

AVERTING FLOOD THREATS

THE FLOOD MITIGATION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE (FMCR) PROJECT

FUNDED BY HELMSLEY CHARITABLE TRUST



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	IV	Message from the ND
Acronyms	VI	
	1	Introduction
Highlights	2	
	4	Flood Mitigation Structures
Livelihood	12	
	22	WASH
Community Care Coalitions (CCC)	26	

MESSAGE FROM THE ND

It is with great pleasure and pride that I present this booklet celebrating the remarkable achievements of the Flood Mitigation and Community Resilience (FMCR) Project funded by the Helmsley Charitable Trust Fund and implemented by World Vision Ethiopia (WVE.)

The FMCR project is dedicated to provide appropriate response to ensure life changing measures and basic services for communities. The project is engaged in the empowerment of communities through institutional building and job creation. The strong partnerships with communities, government and other agencies have been a key factor in the success of WVE. Through these partnerships, WVE has been part of building sustainable future for children and families.

Through the project, 17.5 kilometers of flood mitigation physical infrastructure (river embankment) reinforced with tree and shrub planting and traversed by a 72 meters long suspension bridge across the Rib River; all of which has significantly minimized flooding and related risks while ultimately contributing to community livelihoods.

Over 24,000 people benefitted from Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) interventions including 12 water points drilled, 14 water points maintained, and a major hygiene campaign. As part of the effort to improve financial access for the most vulnerable target households, saving group project models were implemented and 77 saving groups were established with total membership of 1,373 people.

We were also able to work on agriculture sector local chain development where it encompassed the full range of activities and services required to bring a product or service from its conception to sale in its final markets. Input suppliers, producers, processors and buyers have been supported by a range of technical, business and financial service providers.

Community Care Coalitions (CCCs) were also strengthened, capacitated and supported material support. These CCCs participated in managing revolving funds, identifying vulnerable community members, community mobilization and managing project activities after handover. After strengthening and material support from the project, these CCC started generating income from different sources and helped most vulnerable community members.

This important work could not have been accomplished if not for the hard work and tireless effort of dedicated staff members over two years and our partners including government line Offices, Organization for Relief and Development of Amhara (ORDA) and HELVETAS Swiss based organization who worked in both construction works and development contexts to realize the objective of the project. I am again grateful for Helmsley Charitable Trust generous support.

God bless you!

Edward Brown

National Director, World Vision Ethiopia

ACRONYMS

CCC	Community Care Coalition
FMCRR	Flood Mitigation & Community Resilience
FY'	Physical Year
HHs	Households
KM	Kilometer
VIP	Ventilated Improved Pit
WVE	World Vision Ethiopia



INTRODUCTION

Flooding was the severe challenges for Libo Kemkem District of Amhara Regional States of Ethiopia. The Rib River that flows crossing the district overflowed and burst its banks between July and November. It used to inundate eight kebele residents affecting more than 45,000 people. It was washing away the sprouting seeds over 10,000 hectare of farmland, damaging 1,800 hectare of communal land, displaced people with and their cattle, took away the lives of cattle and people every year. This was exacerbating already-existing poverty, food insecurity, lack of clean water, poor health, especially for mothers and children.

The flooding was also damaging the religious institutions like churches and government intuitions including potable water supply, schools, health post, and farmers' training centres. Incidence of disease including water-borne illness and malaria increases dramatically during and after flood season.

The river took two-three months to subside and so did the water on the farm and on the field. Children had to wait at least two months to go to school as it was impossible for them to cross the river. The community had to move their cattle to the other areas in search of feeder. As it was impossible to cross the river during that time, farmers had to walk a long distance to access their farmland located in the other side of the river. They were also facing challenges to access health centre, schools churches and during those times.

World Vision funded by Helmsley Charitable Trust started to carry out various flood mitigation activities to mitigate flooding challenges. Accordingly, it has constructed dike, silt excavation, flood outlet, animal entrance, gully treatment and suspension bridge to mitigate the effects of the annual flooding. It also worked hard to improve economic opportunities for communities. In this regard, it provide the community with clean water, improved their farming techniques through training and provision of agricultural equipment, formed and organized savings groups to enhance the culture of saving, and trained them solve their own development challenges by their own. More than 49,000 people were benefited through the above integrated intervention.

