

# LASER Presentation

# Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program & USAID Resilience Research and Learning Trends

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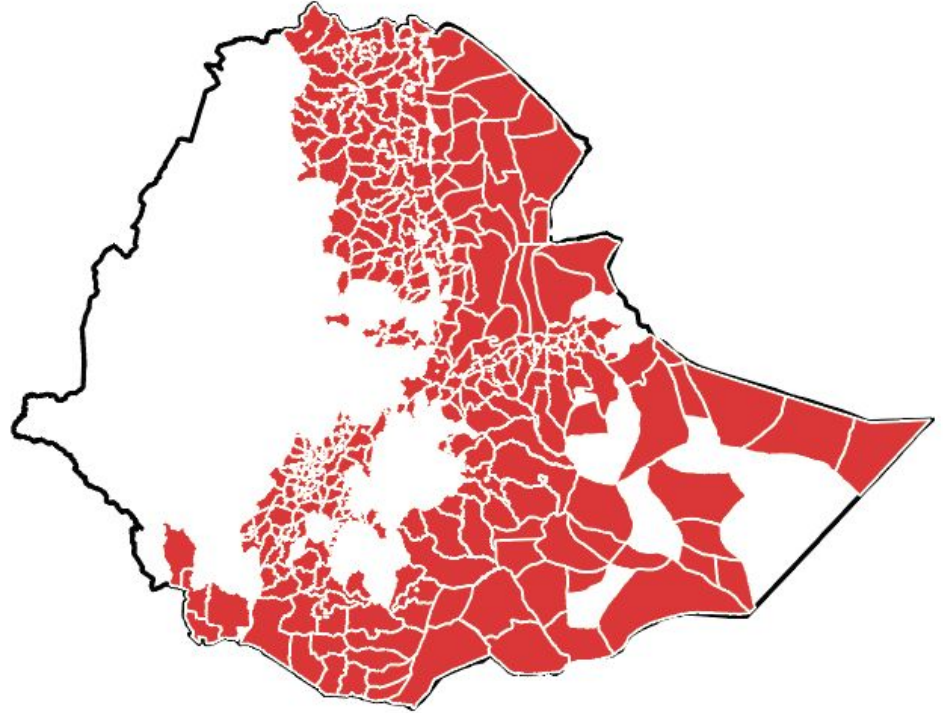
USAID Ethiopia

## Session Objectives

- Brief Overview of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)
- Key Livelihoods Findings within the PSNP
- Overview of USAID's Graduation Approach
- Systems-based approach to Learning
- Evidence Translation/Consolidation
- Resilience Data Reliability Findings
- A few lessons learned

# PSNP Overview: 7.9 million recipients in 380 woredas

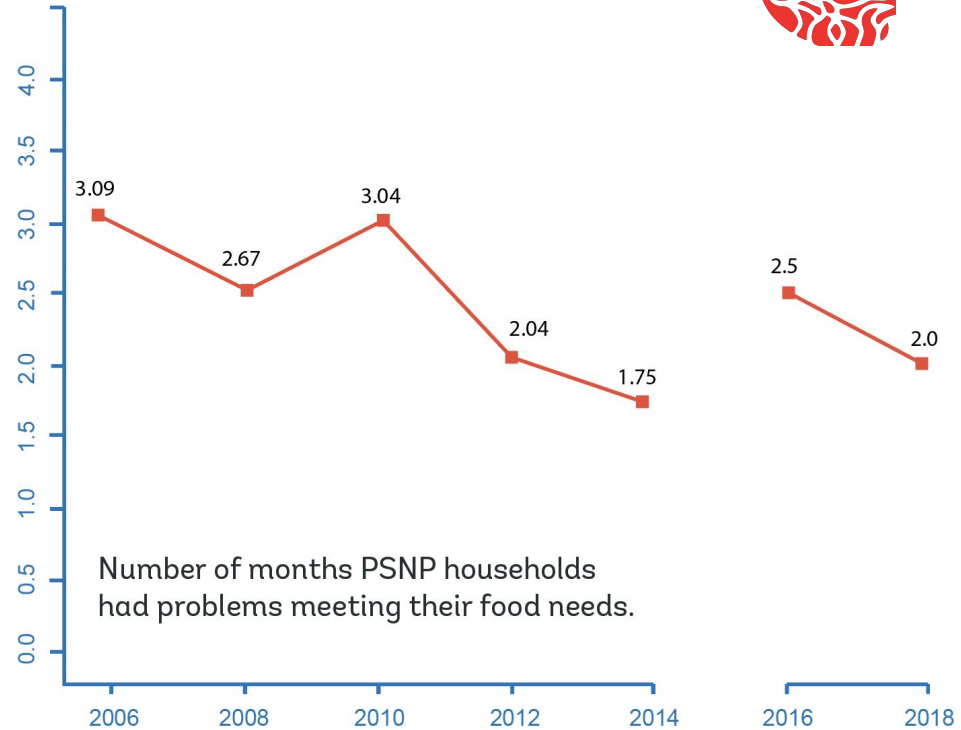
- In 2005 the Ethiopian government put in place the Productive Safety Net Program to address chronic food insecurity and to replace a fragmented systems and duplication of efforts.
- PSNP 5 project goal: “End extreme poverty in woredas”
  - Reduce food insecurity through direct assistance transfers
  - Increase resilience to shocks
  - Indirect Benefits (Public Works)
  - Livelihoods Transformation and Graduation



