

## ABSTRACT

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### **EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRODUCTIVE SAFETY NET PROGRAM IN ASSURING FOOD SECURITY IN AMHARA REGION: THE CASE OF WARA ILLU AND JAMA WOREDAS OF SOUTH WOLLO ZONE**

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*The safety net program, as a replacement of the different development programs failed in the past, is started to operate in Ethiopia in 2005 to bring an end to the cycle of dependence on food aid and to protect the loss of assets. However, with the exception of reports coming from woredas, there is no research undertaken to assess its sustainability/effectiveness in changing the lives of communities. The present study attempts to examine whether the program has contributed to the community in filling food gap, protecting household assets and created communal wealth, the effects of cash/grain transfers on household food consumption, role of PSNP constructed social services to household food security, level of household participation and integration of different programs. The primary data source for this work was the Wara Illu and Jama woredas safety net beneficiary rural households, data were collected by undertaking a survey on 90 households. These data were analyzed using descriptive statistics methods to meet the stated objectives. Narrative descriptions were also used for interviews and focus group discussions. The results of the study revealed that access to PSNP transfers together with other food security programs have reduced food insecurity, protected household assets and raised consumption level. With regards to preference of transfers almost all households prefer grain, though resources were not predictable. The findings also showed the public works contribution in minimizing gully erosion and increasing moisture of soil and improvement in clean water provision, it has also increased access to market through roads constructed. Moreover, participation of female has increased due to awareness created by different social services constructed in the localities. The research also found out the targeting problems inhibiting program effectiveness and the linkage with other food security programs is weak-which households with access to both the PSNP and packages will likely be more food secure. It is also obvious from the findings that the feeling of dependency created by the program on beneficiary*

*households. The findings suggest the following set of recommendations: the cash/grain transfers should be provided on time, the government should provide the community with grain as per their interest and/or should increase wage rate, the government and concerned parties should try to work in creating a strong integration among programs and for the sustainability.*