



CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES FOR FUNDING A NUTRITION PROGRAM IN ETHIOPIA

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Duration: 5 years

Deadline: September 3, 2026 , 23:59 EAT

The Embassy of the Netherlands in Ethiopia (EKN) intends to establish funding for a new nutrition program under its Food and Nutrition Security portfolio for the years 2027-2031. For this purpose, the embassy is inviting consortia to submit a concept note. The application and selection process consists of two stages:

1. the submission and assessment of the concept note and
2. the submission and assessment of the full program proposal (for selected consortia only).

The current call concerns the submission and assessment of the concept note. The 3 consortia whose concept note ranks the best after the assessment on the basis of the criteria laid down in chapter VI, will be invited to develop and submit a full program proposal. The top 3 scoring consortia will be notified October 16. They will be invited to submit the full program proposal latest November 25¹. Of the 3, only the highest scoring organization will be selected for funding.

The applicants whose concept notes are not considered, will be notified by the EKN the week of October 12, 2026. The EKN withholds the right to make changes to these timelines.

The total funding available under this call for concept notes is a maximum of EUR 40,000,000 (€40 million) for the period of 5 years. Please be aware that for unspecified reasons there is a possibility that the funding will ultimately not be awarded e.g., budgetary approval is not given by the Dutch parlement. The consortium partners are expected to directly implement the proposed Program and shall not act solely as intermediary financing channels to third parties. Limited subcontracting for specialized technical support or localized implementation is permissible where appropriately justified.

The program implementation will be carried out at the responsibility of the consortium lead partner to whom the funding will be awarded. The full programmatic depth will be implemented by specialized partners within a consortium structure, under the leadership and at the risk of one lead partner responsible for overall coordination, strategic coherence, and program and financial oversight. The applicant (the lead of a consortium) must submit **a concept note no later than September 3, 2026 by 23:59 EAT** to the following e-mail address ADD-proposals@minbuza.nl. For further information concerning the application process please refer to chapter IV.

The embassy reserves the right to request additional supporting documentation concerning legal registration, financial management systems, organizational capacity, and previous program experience during later stages of the assessment process. The criteria applicable for the assessment of the full program proposals will be shared with the selected consortia that will be invited for this second selection phase.

I. Policy

Netherlands' Policy on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide the basis for the Netherlands policy on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. The Policy letters from the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development to the House of Representatives on International Development sets out the framework

¹ Detailed instructions for the development of the full program proposal will be provided to the 3 selected top scorers.

for how the embassy in Ethiopia implements its development cooperation efforts. Please refer to the policy documents here for an in-depth overview: [Policy letter on International development | Parliamentary document | Government.nl](#) and [Policy Letter Foreign Affairs 2026 | Government.nl](#).

[The IOB evaluation](#) (2024) 'Synergy in development: Coherence of Dutch policy and effects on food security, water and climate in developing countries', provides an in-depth insight on the Dutch policy on food and nutrition security.

As stipulated in the Embassy's [multi annual country strategy](#), it has the objective for a well-functioning food system that enables Ethiopia to have adequate, climate-smart and locally cultivated food and nutrition. To view a list of current programs supported by the embassy and their geographical location please refer to: Addendum 1.

Government of Ethiopia Policy and Strategy Alignment

The program the embassy seeks to fund via this call must be well aligned and implemented in close collaboration with the Ethiopian government to ensure ownership, program effectiveness, impact and sustainability. Therefore, the program needs to be aligned with current policies, including; the Food and Nutrition Policy and Strategy, the Sekota Declaration Roadmap, the Food Systems Transformation and Nutrition Roadmap, Nutrition Sensitive-Agri-Food Systems Strategy and, the Food Safety and Quality Strategy.

II. Problem Statement

Ethiopia, like most other developing countries, is undergoing a rapid nutrition transition. This can be shown by the existence of a triple burden of malnutrition that is characterized by the simultaneous persistence of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies alongside a growing prevalence of overweight, obesity, and diet-related non-communicable diseases. As a country with a wide geographical diversity, the challenges are also variable with its environmental and ecological context, economic activities and social factors that all serve as contributing elements to the nutritional status of communities. Despite being defined as a historically rural country, Ethiopia is experiencing a rapid urbanization, with the growth of the urban population being marked at 4-5% annually². As a result, the emerging layers and complexities of the nutritional problems will be a defining challenge for the country's human capital development and long-term economic resilience, unless immediate interventions that have long-term impact are put in place.

