



GRAD: Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development

Background: GRAD was USAID's largest contribution to the livelihoods component of the Government of Ethiopia's PSNP, a component intended to assure household graduation. The GRAD design paralleled the PSNP plan but with greater investments in financial linkages, women's economic empowerment, private sector engagement, etc.

GRAD and Resilience: After years of good weather, the drought of 2015/16 created an opportunity for measuring the relative resilience of project households, and identifying the interventions seen as contributing most to those outcomes.

Measuring Resilience: At that point, we realized that the project M&E framework was not set up for this task and the external baseline provided no basis for comparison. Late in the project, we commissioned a rigorous qualitative study to try to validate anecdotal evidence of success, understand project contributions to resilience, and identify gaps.





GRAD: Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development

What did we learn?

GRAD HHs are more resilient (according to multiple respondents from beneficiary households, comparing to previous crises and to their neighbors).

- Retaining productive assets; less distress sales
- Maintaining reasonable consumption levels
- Much less distress migration

Why?

- Group membership with savings, small loans, and social capital
- Greater participation of women in household economy
- Diversified income sources, including with different risk profiles
- Drought tolerant livelihoods activities, e.g. irrigated vegetables, shoat fattening, honey
- Links with micro-finance and external markets (transition to commercial activities)





GRAD: Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development

How is this relevant to the PSNP, which seeks graduation without back-sliding?

Current Graduation Criteria	Graduation 'with Resilience' Criteria ?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An asset threshold; or 2. Graduation prediction model: wealth ranking with asset benchmarking 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Income and income sources: amount, sources, diversification, and risk profiles. 2. Involvement of women in economic activities and decision-making. 3. Engagement in commercial markets.

But with 8 million beneficiary households, the PSNP has struggled with the current, simple measures. A complex set of resilience indicators won't be feasible. Our challenge now is to simplify the measurement of resilience in ways that maintain accuracy while being scalable and affordable.