# PSNP IMPACT: Reduced Food Insecurity and increased asset creation

## 2006-2018

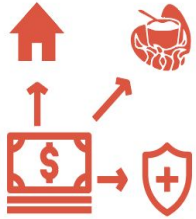
- The food gap nearly halved for PSNP households over a 9-year period.
- PSNP transfers contributed to approximately 80% of this improvement.
- The food gap was reduced by 1.3 months between 2006 and 2010 (from 3.6 to 2.3) and decreased by 0.5 months (from 2.5 to 2) between 2016 and 2018
- Tropical Livestock Units holdings increased from 0.5 in 2006 to 1.7 TLUs in 2014 for the poorest PSNP households.



# PSNP IMPACT ON Real Household Expenditure Doubled (2005-2018)

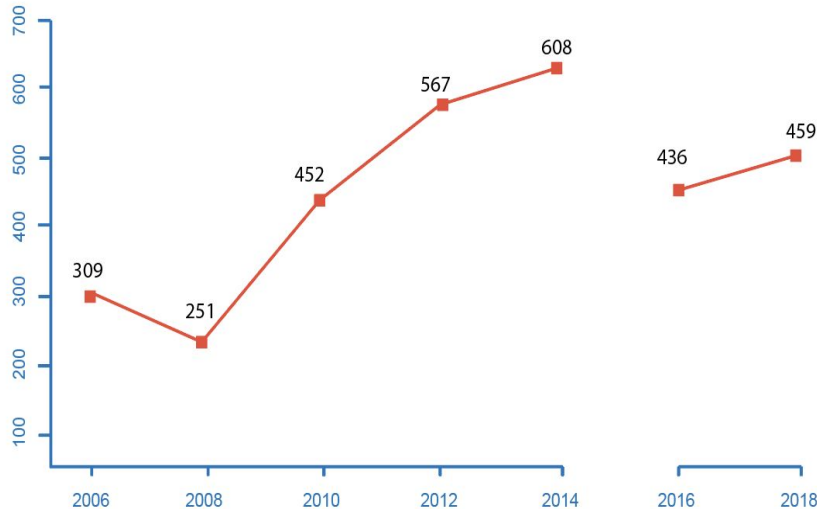
BY 2014,

Real consumption expenditure doubled for PSNP households.



2016-2018

Total per capita monthly expenditures among PSNP households increased by 5 percent, compared to similar non-PSNP households.



41% of PSNP households no longer had food gaps, as compared to similar non-PSNP households.

95% ↑ in food consumption for an average monthly public works wage of ETB 600.

40% of PSNP households no longer have food gaps, as compared to 30% in 2016.

9% ↑ in food consumption across PSNP households.