In spite of continued policy commitment and multi-sectoral frameworks, the figures of prevalence of malnutrition in the country remain alarmingly high and progress remains uneven. 40% Of children under age 5 are stunted, 5% of children under age 5 are wasted, 18% of children under age 5 are underweight and 4% are overweight.³ This indicates that chronic and acute forms of undernutrition remain widespread⁴. Micronutrient deficiencies continue to pose a major public health challenge, with anemia affecting approximately 57% of children under five and 24% of women of reproductive age. While important progress has been made over the past decade, the pace of progress has reduced in recent years.

At the same time, Ethiopia is experiencing a shift in dietary patterns associated with broader food systems transformation in urban areas. A rise in the adoption of a food culture that was not previously customary to the Ethiopian population is being exhibited due to urbanization, income growth, and increased market integration. The consumption of processed and ultra-processed foods is growing rapidly. While these foods are often high in sugars, salt, and unhealthy fats, this problem only gets further complicated when the food safety standards of these foods are questionable, often with availability driven by the informal market. Evidence from the World Health Organization⁵ and the Food and Agriculture Organization⁶ indicates that these trends are accelerating in urban and peri-urban areas, contributing to a growing burden of overweight, obesity, and diet-related non-communicable

² World Bank Group [Urban population growth \(annual %\) - Ethiopia | Data](#)

³ Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey [2024-2025](#)

⁴ Idem.

⁵ World Health Organization, [Obesity and overweight](#)

⁶ FAO, 2024, [1.7 billion people in urban and peri-urban areas face food insecurity](#)

diseases. These shifts are occurring within food environments that are increasingly shaped by convenience, affordability, and aggressive marketing. As a result, dietary decisions are not informed by healthy choices, particularly, in the urban Ethiopia context access to clear, credible nutrition guidance remains limited.

In rural areas, structural challenges in food systems continue to constrain dietary outcomes and cycles of malnutrition continue to persist. While there is a dominant positive inclination of consuming local and sustainably sourced diets as compared to the urban population, diets remain heavily reliant on staple crops, with limited diversity and insufficient intake of micronutrient-rich foods. In many rural communities, access to fruits, vegetables, legumes, and other nutrient-dense foods remains limited due to factors such as low agricultural diversification, limited market connectivity, and inadequate storage and post-harvest infrastructure. These challenges are intensified by climate variability, land degradation, water stress and conflict-related disruptions all of which directly affect household resilience. This also holds true in fragile and shock-prone rural areas. While existing interventions have focused on increasing production and addressing immediate food security needs, there has been comparatively less emphasis on transforming local food systems, food environments, dietary diversity and food literacy.

Across both urban and rural contexts, a critical underlying constraint lies in the limited generation and application of context-specific nutrition evidence. While global nutrition science continues to advance, current approaches in Ethiopia are focused on public health responses to deficiencies, with limited investment in advancing deeper scientific understanding of the interaction between diet, biology, and health within the Ethiopian context. This limits the ability to design highly tailored, forward-looking interventions that are effectively integrated into the community, with a high level of acceptance. There's opportunity to enhance Ethiopia's capacity to engage more actively in emerging areas of nutrition science, including nutrigenomics, precision nutrition, and microbiome research, which are of the essence to understand as well as advance nutritional outcomes of societies.

From a strategic programming perspective, these dynamics that are mentioned above highlight the need for a more integrated Program approach that connects nutrition outcomes with broader food systems transformation, environmental resilience, and knowledge development, while being sensitive to the specific contexts in which they will be applied to.

