. Specifically, each additional challenge in monitoring and evaluation corresponds to a decrease in effectiveness. This highlights the importance of resilience monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure that the program achieves its intended outcomes. The constant term of 2.334 in the regression analysis represents the baseline level of effectiveness of the PSNP (Productive Safety Net Program) when all independent variables (such as Targeting Households, Challenges of PSNP Implementation, and Monitoring and Evaluation) are held at zero.

In summary, the regression analysis reveals that while effective targeting of households positively influences the effectiveness of the PSNP, challenges in monitoring and evaluation have a detrimental impact. The lack of a significant relationship between implementation challenges and program effectiveness suggests that addressing monitoring and evaluation processes may be critical for enhancing the overall impact of the PSNP. Therefore, to improve food security outcomes, it is essential to focus on better targeting practices and strengthening monitoring and evaluation frameworks within the program.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The effectiveness of social safety net programs, such as the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), is vital for enhancing food security and supporting vulnerable populations. Understanding the factors that influence the success of these programs is essential for policymakers and stakeholders. This analysis examines how various challenges specifically, targeting households, implementation issues, and monitoring and evaluation practices affect the effectiveness of the PSNP. By identifying these relationships, we can better understand where improvements are needed to enhance program outcomes.

5.1. Summary

The research investigated in Sekela Woreda on the practice and the challenges of productive safety net program and food security. The main purpose of the study was to identify the causes of food insecurity, the current practice of PSNP and the challenges that affect the implementation of the program, and to suggest possible solutions. To this end, the researchers used PSNP beneficiaries and key informants from different groups to gather information. Descriptive survey and explanatory research design was used with mixed research approach. Utilizing focus groups to complement household survey data, questionnaires, observation and document analysis were used as data gathering instruments. The research tried to answer the following basic research questions.

1. What are the current practices of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in the woreda?
2. What are the underlying causes of food insecurity in the woreda?
3. What are the key challenges faced in implementing food security strategies within the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)?
4. To what extent do modern agricultural technologies, inputs, agricultural extension services, and food aid contribute to enhancing agricultural productivity?

Based on the data obtained through variety of tools, the following summary is provided.

✓ **The Practice of Productive Safety Net Program:**

Productive Safety net program was provided to farmers because there was food insecurity manifested by hunger, health problems and livelihood status in the study area.

- ✓ Due to issues with the targeting and retargeting process as well as the lack of adequate quotas provided for the kebeles for each phase of the program, the Productive Safety Net Program is not able to reach all of the poor.
- ✓ The sample population did not have a sufficient number of productive workers, which has a significant impact on the rural community's food insecurity.
- ✓ The majority of households hold assets with low average values. The level of food insecurity in the rural community is primarily manifested by the lack of a variety of income sources. The rural community is food insecure because households purchase the cheapest (less expensive) food crop items, which in some way reduced the quality of the diet.
- ✓ The majority of beneficiaries of safety net programs for the working class exhibit poor hygiene, malnutrition, and health, which lead to poor physical and even cognitive development.
- ✓ The guideline for public works is not strictly followed; Beneficiaries who missed the same number of days at the public works were treated differently, which highlights the lack of a sound control system on the one hand and the existence of favoritism in the program.
- ✓ The level of food security is more directly impacted by the household's productive labor force
- ✓ Time spent on public works affects time spent by households engaging in farming activities, which in turn contributes to the state of food insecurity. This is especially true for households with a small number of able-bodied family members.
- ✓ The productive safety net program lack of awareness rural farmers are not fully aware of the value of the public works projects initiated under the PSNP, community-constructed projects are being destroyed after completion, indicating a lack of ownership and protection. The primary reason for the lack of protection and maintenance of these projects is the beneficiaries' focus on receiving continued assistance from the program rather than on sustaining the benefits of the projects.

The Causes for Food Insecurity in study area:

Lack of access to farming lands, natural disaster, climate change, and work ethics of farmers, family size, wastage of food and unemployment were the commonest causes for food insecurity in the study area.