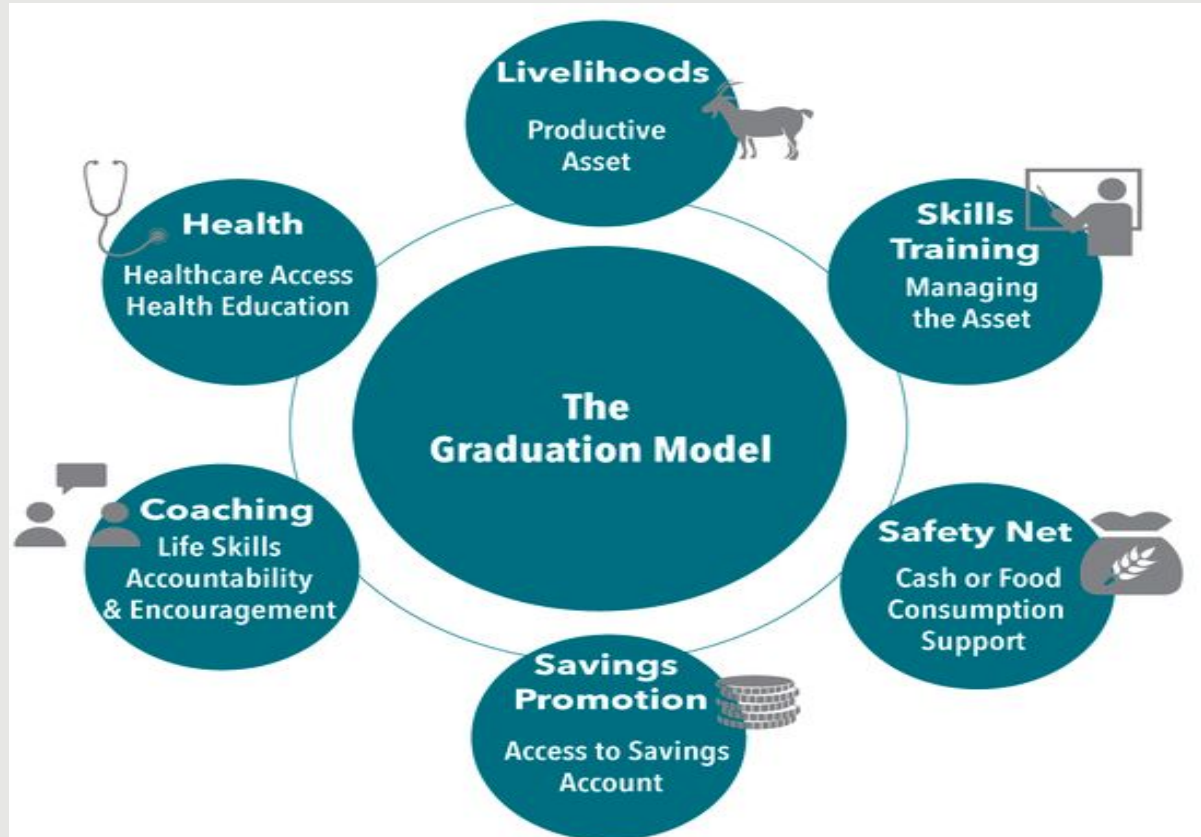
- PSNP had a positive impact on households' calorie consumption, with a 13.4% rise in average per capita daily calorie intake over the period 2011 to 2014.
- A study in the Somali region showed that the PSNP resulted in a 55% (about 1269 kcal) increase in calorie intake.

# “PSNP+” 5 USAID Livelihoods Interventions

## Poorest of the Poor

- ***Focus on the ultra-poor*** – target the bottom 10 percent of PSNP PWs participants from each beneficiary community (Kebele) by wealth ranking;
- ***Cash grant*** – provide a grant equivalent to US\$200 for the selected beneficiaries to finance investment in income-generating activities;
- ***training and technical support*** – offer training for financial literacy and business plan development, support in livelihood pathway selection and business plan development, and follow-up during plan implementation.
- ***consumption support*** – transfers of food through public work investments

# INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLDS





## Findings – Impact of Livelihoods Interventions

The interventions have **not** lead to statistically significant increase in the beneficiaries' likelihood of:

- ***using modern agricultural input*** (improved seeds, chemical fertilizers, irrigation, and pesticides; and
- ***engaging in off-farm employment*** (casual or irregular wage work, regular wage work for an employer, manage non-farm income generating activities (such as trading, transport, handicrafts, and food processing)