III. Program Background and Context

Program Concept

The funding opportunity the embassy makes available aims at Program containing a EUR 40 million initiative designed to address Ethiopia's evolving nutrition challenges through three interconnected programmatic components mentioned below. Applicants are expected to submit one integrated concept note that addresses all three Program components through a coherent implementation approach. While each component should demonstrate sufficient strategic depth, operational ambition, and technical quality to function as a substantial standalone pillar, the overall proposal should clearly articulate the linkages, synergies, and overarching Theory of Change connecting the **three components**, including one unified Program results framework.

The Program is grounded in the recognition that addressing malnutrition in Ethiopia requires an integrated approach that addresses demand, supply, and enabling environment, including national evidence-generation capacity. The **first component** focuses on urban and peri-urban dietary transition and healthy food environments. The **second component** focuses on nutrition-sensitive rural food systems and resilience in vulnerable areas. The **third component** focuses on strengthening Ethiopia's nutrition science, research, and evidence-generation ecosystem which supports local, indigenous and forward-looking nutrition solutions.

The Program is expected to contribute to improved nutrition outcomes. The approach should be consistent with the Ethiopian Food Systems Transformation and Nutrition agenda⁷, which highly recognizes that the nutrition challenges in the country are increasingly shaped by rapid urbanization, climate variability, environmental degradation alongside a growing nutrition transition. The national

⁷ <https://ati.gov.et/docs/efstn-roadmap-final-draft/>

policies further mention the importance of research, private sector engagement and locally grounded evidence generation as critical enabling conditions for sustainable food systems transformation and long-term nutrition improvement.

Goal: Improved nutrition outcomes for urban, peri-urban and rural targeted population groups, strengthened governmental and community-based systems for sustainability and a research & knowledge ecosystem that enhances nutrition knowledge rooted in the Ethiopian context.

Key Program Principles

Across all three components, applicants are expected to demonstrate approaches that are:

- Contextually grounded and responsive to Ethiopia's diverse nutrition realities;
- Designed to foster national ownership and align with government systems;
- Focused on long-term sustainability and systems-level transformation;
- Evidence-driven, sensitive to localization, climate resilience, gender dynamics, vulnerability contexts and a particular focus for private sector engagement;
- Capable of contributing to stronger national nutrition knowledge and practice.
- Add unique value to the already existing EKN Food and Nutrition Security portfolio
- Contributing to at least one indicator of the DGIS indicators on Nutrition Security (Outcome "A") in the Food & Nutrition Security [Results Framework](#).

Component 1 (32% of funding)

Urban and peri-urban dietary transition and healthy food environments

This component is grounded in the recognition that while Ethiopia has established strong nutrition policies and strategies, yet capacity issues hinder the delivery systems. As such, a critical gap remains between policy frameworks and the everyday dietary decisions increasingly shaping nutrition outcomes in urban and peri-urban settings. On the one hand, there is emerging evidence of a growing consumption of processed and ultra-processed foods, contributing to poor dietary outcomes. This reflects broader national concerns regarding shifting consumption patterns toward unhealthy diets and the increasing overconsumption of non-nutritious food, particularly within rapidly urbanizing areas.⁸ These include imported products as well as widely available street foods that often lack adequate food safety standards. Alarming, exposure to such diets begins at a very early age, including among infants and young children (DHS 2025).

These contexts also present an opportunity to address segments of the population to adopt healthier dietary practices, for instance through providing clear, credible, and accessible information. The program will support individuals and households in distinguishing between trends and scientifically sound advice while encouraging sustainable ways of sourcing food items and applicability of consumption patterns that can be behaviorally and economically sustained in the long-term. This component is therefore expected to address the growing nutrition challenges emerging in urban and peri-urban Ethiopia, through interventions that:

- Improve access to credible nutrition information that encourages locally grounded sustainable advice in terms of making dietary transitions;
- Build nutritional literacy that enables individuals/households to be empowered to make dietary decisions and explore/seize the nutritional opportunities in their existing food environments;
- Strengthen healthier dietary practices -by also considering the trickledown effect urban food systems have on the broader parts of the country and set to create a positive consumption culture long-term;

⁸ <https://ati.gov.et/docs/efstn-roadmap-final-draft/>

- Contribute to healthier food environments through behavioral, institutional, and systems-level approaches.