HIGHLIGHTS

17.5 km



17.5 kilo metre flood mitigation physical structures (dike, silt excavation, flood outlet, animal entrance) constructed on both sides of the Rib River.

Over 1,200 students benefited from Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine constructed in schools and health center



1,200 students

17.5 km



Constructed 95 meters suspension bridge over Rib River to help more than 25,000 people cross the river safely

394,260 different varieties of seedlings, grass splits and cuttings planted on 9.5kilo metre distance along the left and right side of the river to stabilize the dike



394,260 seedlings

9,000 USD



77 saving groups established with a member of 1,393 households and saved over US\$ 9,000 (204,247 Birr) and over 439 saving group members have accessed credit as of September, 2016

3,900 square meter area of degraded land was enclosed, rehabilitated and handed over to youth groups for income generating purpose



3,900 m² land

172 Youths



Employment opportunities created for 172 youth organized in fishery, poultry and fruit production activities 172 youth organized and are engaged in fishery, poultry and fruit production activities

Over 13,000 people trained on importance of hand washing, using latrine and personal sanitation and hygiene through Hygiene campaign



1,300 people

41 Water pumps



Provided 41 water pumps for 205 households whose livelihood is partly depend on irrigation based farming

More than 3,000 people trained on livelihood intervention and their production and productivity has ultimately enhanced



3,000 people

26 Water wells



Drilled 14 shallow wells and maintained 12 water points benefiting over 10,137 people with clean drinking water

A market center with 24 rooms constructed and handed over two 48 youths to start businesses



24 Rooms

FLOOD MITIGATION STRUCTURE

FLOOD MITIGATION STRUCTURES CONSTRUCTED



Prior World Vision intervention, the residents of this community were suffering a lot from flooding problems every rainy season. According to the Libo kemkem Administrative office, the flood used to displace over 45,000 people and 43,000 cattle. It was also damaging more than 10,000 hectares of field crop and 1,800 communal lands every year. Furthermore, people's and cattle's lives were lost to flash flooding. In response to solve this challenge, world Vision has constructed different flood mitigation structures including dike, silt excavation, flood outlet, animal entrance, gully treatment and suspension bridge among other things over 17.5 kilo metres of the Rib River. Currently, the community is protected from flooding and related threats.



“ Our crops, cattle and property are protected

Worku Teka



Mr. Worku Teka is one of the residents of the area. Speaking of the flooding challenge before World Vision flood mitigation intervention, he says, “We used to face a severe challenge in the rainy season. The flood used to destroy our crops on the field, take away our cattle and our properties. The grazing land used to be covered with water and silt and we had to move our cattle to other areas in search of feeder. We were also relocated to other places until the water subsides.” After flood mitigation program, we now free of flood threats. “Thanks to World Vision, a dike is constructed along the river. There is no flood related risk at all. Our children, crops, cattle and property are protected and we are very much delighted for this great work,” he thankfully explains.





“ *The Suspension bridge has helped us to cross the river without fear, cost of time and money*

Kassahun Melese



Mr. Kassahun Melese is another resident of this area. Mr. Kassahun has a plot of land on both side of the river. There are also governmental and religious institutions on either side of the river where Mr. Kassahun and other community members benefit. In the rainy season, when the river overflowed, it was difficult for Mr. Kassahun and other community members to cross the river and do their farming business, visit his friends and relatives and benefit from various institutions. “When the river was full to the brim, we had to cross it by locally made boat paying some money, otherwise we had to walk a long way (about an hour back and forth) to cross. There were instances where people lost their lives trying to cross swimming.” Kassahun recalls. This Now World Vision has constructed suspension bridge over the river to help the community to cross the river easily with no cost of time and finance. “The Suspension bridge has helped us to cross the river without fear, cost of time and money. We are extremely thrilled with World Vision support,” testifies Kassahun.



