



W/ro Dasash Alemu, lives in Meha Kebele; *“The community in our village fetches water from the river, people wash their clothes up-stream of the river and we had to push against cattle and embarrass ourselves to get water in a crowd. During dry season, the river flow reduces; people spend many hours in long queues waiting for their turn, this often results in quarrels with our husbands. During the rainy season many people especially kids get sick because of the dirty water. During trainings, we were advised to boil the water for drinking.*

Now, we are grateful for the construction of the water well which has improved our health, saved our time and created peace in our homes. Besides the water well, we are also supported and trained to build a toilet and none of my family members uses the open field anymore. We keep our premises clean. In general we opened our eyes for sanitation and that improved our health.”

PROJECT FACTS

Location: Amhara National Regional State, Northern Ethiopia

Project duration: Phase I (2014-2017)

Phase Budget: 16,256,234 ETB in cash and ETB 2,802,000 in kind (beneficiaries/communities contribute in kind up to 20% of the direct costs for the construction of water/WASH facilities)

Main partners: The Ministry of Water Resources at the national level and Water Offices at the local level (Region, Woreda and Kebele), national sector forums and regional/local forums, as well as private enterprises are partners, yet also secondary beneficiaries.

Main Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, (funds channelled through the Swiss Water & Sanitation Consortium), the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation (funds channelled through the Millennium Water Alliance) and RAIN Foundation, NL

HELVETAS ETHIOPIA

HELVETAS is one of the committed development partners in Ethiopia since it resumed its work in 2002. It has contributed to the overall development of the country with focus on Tigray and Amhara regions. The Country Programme Strategy (2014 - 2018) provides the strategic orientation and sets the direction and scope of the programme and its development.

Mission: is to promote and support innovative and sustainable development that improves livelihoods of economically poor and socially disadvantaged women and men. HELVETAS applies people centred, multi-stakeholder approaches, thereby building partnerships and capacity through facilitation, innovation and technical assistance, as well as alliances and networking for knowledge, learning and advocacy.

Thematic areas

- Rural infrastructure
- Natural resources management
- Support to Civil Society Organisations and local government
- Skill development and education
- Emergency response

Amhara Integrated Rural WASH (AIR WASH)



Improved access to water, hygiene and sanitation for a better life

“I never had peace in my house since we get married. My husband used to make decision alone by himself; this often led us in quarrel, this put our children and I in trouble. My husband and I have attended the sanitation and gender training offered by the project and visited the Awramba community that changed our relationship to mutual support, respect and to understand each other.”

HELVETAS is a member of

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towards the eradication of poverty



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Amhara Integrated Rural WASH

Amhara Integrated Rural WASH (AIRWASH) project has been launched in 2014. The aim is to improve the living conditions of the economically poor and socially disadvantaged women and men through increased and sustainable access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and improved hygiene, water for family farming and through integrated water resources management (IWRM) practices.

AIRWASH project has an integrated gender component in order to enhance gender equality and social equity among the target communities. Trainings and awareness raising events were organized on gender concepts, gender based violence and mainstreaming gender in the WASH (water, hygiene and sanitation) sector.



CONTEXT

Effects of deficient access to appropriate WASH services in Amhara and the rest of the regions of Ethiopia are best explained by Ethiopia's status as one of the five countries in the world which account together for half of the world's deaths due to pneumonia and diarrhoea (UNICEF, 2012). Although Ethiopia's water supply and sanitation coverage levels have significantly improved in recent years; the 2011 National Welfare Monitoring Survey revealed that only 43.4% of the rural population have access to improved water supply (piped and protected springs and wells) and 41.3% enjoy basic sanitation facility (latrines). As per a survey conducted by the Government in 2011, the rural water supply and sanitation coverage in Amhara Region stood at 43.2% and 42.2%, as against the reported figures of 76% and 88%, respectively. Thus, about 271,000 children under the age of 5 died in 2010, i.e. 106 deaths per 1,000 live births (UNICEF Ethiopia, 2012).

A strong positive correlation and causality between improved access to WASH services and reduction in the incidence of water borne diseases, among children needs to be mentioned.

THE PROJECT

AIRWASH project has been launched since July 2014 for implementation through close collaboration with relevant local partners and WASH networks to address the set goal of improving the living conditions of the rural poor. The project is the first of its kind in its nature of design since it places gender and capacity building at the nucleus of the project for WASH services sustainability that has not received proper attention in the past. Even though the project has been designed with this unique feature, it is within the country's WASH implementation framework that calls for integration, harmonization, alignment and partnership.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR (UP TO JUNE 2016)

- **The construction and /or rehabilitation of 44 hand dug wells and development of 12 springs has been successfully accomplished benefiting 11068 people (5190 female) .**
- **The project succeeded in creating demand for 9571 (4866 female) to have their own latrines and 2316 HHs constructed their own latrines as a result of this conscious demand creation effort.**
- **From the six project Kebeles, 1268 people (489 female) from the local communities, private sector actors, local government officials have been mobilized and trained to effectively plan, implement, manage, operate, maintain and monitor water supply and sanitation services;**
- **A total of 15091 people (6620 female) beneficiaries have been reached by hygiene promotion interventions. The target in the project target area are aware of the importance of good sanitation and hygiene practices.**

APPROACH

- **The 4 Leg Approach**
 - 1) Targeting of disadvantaged women and men;
 - 2) empowerment, capacity building, and gender equality & social equity in WASH;
 - 3) downward accountability and
 - 4) strong ownership and sustainability
- **Integrative and collaborative strategy/approach**
- **Partnership strategy**
- **Scale up strategy**

capitalization of experiences for joint learning and continuous interactions for policy dialogue, which is linked to local, regional, national forums & networks