Within this component, applicants **are expected but not limited** to:

- Identifying and addressing the specific urban and peri-urban nutrition-related challenges
- Defining and justifying the target group(s);
- Complementing existing national nutrition policies and strengthen capacities to address gaps between policy and implementation in urban settings.
- Collaborating with relevant governmental institutions and regulatory authorities
- Strengthening healthier food environments through engagement with key stakeholders such as municipalities, schools, food vendors, retailers (and other private sector actors), public institutions, or informal market systems.
- Geographical selection: The 2 city administrations (Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa) must be included in the program. In addition, the consortium selects a minimum of 3 urban/peri-urban areas in a minimum of 3 regions and based on clear, self-defined criteria.

Component 2 (62% of funding)

Nutrition-sensitive rural food systems and resilience in vulnerable areas

This component is grounded in the recognition that persistent malnutrition in rural Ethiopia is closely linked to structural food systems challenges, limited dietary diversity, climate vulnerability, and recurring shocks that continue to undermine household resilience and ultimately nutrition outcomes. While many interventions have nationally focused on agricultural production and immediate food security needs, there remains a significant need for approaches that more directly strengthen nutrition outcomes through sustainable, locally rooted, and resilience-oriented food systems transformation.⁹

This component is therefore expected to address persistent nutrition challenges in rural Ethiopia through sustainable, nutrition-specific, and resilience-oriented food systems approaches. The proposed interventions should go beyond conventional food security programming and demonstrate a clear pathway toward improving dietary quality, dietary diversity, and access to nutritious foods in rural settings.

Within this component, applicants are expected, but not limited, to:

- Define the root cause(s) of a specific nutrition problem and demonstrate how the proposed intervention(s) will contribute directly to addressing a/the root cause(s) in the selected (based on self-defined criteria) region, whilst going beyond primarily focusing on agricultural production or food availability alone.
- Demonstrate how the proposed approaches reduce dependency on externally sustained or input dependent models and instead strengthen locally rooted systems, community capacities, and long-term sustainability beyond the duration of Program.
- Demonstrate how interventions will contribute to strengthening dietary diversity and improving household-level access to and consumption of diverse and nutritious diets
- Recognize the role of local formal & informal economies, businesses and small & medium enterprises, in food systems, in contributing to the proposed long term solution
- Justify the proposed geographical focus areas based on nutrition vulnerability, climate exposure, food systems constraints, or other relevant contextual factors. Whilst addressing a minimum of 4 regions (minimum of 3 regions need to be aligned with the regions of

⁹ [National-Nutrition Sensitive Agri Food Systems Strategy 2024.pdf](#)

component 1) high alignment is desirable with existing EKN supported programs, such as PSNP woredas (see Addendum I and the EKN programs [location map](#)).

- Present approaches with demonstrated evidence for sustainability, scale, and systems-level impact, including how interventions could continue generating nutritional benefits beyond the duration of Program funding

Component 3 (6% of funding)

Strengthening Ethiopia's nutrition science, research, and evidence-generation ecosystem which supports local, indigenous and forward-looking nutrition solutions

This component is informed by the recognition that while Ethiopia continues to apply important global nutrition evidence and public health approaches, comparatively limited investment has been made in generating deeper context-specific scientific knowledge rooted in Ethiopia's own dietary systems, biological diversity, food environments, and lived realities. As nutrition science increasingly evolves toward more molecular, and systems-based approaches, there is opportunity for Ethiopia not only to apply existing evidence, but also to contribute actively to the generation of new scientific knowledge and innovation emerging from the Ethiopian context itself. The program proposes how it will strengthen Ethiopia's national nutrition research and evidence-generation ecosystem. It doesn't facilitate research as such, rather sets an agenda and advocates for high-end scientific evidence to be fostered, localized, and then translated into rapid nutrition strategy, policy, and regulation.

Within this component, applicants are expected, but not limited, to:

- Fostering a research & knowledge ecosystem in Ethiopia that advocates for innovation, scientific research, information exchange and publicity in the interaction between (indigenous) diets, biology, population diversity, environmental realities, food systems, and health outcomes within the Ethiopian context
- Propose approaches that generate context-specific nutrition evidence rooted in Ethiopian food systems, dietary practices, indigenous foods, and health challenges
- Demonstrate how collaboration will be strengthened between universities, research institutions, thinktanks, government, laboratories, or other relevant actors involved in nutrition science and evidence generation -and how this advances the nutrition agenda and translates research into practical and nutrition-related policy engagement and intervention design

IV. Application process and Submission requirements

How to apply?