“ *All the challenge of the flood threats have now gone*

Setegn Azeze



Mr. Setegne Azeze, Libo Kemkem District Administrator. He saw the flood threats in person. He says, “Before World Vision Intervention, flooding from Rib River was causing a severe destruction over 8 kebeles’ people residents. Every year more than 10,000 hectares of field crop and 1,800 communal lands were damaged, over 45,000 people and more than 43,000 cattle were displaced to the other places until the water subsides. Similarly, five schools, four health post, a number of water sources and four farmer training centers were affected by the flooding every rainy season. Lives of human beings and cattle were lost the by the flood.”

Now the Mr. Setegne and other local government people are extremely delighted on seeing the successful completion of the flooding mitigation project. Mr. Setegn says, “All the challenge of the flood threats have now gone. The community has no fear of displacement, loss of lives and property. The project has created job opportunities for jobless youths, developed the culture of saving through formation of saving group, and brought clean water supply thru the construction of new shallow wells and maintenance of the old ones and so forth.”

LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTION



VILLAGE LED SAVING AND LOCAL VALUE CHAIN FORMED

There was little culture of saving. When people need money for various purposes, most of them had to take loans from local money lenders on 50 to 100 percent interests rates. World Vision along with local government bodies provided training on the concept of saving and credit association to improve saving practice and to create financial access to start business. It organized and established 77 consisted of 1,393 households saving and credit associations. These saving groups are able to save a total of US\$8997 (204,247 Birr). Of the total saving group members, 439 members have accessed loan and are now making business of their interest. World Vision has also gone a long distance to create market linkages. It has established local value chain development on rice and garlic products in collaboration with Gondar and Debretabor universities. Alternative solutions identified and interventions started based on the findings.



“ I and my family are grateful to World Vision

Workie Derso



Mr. Workie Derso, 30, with three children is one of the members of saving group. She saves 50 Birr per week. “Before I joined this saving group, I used to take loan on 100 percent interest from local money lenders. Almost most of the profit that I made was going to paying the interest of the loan.” Mr. Workie has accessed loan from her saving groups and making local drink business. “I am now making a good profit. Before, I was taking fertilizers on credit from the local government. Now I am able to purchase fertilizer on my own, provide my children with their school needs and adequately feed them very well. I am now very glad and so do my children. I and my family are grateful to world Vision” she happily explains.

“ I am now adequately feeding myself and my daughter...

Emebet Gelagay



Mrs. Emebet Gelagay, 32, divorced, lives with her daughter. She is one of the members of the saving group at Alemtsehay kebele. Before she was introduced to the saving group, she used to feed her daughter and herself making and selling local drink. Sometimes, she did not get enough customers to sell all her drinks. That time, she had no choice than getting bankrupted. It has been a year since she joined saving group. She accessed loan twice. Through the loan, she has started selling soft drinks and other packed drinks. Now she is earning a better income that can feed her and her little daughter. She says, "Since I started this new business, I am earning four fold incomes than the previous business. I am now adequately feeding myself and my daughter and send my daughter to school providing everything that she wants. I am very happy. I do also save 23 Birr per week to my saving group."



ENGAGED YOUTH TO GENERATE INCOME

There were a number jobless youth who sought job but who did not have the opportunities. In response to this, World Vision organized 172 youths and provided trainings on fishery, poultry, fattening, fruit production and textile. It organized eighty youth in two groups for fishery and 60 in poultry, 12 in textile and 20 in fattening. It also supported the organized groups with start-up capital. Nowadays the youth have started the business and making profit.



“ *My worries have gone and now I am thinking of how I can grow* ”

Lemlem Shiferaw



Mrs. Lemlem Shiferaw, is one of the women that benefited from this project. There was no stone that she did not turn to create her own job. She says, “Once I had been to Arab country in search of job, yet I was unsuccessful and returned home empty hand. I was making local drink ‘tella’ to support myself, yet the business was tiresome and with hardly any profit. I was desperate about my life.” World Vision provided her and other 60 youths with poultry training and provided each with 25 chickens. She has now started the poultry business and doing well. The chickens have now started laying eggs. She sells the eggs and use part of the income for purchasing chicken feed and the rest for feeding herself she has also joined saving group. “I am earning good income from the sale of the eggs. The business is not tiresome like my former business. I am now thinking of expanding this business in the future. My worries have gone and now thinking of how I can grow,” she joyfully explains.