The use of modern agricultural technologies, inputs, agricultural extension and food aids increase agricultural productivity:

- Still, farmers did not fully perceive the importance of technologies for economic development and change of livelihood.
- Farmers did not receive necessary agricultural technologies and inputs in a timely or effective manner.
- Agricultural technologies were not implemented in a scientific way.
- The use of modern inputs is neither appropriate nor used in a continuous way.
- Inputs like Fertilizers, improved seeds and insecticides are not supplied in the right time and the price is unaffordable to the majority of farming community.
- The most important problem concerning the use of modern agricultural technologies is that farmers use technology individually not in combination. Surprisingly the researcher cannot find PSNP beneficiaries use the combination of fertilizer, improved seeds, insecticides and pesticides.

Challenges related to targeting the households

- There are many complaints about the PSNP targeting process, and efforts are made to benefit and favor those who have special relationships to the committee.
- The program does not exclusively benefit the poor. The hardest work in a productive safety net program is the process of targeting beneficiaries.
- The targeting of beneficiaries frequently results in conflicts between the targeting committee and specific beneficiaries it excludes from the program, as well as, in rare instances, within the committee itself.
- Some Kebeles households with relatively better economic potential are targeted as a result of an unfair or inappropriate targeting process, whereas households with lower assets are either included in other emergency relief programs or completely excluded from the program.

- The targeting of PSNP beneficiaries cannot reach all the food insecure rural agricultural community.

Challenges related to the implementation

- Rural communities view safety net programs as a source of income and have a strong phobia of leaving the programs.
- The entire process of targeting, retargeting, and graduation is not in a position to create a society free from food insecurity; rather, a sense of dependency syndrome rose from time to time. However, it is undeniable that the money and kind transfers made through PSNP fill some beneficiaries' food gaps.
- Cash and kind transfers delay.

Challenges related to the monitoring and evaluation

- There is no discernible economic difference between participants in productive safety net programs and participants in other food security programs, or even non-participants.
- By concealing their household assets, farmers make the targeting and graduation from the program more difficult.

The corresponding arithmetic mean and standard deviation of total of every individual categorical construct is shown in table 17 above. Thus, challenges of targeting the households has a mean of 2.3946 and a standard deviation of 0.45534, challenges PSNP implementation categorical total has a mean of 2.3796 and a standard deviation of 0.47406, challenges of monitoring and evaluation categorical total has a mean of 2.4005 and a standard deviation of 0.48024 and Effectiveness of PSNP and food security practice categorical total has a mean of 2.5011 and a standard deviation of 0.43500. To conclude, challenges of monitoring and evaluation has a highest rank of challenging the PSNP implantation followed by challenges of targeting the households and challenges PSNP implementation.

5.2. Conclusion

Food insecurity is understood in its chronic or transitory aspects, the former characterize a household experience food shortage for relatively long period of time, while the later manifests in food shortage for short period of time due to man-made or natural hazards. Productive safety

net program is one of the most important food security strategies being implemented in Ethiopia in general and in Sekela Woreda in particular. Productive safety net comprises two forms, public work beneficiaries and direct support beneficiaries and the categorization under public work and direct support is more or less according to the program implementation manual. Family with at least one able bodied individual participated in public works and a household with non-able bodied person and unable to engage in any types of public works categorized in the productive safety net program of direct support.

It is difficult to make a substantiated suggestion whether there are changes in terms of food security through productive safety net program or not from the time of the productive safety net program was launched in the Woreda, because the targeting and the implementation of safety net beneficiaries are affected by intermingling factors. Almost all research participants at all level recognize that there are widespread problems both on the process of overall targeting and retargeting and in the entire process of graduation.

Sekela Woreda, with its eroded highlands and land degradation, faces significant environmental challenges that negatively affect local food security. The region's varied landscape includes highlands and rolling hills, with altitudes between 1,800 and 2,600 meters. It experiences a subtropical highland climate with bimodal rainfall, including a primary rainy season from June to September and a shorter period from March to May.

Agricultural technologies are less adequate in its supply and unaffordable cost for the majority of ordinary farmers. The rural population has neither the willingness nor the economic capacity towards the use of modern agricultural technologies and/or inputs. Farmers have a greater fear on the real increase of agricultural productivity by using modern agricultural technologies and/or inputs; the doubt is once the lands adopt inputs like fertilizer, it needs forever unless agricultural productivity decreases alarmingly.