---IFPRI PSNP4 Impact Evaluation (2021)

# Key Livelihood PSNP Learnings

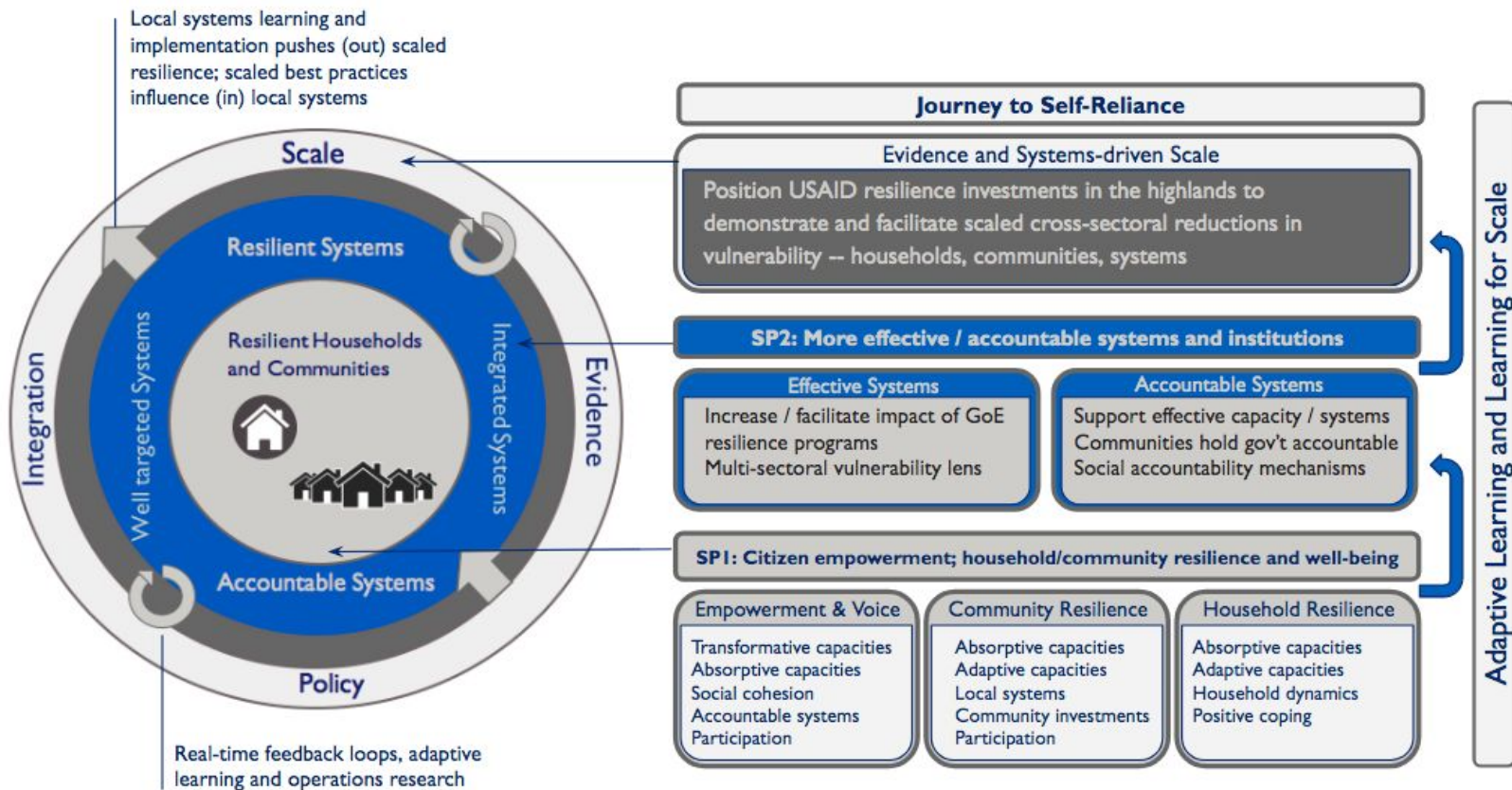
## Climate Vulnerability

Given the small size of plots cultivated by households and rain-fed agricultural practices in the context of climate vulnerability, subsistence crop-farming **may not offer** opportunity for income expansion beyond meeting subsistence needs.