“ We will work hard and be the owner of a big restaurant in the future

Melkie



World Vision constructed one market center with 24 rooms and availed for 48 jobless youths. Mrs. Melke Gete, 23, with one child is one of youth who benefited from the market center provision. Divorcing her husband for some reason, Mrs. Melke and her little child were dependent on her parents' meager income. Recalling the then time, she says, "Life was an awful challenge for me. Imagine how sorrowful to live with your old destitute parents with your little kid. I was desperate and praying for God's intervention in my life. Now Mrs. Melke and her associate have started making business in a World Vision provided shop. "Thanks to World Vision, I and my colleague are now making tea, coffee, local food and other staff. We are earning a good profit. I hope that we will work hard and be the owner of a big restaurant in the future."



Mr. Mohamed Dawid, 30, is another beneficiary of market center. He is a tailor. He used to carry out his business in a rented shop paying US\$20 (300 Birr) a month. Mr. Mohamed has no guarantee to stay in the shop he rented as long as he wanted. The shop owner used to force Mr. Mohamed to leave with short notice. "Though I have a respect for my job and dream to get transformed, I was not settled due to lack of one constant working place. But now thanks World Vision, I have now permanent place. Believe me within short period of time, I will transform my life and create job opportunities for others," he thankfully explained.

“ Believe me, I will transform my life and create job opportunities for others

Mohammed Dawid



MOTOR WATER PUMPS PROVISION

There is a potential river water source for irrigation around the community of Chilga District. Few farmers who have financial capacity to purchase motor pump do irrigation and produce three times a year. Others who have some finance to rent motor pump, do rent the motor pump and produce three times like the others, but their income was not like that of the renters. Yet the majority farmers did not have the finance either to purchase or rent. They had to produce once a year through rainy season. Their live was from hand to mouth. In a bid to improve target communities agricultural productivity and help them feed their family members adequately, World Vision provided capacity building trainings to 1,560 farmers. It organized and Supplied 41 water pumps for 205 HHs to help them produce three times a year and improve their life. The farmers have contributed 20 percent of the total cost of the motor pump. Now the community members are producing three times a year. As a result the participants got additional income which made significant impact in terms of improving resilience capacity of the family and their children during drought season.



“ I am optimistic that my family life will change soon

Dessie Aschenef



Mr. Dessie Aschenef, 37, with four children lives in Aletsehay Kebele. He is one of the beneficiaries of water motor pump. Before the intervention, he had to rent a water motor pump. The water pump rent was expensive and the income he was generating was not attractive. Besides, the renter was not providing him the water motor pump any time he wanted. But now World Vision has provided Dessie and his four colleagues with a water motor pump. He has now started his farming business. He says, "I and my colleagues are very much pleased to have this water pump motor. We do not have rent expense now. We can do our business any time we want. We are able to produce two to three times a year and our production has increased more than two folds. My family life has started to change. I am able to feed my children adequately all year round."



WASH INTERVENTION

CREATING CLEAN WATER ACCESS

Access to potable water was one of the challenges of community members. There were few number of clean water sources. The existing clean water sources were frequently affected by flash flooding and the community was forced to utilize from unprotected water sources. The families, especially children were exposed to diarrhea, trachoma and other related diseases.

In response to this, World Vision drilled 14 shallow wells benefiting 7,390 community members and maintained 12 water points that benefited 2,967 households. Now the prevalence of waterborne diseases has decreased significantly. The local government water resource office depicted that pure water coverage of the target communities has improved from 77.63% to 81.8% after intervention. More than 24,500 people have benefited from clean water, sanitation and hygiene intervention. The district health office reported that diarrhea cases recoded in Bambiko area (one of the project intervention area) has reduced from 2,655 in FY'15 to 2,571 in FY'16 and trachoma cases recorded in the same place reduced from 85 in FY'15 to 58 FY'16.



