

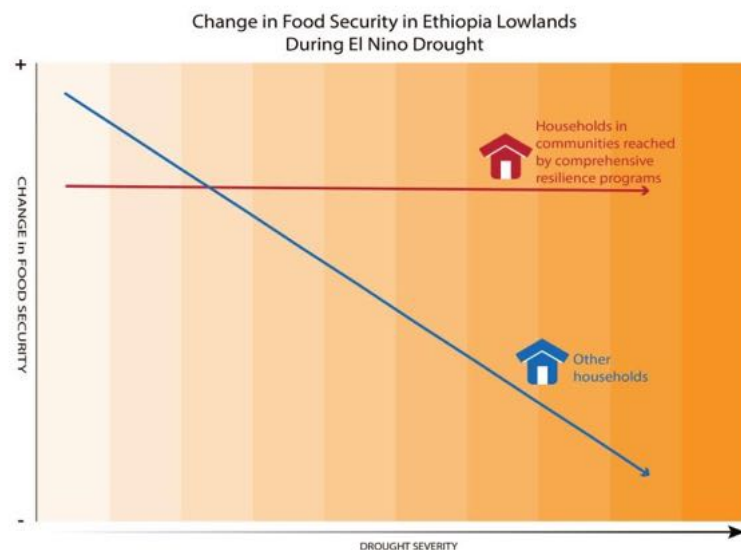
# RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF DROUGHT IN ETHIOPIA: NEW EVIDENCE

Successive years of drought in the Horn of Africa have pushed the region to a state of emergency. More than 70 million people are at risk of becoming food insecure. Development gains made in recent years are under threat and already-strained national governments and the international humanitarian community are struggling to respond to the scale and severity of the crisis.

Against this backdrop, recent evidence from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) underscores the vital importance of strengthening the resilience of households, communities and countries. These long-term investments by governments and donors, such as USAID, are key to breaking the cycle of crises among chronically vulnerable households and communities and ultimately reducing their dependence on humanitarian assistance.

New evidence from Ethiopia's lowlands shows that households in communities that were reached by USAID's comprehensive resilience programs were **better able to maintain their food security** in the face of the historic drought that hit the country in 2016, whereas other households experienced a substantial decline. Among households that experienced the most severe drought conditions, those in communities reached by these programs experienced a minimal decline (4%), while other households declined significantly (30%)\*.

To learn more about USAID's efforts to build resilience to recurrent crises, visit [WWW.USAID.GOV/RESILIENCE](http://WWW.USAID.GOV/RESILIENCE)



*\*declines based on estimates for households at the mean food security index score*

**ABOUT THE DATA** This evidence was generated from a monitoring system that collected data from the same households, every two months, over the course of the drought. The analysis controlled for other factors that might explain this stark contrast, including the gender of the head of household, education, assets, household size, and whether the household received food assistance. USAID is analyzing additional data and a full report is coming soon.