- The deadline for application for this call for concept notes is September 3, 2026 23:59 EAT
- The application should be done by email to be submitted to ADD-proposals@minbuza.nl. Any technical issues relating to electronic submission are at the risk of the applicant.
- The email needs to have the subject line: NewNutrition_EKN_Name of lead partner.
- The email may contain only 1 attachment the concept note including its annexes in PDF format with a maximum size of 14 MB.
- If it doesn't fit in 1 attachment of 14MB, please send a second email with the same subject line stating "email 2 of 2"
- The attachment shall be labeled as: Name of lead partner_Name of proposed new program.
- The font will be Calibri – font size 11 – single spacing
- The maximum number of pages, excluding Cover Page and Annexes, is 10 pages.
- C.N.s that don't comply with these instructions will be rejected

Question & Answers

- Questions can be submitted by email to ADD-proposals@minbuza.nl, no later than 31 July, 23:59 EAT. Use the subject line: Question for Concept Note –New Nutrition Program EKN
- The answers will be published on the EKN website on August 13, 2026
- Questions posed on other platforms, in person to EKN staff, or otherwise, will not be answered

3 stages of assessment

There will be 3 stages of assessment: 1) compliance screening 2) eligibility assessment 3) technical assessment.

1. Compliance Screening

Submitted concept notes will first undergo a compliance screening. Applications will be rejected if they don't comply with the above mentioned instructions on submitting applications.

2. Eligibility assessment

Only applications meeting the following requirements will be considered for step 3 technical assessment:

- One organization must be identified as the Lead Partner, responsible for overall coordination, communication with the embassy, financial management, and program oversight.
- The application must be submitted by the lead partner of a consortium consisting of legally registered entities with each having a legal personality. Eligible entities are amongst others research institutions, universities, private sector actors, multilateral organization, non-governmental organizations, thinktanks and specialized technical agencies may participate as consortium members.
- A consortium consists of minimum 3 parties (lead included), and maximum 6 parties (lead incl.). (This does not limit options for subcontracting, incl. of public organizations).
- A minimum of 2 consortium partners need to have an office in Ethiopia
- Companies or for-profit organizations that are consortium member are only eligible when applying non-commercial rates, yet: cannot be the Lead Partner of the consortium.
- Annual grant disbursement should not be more than twice the **consortium's** average annual turnover over the last 3 years. For international, multilateral and intergovernmental organizations, the requirement will be calculated against the organization's global consolidated annual budget, operating revenue, or total financial expenditure over the past 3 financial years, as detailed in their certified audited financial statements, rather than the localized budget of the Ethiopia country office.
- Indirect costs including overheads should be less than 15% of the total project budget.
- Organizations can only qualify for one grant/contribution either as a lead partner or consortium member. Multiple entries by the same organization are not acceptable and will lead to rejection of both submitted applications.
- The lead party can demonstrate that in the period 2023 - 2025 at least 50% of the total annual income came from sources other than grants and/or contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including missions). This criterion applies to the whole consortium.
- For the eligibility assessment, the submitted annex 1 (please see below for further details) will be leading.

3. Technical Assessment Concept note

Applications that successfully passed phases 1 and 2 will have their concept note assessed on its technical quality of the concept note. The concept note should provide sufficient detail to allow for assessment of the proposed approach, while remaining focused on overall program design rather than operational detail. The concept note is expected to address the following elements:

Part I – Consortium (approx. 1-2 pages)

Applicants should begin by describing the proposed consortium. This includes introducing the Lead Partner and all consortium members. The respective roles and responsibilities of each partner should be clearly outlined, demonstrating how their expertise aligns with the three components of the program. It needs to describe how the complementarity between partners will be ensured and how coordination, decision-making, costs and risk sharing and overall program management is structured under the leadership of the Lead Partner. Grant funding will be disbursed exclusively and in full to the designated Lead, who will act as the sole contractual partner with the Embassy.