Only 7.3% of PSNP (all categories) clients engaged in business.

---IFPRI PSNP4 Impact Evaluation (2021)

# USAID's Approach to PSNP Implementation



# Before you can run, you need to learn to walk.

- Systems-based monitoring activities are difficult to undertake without certain enabling conditions and skills



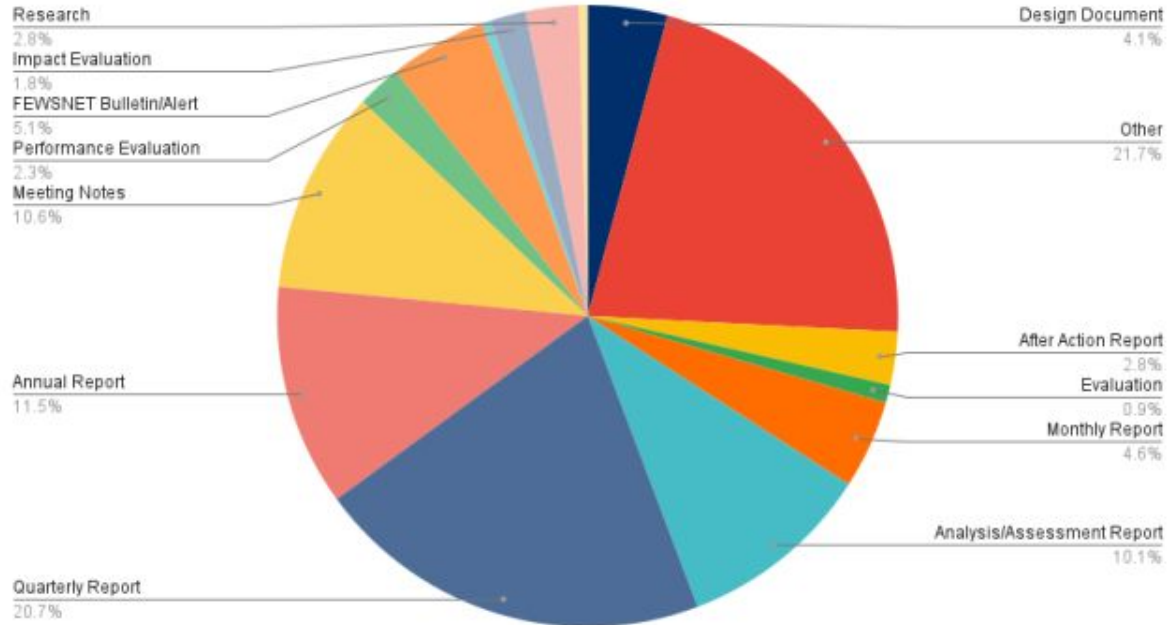
## Key Resilience Evidence Housekeeping Questions

1. What resilience evidence does USAID possess?
2. How is this evidence consolidated and translated?
3. What is the quality of resilience data?
4. How is data used to inform decision making?