The process of ensuring food security status through productive safety net program in the Woreda however is not an absolute zero; the overall implementation of the program is not in apposition of providing an observed effect on the march towards the state of food security in the long run. The challenging task in the implementation of productive safety net program is that beneficiaries are developing sense of dependency syndrome rather than using the program to

escape from the chronic food insecurity in the long term. Productive safety net program beneficiaries above all clearly lack the inherent goal of the program; and most beneficiaries want to stay forever within the program. Almost all productive safety net program beneficiaries are not willing to graduate from the program even in a situation where they are created assets substantially enough for the households.

The implementation of productive safety net program faced another challenges from the body responsible to implement the program. The entire process of targeting and retargeting to and graduation from the productive safety net program was not purely on the economic background of beneficiaries. Favoritism both in the process of targeting and/or retargeting and graduation of productive safety net program was commonly practiced throughout all phases of the program and in sample Kebeles.

Productive safety net program generally lacks the commitment of implementation bodies and above all the goal of the program is misleading in the eye of the majority of beneficiaries. There were no strategies used by implementers to monitor and evaluate the practical implementation of the program at all.

5.3. Recommendation

Based on the major findings and conclusion of this research on the practices and challenges of productive safety net program and food security, the case of Sekela Woreda West Gojjam of Amhara National Regional state, the main recommendations that emerge from the study are briefly outlined as follows.

Ensuring food security is not an on-off activity, rather it is a long term approach that require sufficient time, learning from best practices and developing experience from inside and outside, continues follow up and long term commitment to see the results and to bring changes in the agricultural sector which ultimately leads to effective and sustainable agricultural development and hence to food security. Therefore, all the concerned experts and the beneficiaries too should work on exhaustively and continually to ensure food security to the community.

Ensuring food security needs strong commitment from all stake holders, the government, None Governmental organizations (NGOs) and the agricultural community at large and failure to play

role among either of the stake holders to play their own role it causes failure in the process of ensuring food security.

Pursue effective and coordinated efforts that would bring greater impact and provide observed effect on agricultural productivity and then to food security.

Program implementers should design appropriate monitoring and evaluation system for PSNP beneficiaries during and after the program.

It is necessary to expand an appropriate system for the exchange of information to the farming community. It is worth mentioning to adopt the latest agricultural technologies and/or inputs, so that agricultural productivity will help to ensure the state of food security.

Stakeholders should bring a significant change in the perception and attitude of the rural agricultural community concerning productive safety net program and its inherent goal.

The use of appropriate modern agricultural technologies and inputs in the right time and place is the only option to maximize agricultural productivity. To do this agricultural technologies and inputs should be supplied at right time and in affordable price. Farmers should adopt the use of modern agricultural technologies/inputs in scientific way and agricultural experts should provide genuine support to the rural community.

Adoption of new agricultural system in a way that help to meet the current food crop demand of the rural population, introducing and encouraging the use of irrigation to produce twice or more times per year, creating awareness to the rural people to use family planning and hence to limit family size, supporting the agricultural sector by subsidizing new technologies, distributing modern technologies and inputs based on the buying power of farming community and within the right time, agricultural experts and other government bodies should work cooperatively.

Encouraging farming community to rear animals and engage in other non-farm activities in line with crop production, this increase the income and asset holdings of the household hence to food security. Awareness creation towards the importance of good working habit; giving life skill training; announcing and mobilize the rural people on the role of PSNP to ensure food security.

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Appendix I Household Survey Interview

Part 1. Household Survey Interview

1. Household Size: Male: _____ Female: _____ Total: _____
2. Household Head: A. Male B. Female
3. Age of Household Head: _____
4. Education Level of Household Head: A. Unable to read/write B. Read & write only
C. Primary education D. Secondary education
5. Do you benefited from productive safety net program? A. Yes B. No
6. To which categories do you benefited in the Productive safety net program / PSNP?
A. Direct support B. Public work
7. Property Items: A. Land: Yes / No B. Land Size (Hectares): _____
C. Oxen: _____ D. Sheep: _____ E. Goat: _____ F. Cow: _____
G. Camel: _____ H. Mule: _____ I. Donkey: _____ J. Hen: _____ K. Others: _____
8. Age and Sex Composition: A. below 5 years: Male: _____ Female: _____
B. 6-15 years: Male: _____ Female: _____ C. 16-55 years: Male: _____ Female: _____
D. above 56 years: Male: _____ Female: _____
9. Productive Labor Force: A. Male: _____ B. Female: _____ Total: _____
10. What are the major sources of income for your household/ family? _____