Part II –Program approach and Implementation strategy (approx. 4-5 pages)

This section introduces the approach for the overall program and for each of the three components. Implementation approaches should be based on evidence-based, proven successful interventions, supported by a track record. Applicants are expected to demonstrate a strong understanding of the challenges and opportunities within each component and to present a credible approach. Consequently, this chapter includes the key strategic choices underpinning their design, including priorities, sequencing, and assumptions.

This chapter includes the selection of regions, (peri) urban areas, as relevant to each component. The rationale for geographic selection should be clearly justified. In case pilots/innovations are proposed, applicants should explain how selected locations provide a suitable basis for demonstration, learning, and potential scaling. Innovation may relate to methodologies, technologies, behavioral approaches. A maximum of 25% of components 1 and 2 total budget can be used for piloting new / innovative approaches.

This section explains how the program aligns with government systems and how sustainability of results after Program end are ensured.

Although cross-cutting issues (gender equality, climate change, localization) are of the essence in every EKN program, in this application it can be lightly touched upon. The 3 selected consortia will be required to address this in full analysis and depth in the full proposal.

Detailed implementation plans are not required at this stage.

The proposed interventions must be SMART, written in clear and concrete wording, without ai produced narratives and limiting the excessive usage of jargon and buzz words.

Part III – Theory Of Change (approx. 1 page)

Concept notes are required to present a Theory of Change for the overall program. This should explain how the proposed interventions across the three components will contribute to improved nutrition outcomes, and how the components relate to and reinforce one another within a single program framework.

Part IV – Risks (approx. 1 page)

Applicants should identify the main risks associated with the proposed program and outline mitigation strategies, including 1) contextual risks 2) operational risks.

An assessment of the Organizational capacity of the lead partner will be part of the "Full Proposal" assessment for the 3 selected consortia. Please already see on EKN website titled: "ORIA Addendum 2" with the organizational assessment ("ORIA") criteria.

Required Annexes –

- **Annex 1. Application Form**

One file signed by all consortium members (see format on EKN website titled: “Format Annex 1 - Application Form”)

- **Annex 2: Track record**

One file (see format on EKN website titled: “Format Annex 2 -Track Record Form”) which stipulates two records of the lead partner and one of each consortium member

- **Annex 3: Budget**

See format on the EKN website titled: “Format Annex 3 -Budget Format”. Please fill out the indicative budget, presenting a high-level allocation of resources across the three components, major cost categories, and indicative consortium member allocations and a maximum of 15% indirect costs. While detailed budgeting is not required at this stage, the distribution should reflect the overall design and level of ambition of each component.

V. Technical Assessment criteria concerning the Concept Note

After passing phase 1 (screening) and phase 2 (eligibility assessment), the concept note will be technically assessed in phase 3. In total a concept note can receive 100 points. **To be considered for shortlisting**, applicants must achieve an overall score of 75 points or higher.

The following criteria will be scored (total 100 points):

1. The extent to which the translation of the different outcomes, results and major features into a comprehensive and efficient program design, strategy and main interventions which will be assessed through the following sub-criteria (**60 points** in total, 10 points each)
 - The quality of the proposal’s analysis of the (selected) major driver(s) of poor nutrition outcomes
 - The chosen strategy to address it is technically sound
 - The extent to which the approach is evidence-based
 - Geographic selection (together 10p):
 - The extent to which logic of the self-defined criteria for geographic selection is logic in relation to the problem analysis;
 - The extent to which the approach is regionally contextualized
 - Target group(s) selection: The extent to which logic of the self-defined criteria for target group(s) selection is logic in relation to the problem analysis and in relation to the selected regions.
 - The level to which the program balances overall ambition and reach vis-à-vis realism and the limitations posed by budget and time.
2. Sustainability, National Ownership, and Systems Strengthening (**10 points**)
 - The level to which the intervention strengthens local (government & community) ownership
 - The level to which the intervention fosters the local research & knowledge ecosystem for indigenous, Ethiopian nutrition research and analysis;
 - The level to which the Program demonstrates realistic pathways for continuation beyond Program funding;
3. ToC (**10 points**)
 - The extent to which the draft theory of change (ToC) contributes to the goal, outcomes and intended result areas
4. Indicative Budget (**10 points**)