# Resilience & DRM Document Review

Learning Review Document Type



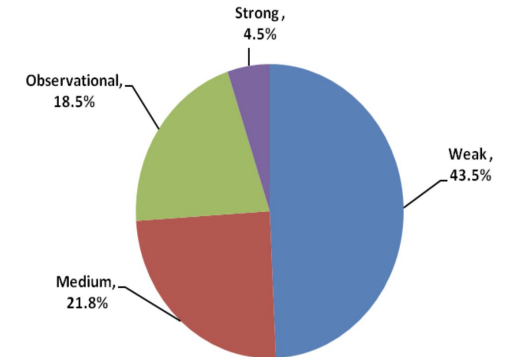
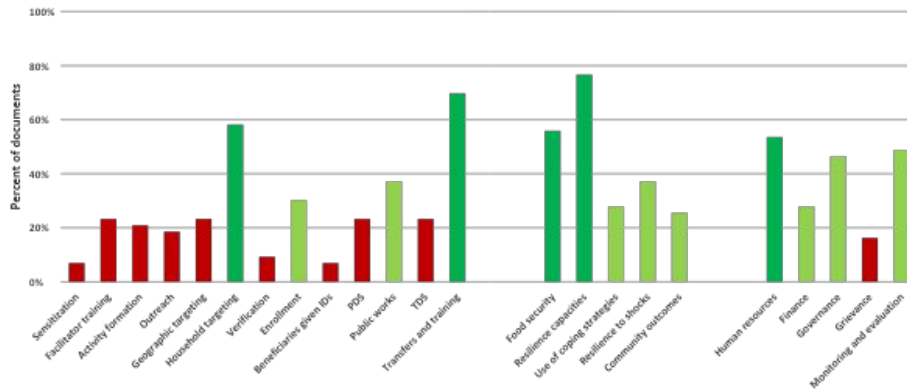
# Appraise evidence to identify quality validity, relevance, and applicability



286 USAID documents and over 24 USAID Activities for Quality.

Strong Quality = 4.5%

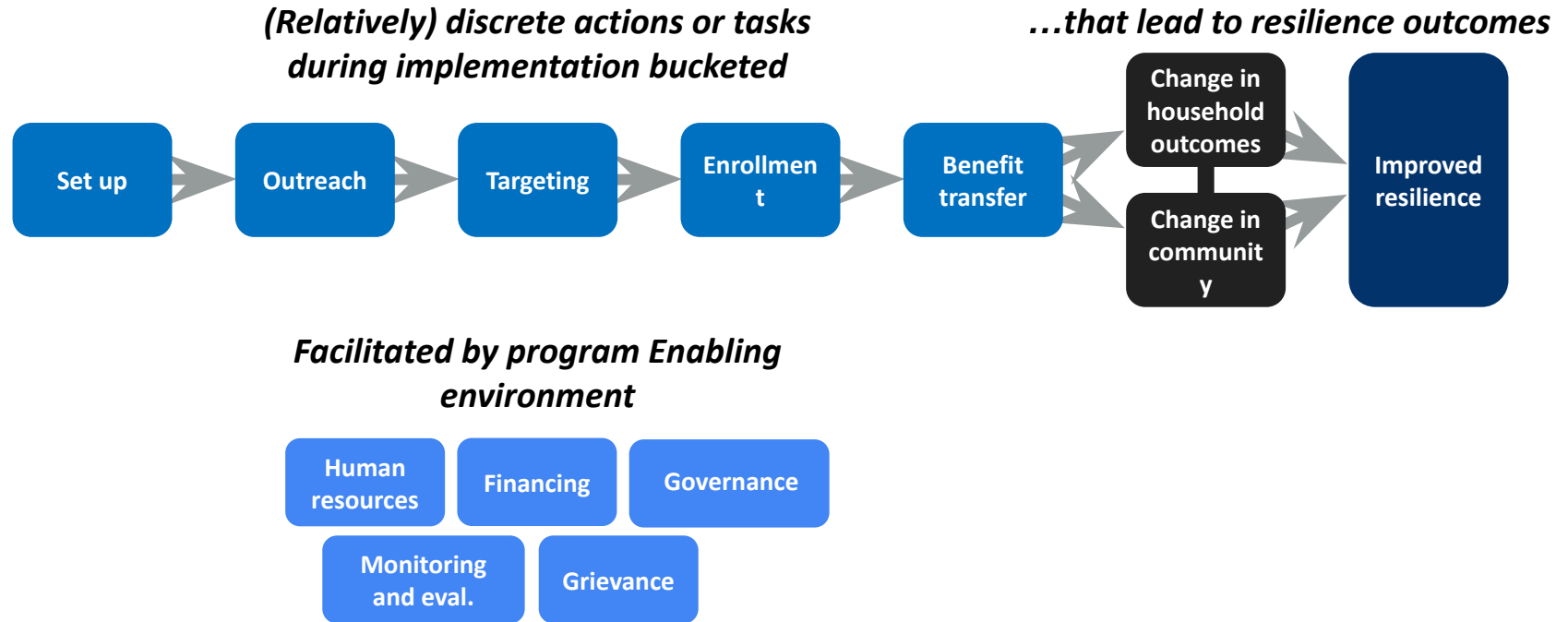
Weak Quality = 43.5%



"Rigor of Evidence Ratings", SDRM-SI Developmental Evaluation Learning Review, 2021, Headlight Consulting Services LLC