“ My children are no longer sick of waterborne diseases

Dense Alebachew



Dense Alebachew, 42, with seven children is one of the beneficiaries of the water project. Recalling the previous water problem, she says, “There was no water source around here. We used to fetch water from spring. As the volume of the spring was very weak, it used to take us some three hours to get a Jeri can of water. The water was unclean and used to sicken our children with various waterborne diseases. We had to incur a lot of money to get them medicated. My children used to miss class when I sent them to fetch water. Now World Vision has availed the community potable water in a walking distance. Speaking of this, she says, “Thanks World Vision, we are very glad. My children are no longer getting sick. The water is located in the amidst of our village and won't take more than 20 minutes.”

VIP LATRINES CONSTRUCTED

Schools do not have adequate latrines. Children have to defecate in the bush. This was causing a huge health problem on students and teachers' life. World Vision constructed two VIP latrines for the school to improve the sanitation and hygiene of the school community. More than 1,260 students are now benefiting from ventilated improved pit latrine.



Ms. Emebet Zigale, 14 is in grade 7. She was one of the students that experienced the problem of latrine. She says, "Before World Vision constructed this ventilated latrine pit, we had not latrine of any kind here. We were defecating in the bush and it was exposing us to various diseases. It was very difficult for girls like me. We were ashamed to do so, but if the call of nature forces us, we had no choice than defecating hiding somewhere under a tree. But now, World Vision has built us two ventilated latrine of four rooms. One of the latrines is for boys and the other for girls. We are now freely utilizing any time we feel the call of nature. We are thankful to World Vision for availing Ventilated improved latrine"

The existing health centre also shared the same sort of challenge with that of the school. In fact, the health center has one flash latrine, but does not work for lack of water. Hence, both the staff and the beneficiaries of the health center were suffering a lot from this problem. In response to this, world Vision constructed one VIP latrine with four room. Now the health center community is happily using the latrine.

“ We are thankful to World Vision for availing us ventilated improved pit latrine

Emebet Zigale



COMMUNITY CARE COALITIONS (CCC) TRAINED



There were a number of vulnerable orphan children, old people and people living with HIV did not have any source of income for basic needs including food, shelter and other requirements in project intervention areas. They were deprived of school and health care. There was no one who can renovate old people's houses. The culture of fighting for the right of children was not practiced. There were 17 CCCs formed by the government, but they were not functional. World Vision along the local government trained and strengthened 17 existing CCCs. They have now begun generating income from different sources and start supporting most vulnerable community members.



“ Our eyes are now open to see the vulnerable in the midst of our community...”

Alemnesh Abebe



Malede Gizatu, 18, is in grade 12. He lost his father while he was very young. Later his mother was married to another person. The local government gives goats to orphan children to raise and help themselves. When the goat multiplied, he sold some of them and bought an ox. Unfortunately, his stepfather sold all the goats and an ox and used it for his personal purposes without malede's consent. Malede sent elderly people to his stepfather asking him to repay, but his stepfather was unwilling and even he was dismissed malede out of his father home. Malede asking refuge at his aunt, he took the case to Alemtsehay kebele CCC to help him to get justice. It took the case to the court. The court ordered Malede's stepfather to repay. Accordingly his stepfather paid 11,470 Birr to Malede. He is very happy in the CCC's intervention. He says, "The CCC is really there for the oppressed and the poor. Had it not been there, I would not have got anything. I am influenced by the CCC advocacy work. I will study law and become an advocate for vulnerable children like me

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The Helmsley Charitable Trust aspires to improve lives by supporting exceptional nonprofits and mission-aligned organizations in the U.S. and around the world in health, place-based initiatives, education and human services.

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The dedicated grantmakers and other professionals who make up the Trust come from a diverse range of backgrounds and bring with them exceptional skill and experience. Our programs are staffed with subject matter experts who combine strong resumes in grantmaking and fieldwork in their respective areas of focus. Our management and administrative teams have joined the Trust from world-class philanthropic and private sector institutions. All of these men and women were drawn to Helmsley by the unique opportunity to work with our trustees to build this large and relatively new organization into a leading charitable institution that will drive meaningful and measurable positive change in the U.S. and around the world. Learn more about our staff and trustees.







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