- The extent to which the indicative budget is realistic and proportionate to the proposed scope and ambition of the Program;
- Value for money: The extent to which the budget is effectively and efficiently used to reach improved nutrition outcomes
- Indirect cost are maximum of 15%

5. Consortium Expertise, Capacity, and Partnerships (**10 points**)

- The extent to which the consortium demonstrates relevant technical expertise and experience in Ethiopia on nutrition security program implementation (for components 1+2) and working in knowledge & research realm in Ethiopia (for component 3).
- The extent to which consortium members demonstrate complementarity and division of roles.
- The extent to which the CN demonstrates the Lead Partner's capacity to sufficiently coordinate, manage, and provide oversight.
- The extent to which the CN demonstrates the consortium's capacity to implement a program of this scale and complexity.

Addendum 1. List of EKN funded programs in the Food & Nutrition Security portfolio

EKN finances several projects in Food and Nutrition Security (FNS). Other areas of interest are Integrated Water Resource Management & WASH, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Private Sector Development, Migration, with gender, climate and human rights as cross cutting themes. An overview of the projects under FNS is presented below.

PSNP 5 (WB/MoA, 2020-2026) tentative PSNP 6 (2026-2031)

The PSNP was launched to reduce rural food insecurity, which resulted in regular humanitarian appeals. Focusing on rural areas, the project currently covers approximately 8 million beneficiaries from approximately 2.5 million households in 50% of the country's woredas (districts). The rural PSNP, currently completing its fifth phase (PSNP 5), has evolved over the years from cash and temporary support to a comprehensive sustainable livelihoods for the poor agenda, including: (a) predictable provision of cash and food transfers; (b) provision of short-term employment and creation of sustainable community assets through public works; (c) training and mentorship for sustainable and diversified livelihoods; and (d) digitization and systems strengthening for improved service delivery.

PSNP 6 will have a strong focus on improved livelihoods and economic opportunities, including boosting financial inclusion to lift people out of poverty and building their resilience to shocks. It will also provide climate-smart, nutrition and risk-sensitive public works to deliver short-term employment to support food security and resilience. Youth and women within food insecure rural households will be prioritized. Leveraging technology and building on established collaboration mechanisms, the project will transform from a shock responsive system to a holistic and adaptive social protection system.

ACC1 (ATI / MOA, 2020-2025) tentative ACC2 (2026-2030)

A government flagship program to promote market-driven agricultural value chain development through cluster-based commercialization of smallholder farming. The program has six outcomes; increased production, productivity, and income; improved access to market; improved environmentally sustainable farm practices; improved engagement of women and youth; enhanced institutional capacity and enabling environments for agricultural commercialization; and enhanced value for money approach. It uses value chain approach, focusing on specific commodities.

The 2nd phase will implement 9 components: (I) Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Crop Commercialization; (II) Climate Resilient and Sustainable Livestock Commercialization; (III) Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources; (IV) Agribusiness and Private Sector Engagement; (V) Digital Agriculture and Rural Financial Services; (VI) Gender, Youth, and Nutrition; (VII) Policy and Advocacy; (VIII) Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus, and (IX) Program Management.

Ethiopian Food Systems Resilience Program (WB/MoA, 2020-2025)

EFSRP is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and its objective is to improve resilience of food systems and increase preparedness against food insecurity in selected project areas. There are four components: (i) Transforming Agricultural services and Innovation Systems (ii) Resilient Small Scale Irrigation Development and Management (iii) Food Market Development (iv) Improving Enabling Environment for Food Systems and Project Management. It's co-funded by World Bank and development partners.

Building Rural Income through Inclusive Dairy Business Growth (SNV, 2023-2029)

BRIDGE+ is a national dairy sector development program. While phase 1 focused on stabilizing production and local milk hubs, phase 2 (BRIDGE+) shifts the lens toward a systemic, market-led transformation. The program works together with the government to introduce regulatory standards, reducing adulteration, strengthening cooperatives, and aligning processors with new standards. It's supporting smallholder farmers with improving productivity through better genetics and enhanced practices.