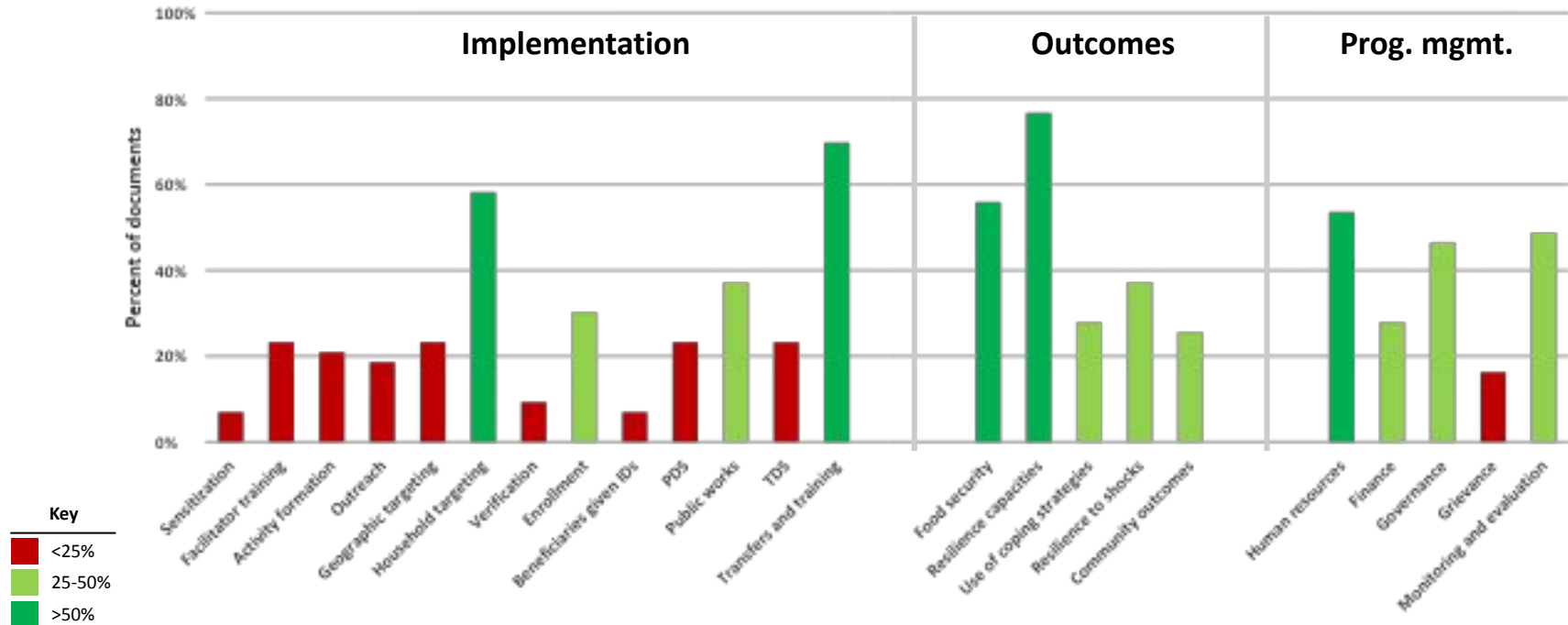


# Evidence Mapping--Resilience Causal Chain





# Identifying evidence gaps in the resilience causal chain...



# Disconnect between Resilience M&E and Research Intermediate Outcomes



## TIGER-OR Proximal Indicators

IR	Sub-IR	Theme	Output/outcome	Indicator	Rationale	Source
<b>IR 2.1</b>		<b>Household food security increased</b>				
<b>IR 2.1.1</b>		<b>Food productivity, production, and availability at the household level increased</b>				
2.1	2.1.1	Supply	Availability	Value or quantity of benefits disbursed to beneficiaries (e.g., high	Supply: Use of improved seeds and	RF MERL indicator in
2.1	2.1.1	Demand	Availability	Average size of transfer received [per household, per beneficiary]	Demand: A cash transfer to PNSP ho	RF MERL indicator in
2.1	2.1.1	Timeliness	Access	Percent of beneficiaries receiving their benefit according to basic s	Households who participate in safet	RF MERL indicator in
2.1	2.1.1	Utilization	Utilization of inputs	Percent of households using new agricultural technologies	Indicator of whether households tak	RF MERL indicator in
2.1	2.1.1	Food production	Cultivation of food	Percent of households selling any food production	A measure of whether households a	Custom
2.1	2.1.1	Expenditures	Increased purchasing power	Percent of households able to purchase goods beyond basic needs	Households income is sufficient to a	RF MERL indicator in
2.1	2.1.1	Supply	Movement of food to markets to meet de	Number of new sellers in local markets	If household demand is increasing, t	Custom
<b>IR 2.1.2</b>		<b>Household access to diversified food improved</b>				
2.1	2.1.2	Food production	Diversified food production	Percent of households with food production from [number of food	Measures whether households wou	Custom
2.1	2.1.2	Supply	Diversified food delivered to markets	Percent of households selling food production from [number of fo	Indicator of households' contributio	Custom
2.1	2.1.2	Supply	Diversified food sold in markets	Market-level diversity score representing the number of distinct fo	Household market access has been	Custom
<b>IR 2.1.3</b>		<b>Utilization of diversified and nutrient-dense foods improved, increased particularly for pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and female-head</b>				
2.1	2.1.3	Training	Dietary diversity training	Number of people trained or provided with advisory services relat	Increased knowledge of nutrition-re	RF MERL indicator in
2.1	2.1.3	Training	Child nutrition training	Number of people trained or provided with advisory services relat	Increased knowledge of nutrition-re	RF MERL indicator in