11. Is the income your household earns sufficient to meet your basic needs for the entire year (12 months)? A. Yes B. No

12. For how many months each year does your household experience food shortages, and what are the main reasons for these shortages? Months of Food Shortage: _____ Reasons for Food Shortage: _____

13. Does your household receive support in the form of food or cash during food shortages? A. Yes B. No

14. For how many months do receive support in the forms of food crops/ cash? _____

15. What amounts do you receive (in kg for kind and birr for cash) per months? _____

16. Which one is most suit and very helpful to overcome food shortage and Why? _____

17. Do you experience waiting times for receiving food or cash distributions? A. Yes B. No

18. What problems do you face during the distribution of food or cash? _____

19. Fairness of Targeting as Beneficiary: A. Yes B. No

20. Targeting of All Eligible Members: _____

21. Problems in Receiving Support: _____

22. Continuous Support from Experts: A. Yes (Areas of Support): _____ B. No

23. Use of Fertilizers: A. Yes / No B. Types Used: _____

C. Suitability: Yes No D. Quantity Adequacy: Yes No

E. Fertilizer Impact: _____ F. Training received: _____

G. Support from Donors: _____ H. Credit Availability: Yes / No

I. Credit Terms: _____ J. Problems with Fertilizers: _____

24. Use of Improved Seeds: A. Yes / No B. Distributor: _____

C. Distribution Timing: _____ D. Availability and Affordability: _____

E. Seed Varieties: ____ F. Usage Impact: ____ G. Problems with Seed Distribution: _____

25. Use of Herbicides/Insecticides: A. Yes / No B. Usage Reason: _____

C. Crop Failures and Responses: _____ D. Distributor: _____

E. Availability and Price: _____ F. Technical Support: _____

26. Other Modern Agricultural Technologies: _____

27. What types of support do you receive for cash crops? _____

28. Family Eating Habits: A. Three Meals a Day: ____ B. Balanced Diet Evaluation: ____

C. Extreme Food Shortages: _____

Part Two: Categorical Questions: Close-Ended Interview For Household Survey.

1. Has the income status of beneficiaries improved as a result of the program? 1. Yes 2.No

2. Do beneficiaries have access to financial services as a result of the program? 1. Yes 2.No

3. Has there been a reduction in food insecurity among beneficiaries? 1. Yes 2.No

4. Have health and nutrition outcomes improved for beneficiaries? 1. Yes 2. No

5. Has the program led to an overall improvement in the beneficiaries' livelihood? 1. Yes 2. No

6. Have beneficiaries been able to accumulate more assets as a result of the program? 1. Yes 2. No

7. Has the program led to improvements in home equipment for beneficiaries? 1. Yes 2. No

8. Has there been development in infrastructure as a result of the program? 1. Yes 2. No

9. Has the program contributed to environmental sustainability? 1. Yes 2. No

10. Do you believe the program effectively targets and covers all intended beneficiaries? 1. Yes 2. No

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Appendix II: Questionnaires for key informants

Part One: Open ended Questionnaire

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

My name is ANDUALEM TIIAHUN and I am a data collector working with a postgraduate student at Jimma University, College of Law and Governance, Department of Civic and Ethical Studies. In 2023, he is conducting a study titled: The Practice and Challenges of the Productive Safety Net Program and Food Security: The Case of Sekela Woreda

Objective: The objective of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness and challenges of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in improving food security in Sekela Woreda, West Gojam, Amhara National Regional State.

Potential Risks: There are no foreseen risks associated with participating in this study.

Benefits: While there are no financial benefits for participants, your involvement is crucial. The findings from this study may help design effective strategies to prevent food insecurity ultimately benefiting food insecurity people and PSNP beneficiaries society.

Participation: I would like to ask you a few questions. Your honest responses will greatly contribute to the success of this study. All information provided will be kept confidential and private. Only the principal investigator and interviewer will have access to the data.