Horticultural Livelihoods, Innovation and Food safety in Ethiopia (SNV, 2023-2029)

Horti-LIFE-3 aims to contribute to horticultural sector growth and improved nutritional status of the target community. It promotes Farmers' Field Schools as an approach to increase the productivity of selected vegetables and fruits of smallholder horticultural farmers, as well as to improve food safety. Nutritional awareness campaigns focus on improved dietary diversity for women and children. A specific horti-loan product for farmers was developed with 3 participating banks. To improve the competences of the next generation of extension workers, Agricultural TVETs are supported with improved training and teaching materials as well as investing in practical training facilities such as student learning plots.

Ethiopian Seed Partnership+ (Stichting Wageningen Research Ethiopia, 2021-2028)

ESP+ is a NL/EU co-funded program that focuses on the development of Ethiopia's seed sector with the goal that small-scale food producers have increased food security, nutrition, and resilience to shocks and stresses through their improved access to quality seed of adapted varieties. ESP+ focuses on: 1) strengthening private sector in its contribution to seed delivery; 2) increasing uptake of innovations and empowering young men and women; 3) making responses to seed insecurity effective and sustainable; and 4) enabling the transformation of the seed sector. Achieving these outcomes will increase the delivery of high-quality seed to Ethiopian farming men and women and raise their productivity, diversify their crops, and build their resilience to shocks and stresses.

TRANSFORM (IFDC, 2024-2028)

The NL/EU co-funded program will transform soil health and fertility management approaches to increase productivity sustainably of 100,000 small-scale food producer households and improve the sustainable use of 65,000 ha farmland. The key components: 1) Customized extension services and empower farm households and communities to adopt soil health and fertility best agroecological practices at household, kebele, and landscape levels; 2) Increased availability, accessibility, and responsible use of soil inputs through a vibrant soil input sector; 3) Capacitated existing research systems to transform to inclusive, bottom-up, participatory soil health and fertility research approaches; and 4) Improved enabling environment for soil health and fertility.

Sustainable Development Goal Performance Fund (WB/ Ministry of Health)

The SDG-PF is a pooled fund through which several development partners support the Health Sector Development and Investment Plan (HSDIP) of the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH). It finances the highest priorities of the Health Sector Development and Investment Plan (HSDIP) that are related to Reproductive Neonatal Maternal and Child Health (RNMCH), including the Roadmap for Expansion and Scale Up of Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS) in Ethiopia.

Climate Resilient Wheat Value Chain Development (African Development Bank/ MoA, 2023-2028)

The CREW program's objective is to improve wheat productivity through climate-smart technologies and improved irrigation schemes, thereby increasing the incomes of small-scale wheat farmers in Ethiopia and contributing towards the national goal of self-sufficiency.

OneAcreFund (2023-2027)

Interventions in Ethiopia are designed to provide climate-sustainable, long-term benefits such as soil health improvements and higher incomes, so that farmers build resilience over time. This in turn incentivizes smallholders to invest in their farms and communities, enhancing stability. OAF supports perennial crops such as fruit orchards and wood agroforestry; compared to annual crops such as grains or vegetables, these unlock higher profitability per acre, while offering protections against single-year rainfall problems. Thru its agroforestry program, farmers will plant millions of timber and fruit trees, supported by distribution thru commercial seedling nurseries.

CASCADE (Care + GAIN, 2022-2026)

This program in 6 African countries incl. Ethiopia aims to improve food security and reduce malnutrition of women and children under five. The project increases access to and consumption of healthy diets and increases households' resilience to economic- and environment-related shocks.

CGIAR: better diets

The Netherlands government contribution to CGIAR contributes to the CGIAR research in Ethiopia, such as the global Better Diets and Nutrition Program which supports country-led food systems transformation enabling partners to take actions that deliver sustainable healthy diets and improved nutrition outcomes while safeguarding income, employment, social equity, and environmental sustainability.

Tentative: integrated WASH, SRHR and FNS program in Tigray, Amhara, Afar and Oromia