2.1	2.1.3	Knowledge	Knowledge gained	Percent of people trained or provided with advisory services who	Serves as an initial measure of the e	Custom
2.1	2.1.3	Knowledge	Knowledge retained	Percent of people trained or provided with advisory services who	For knowledge to be translated into	Custom
2.1	2.1.3	Utilization	Practice	Household dietary diversity score	Provides a measure of dietary diver	RF MERL indicator in
<b>IR 2.2</b>		<b>Shock-resilient livelihoods are increasingly adopted and maintained</b>				
<b>IR 2.2.1</b>		<b>Capacity to engage in diversified livelihoods increased</b>				
2.2	2.2.1	Inputs	Receiving or purchasing inputs	Percent of households receiving livelihoods grants investing in pro	The beginning of the causal chain he	RF MERL indicator in
2.2	2.2.1	Inputs	Receiving or purchasing inputs	Number of people reporting the use of climate information or imp	Linking trainings here to utility, it is	RF MERL indicator in
2.2	2.2.1	Training	Capacity development	Number of program activities conducted (e.g., demonstrations of	This is the first step--capacity buildi	RF MERL indicator in

# Challenges & Opportunities In Resilience Measurement Learnings

- Activity level baseline, midline and endline evaluations aren't telling us what's working and why (USAID speak-- "layering and sequencing and impact")
- Desire for systems-based monitoring approaches to triangulate findings from traditional USAID M&E approaches.
- Recurring Monitoring Survey (walk before you can run)



# Challenges & Opportunities in the Resilience Space (Learnings Continued)

- Ask the question--how will the data be used to solve or program?
  - What type of data is meaningful and cost effective?
  - Where is there political will internally and externally for action?
- Significant variability in the type and quality of evidence from implementing partners makes it difficult to draw conclusions and apply learning. Establish a peer review mechanism (potential link with LASER patterns)
- Evidence variation doesn't allow for meaningful triangulation (need applied research, learning and traditional evaluation/data collection)
- Create thematic working groups to explore what *meaningful* data is needed anchored to existing USAID program cycle.

# USAID/Ethiopia Resilience Learning Activity

- New activity launched September 2022
- Provide support to Highlands implementing partners
- Translation & Re-analysis
- Sectoral working groups
- Adaptive management
- Testing, incubating and scaling best practices