Your participation is voluntary, and you can choose not to participate at any time. If you feel uncomfortable during my request, you are free to withdraw without any consequences.

Contact Information: If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the principal investigator:

Andualem Tilahun Mobile: 0918598480

Thank you for considering participating in this important study. Your input is invaluable!

No need of writing your name!

General Questions

Role\Position: _____

Office name: _____

Date: _____

1. What is the number of people targeted in the Productive Safety Net Program as direct support or through public works in Sekela Woreda and/or your Kebele?

2. How do you perceive the difficulties of the targeting process? _____

3. Do you think the support from the Productive Safety Net Program is sufficient to meet the basic needs of all family members? Please elaborate. _____

4. Does the amount of food crops and/or cash support increase in line with family size?

5. How do you evaluate the food crops provided to safety net beneficiaries? Do they contain a balanced diet? _____

6. What factors contribute to food insecurity in Sekela Woreda and/or your Kebele?

7. For how many months per year do safety net beneficiaries receive support? Is there any interruption in the support? If so, why? _____

8. Are there cases where the same household receives both direct support and public work benefits? Why? _____

9. What are the major priorities in the public works undertaken? _____

10. For how many months per year, days per month, and hours per day do public work beneficiaries participate in the work? _____

11. Do all public work beneficiaries participate equally? Are there instances where individuals receive benefits without engaging in public works? _____

12. How effective is the public work component of the program?

13. What role do governments and other donor organizations play in addressing the root causes of food insecurity? _____

14. What are the major challenges in the overall implementation of the Productive Safety Net Program? _____

Part two: close ended Questionnaire

Put your agreement level by marking (x) in the number where you agree.

A. Food Security and PSNP

No	Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
		5	4	3	2	1
1	Food security is the potential problem in the selected kebeles.					
2	All food insecure households are targeted in the program.					
3	The targeting process depends purely in economic status.					
4	There is a form of favoritism while targeting.					
5	Conflict arises from problems in the targeting process.					
6	The program is reaching the exact poor.					
7	Public work beneficiaries participate equally.					
8	The state of food security shows progress from time to time.					
9	The public work is effective since the program is started.					
10	Better awareness of rural population on the objective of PSNP is created.					

B. Farmer's Use of Modern Agricultural Technologies, inputs, food aids and the extension

No	Variable	Strongly agree	agree	neutra	disagree	Strongly disagree
		5	4	3	2	1
USE OF MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES AND INPUTS						
1	Farmers have good habits of using modern technologies and inputs.					
2	Rural farmers are economically capable to use modern technologies and inputs.					
3	There is shortage of technologies and or inputs to distribute.					
4	Modern agricultural inputs are affordable by the ordinary rural farmers.					
USE OF FOOD AIDS TO SECURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT						
5	Beneficiaries believe that they are aided for limited period of time.					
6	Beneficiaries are aware of the goal of the PSNP and push to ensure their food security.					
7	The food aid generally helps households to secure sustainable food security and agricultural development.					
8	Use of the extension provided done by kebele principle and cordinater for a better agricultural productivity.					
HOUSEHOLDS HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO THE EXTENSION PROGRAM.						
9	The extension program is selective and implementable.					
10	The extension program truly help households to increase their agricultural productivity					

C. Problems in Targeting Households

NO	Challenges	Agree	Strongly	Neutral	disagree	Strongly
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			Agree			disagree
		5	4	3	2	1
1	Done Kebeles principal, coordinators and manager					
2	Lack of information and appropriate contact					
3	lack of request and pressure					
4	Lack of time to select					
5	Aged and disabled are included					

D. Challenges PSNP Implementation

No	Challenge	Strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Non-poor inclusion	5	4	3	2	1
2	Exclusion of the neediest					
3	Corruption					
4	Lack of community participation					
5	lack of consideration of aged and disabled					
6	Less consideration of female headed households					

E. Challenges of Monitoring and Evaluation

No	Challenge	Strongl y agree	agree	neutral	disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	There is a clear monitoring and evaluating checklist prepared by the agriculture office.	5	4	3	2	1
2	A timely monitoring and evaluation over the task is carried out.					
3	Measurements are taken based on the results of evaluation.					

Thank you so much!!