

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: ETHIOPIA



About World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. Established in 1950, World Vision's global partnership operates in nearly 100 countries, including implementation countries, along with country offices focused on fundraising and technical support, as well as regional and global teams providing quality assurance. Nearly 40,000 staff members—95% of whom work in their own countries—work in health; education; livelihoods; food security; child protection; economic empowerment; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming.

Global WASH Program

Over the past 35 years, World Vision's work in the WASH sector has grown exponentially. With more than 1,200 technical WASH staff members guiding our work in 55 countries, World Vision has emerged a leader in its global commitment to accelerate universal and equitable access to WASH services under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. Over the last five years alone, we have reached an estimated 20 million people with clean water and hygiene promotion, as well as 12.5 million people with improved sanitation.

Driven by the vision of transformative WASH for child well-being, World Vision's strategic direction is laid out in our global WASH business plan (2021 to 2025), which outlines World Vision's intent to increase impact in priority countries, including Ethiopia, with an emphasis on reaching the world's most vulnerable. The business plan uses a diversified funding approach, pooling multiple financial streams to accomplish activities and leveraging a flexible revenue base of private funding to raise additional funds.

World Vision's four global WASH business plan goals are:

- Accelerating universal and equitable access to WASH services under SDG 6
- Deepening our focus on the most vulnerable, especially in fragile contexts
- Demonstrating sustainable impact
- Leveraging a \$1 billion business plan to mobilize financing for WASH services

WASH in Ethiopia

World Vision's work in Ethiopia started in 1975, and we were one of the first organizations to provide assistance during Ethiopia's devastating famine in the 1980s. Today, World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) operates in eight of 10 regions and one administrative state in the country, implementing programs in four major sectors: WASH, health and nutrition, education, and faith and development. World Vision's Ethiopia WASH Program began with small projects in the 1990s and now operates in 86 districts across the country. The program is staffed by 170 experts in water supply engineering, sanitation, behavior change, hydrogeology, and monitoring and evaluation. Our annual Ethiopia WASH Program budget is about \$18 million (2020). The program is financed through a diverse funding portfolio that includes child sponsorship, local revenue, private funding, and grants from United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Save the Children, Millennium Water Alliance, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and others.

THE FACTS

- » **Water:** Only 40% of the rural population in Ethiopia has access to at least a basic water service, while 30% are still using unimproved and unsafe water sources.
- » **Sanitation:** Only 5% of the rural population has access to at least a basic sanitation service, while 21% still practice open defecation.
- » **Hygiene:** Only 5% of the rural population has access to a basic handwashing service (with soap and water), while 43% has no handwashing facility at all.

Source: WHO/UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme, 2020.

Program Approaches

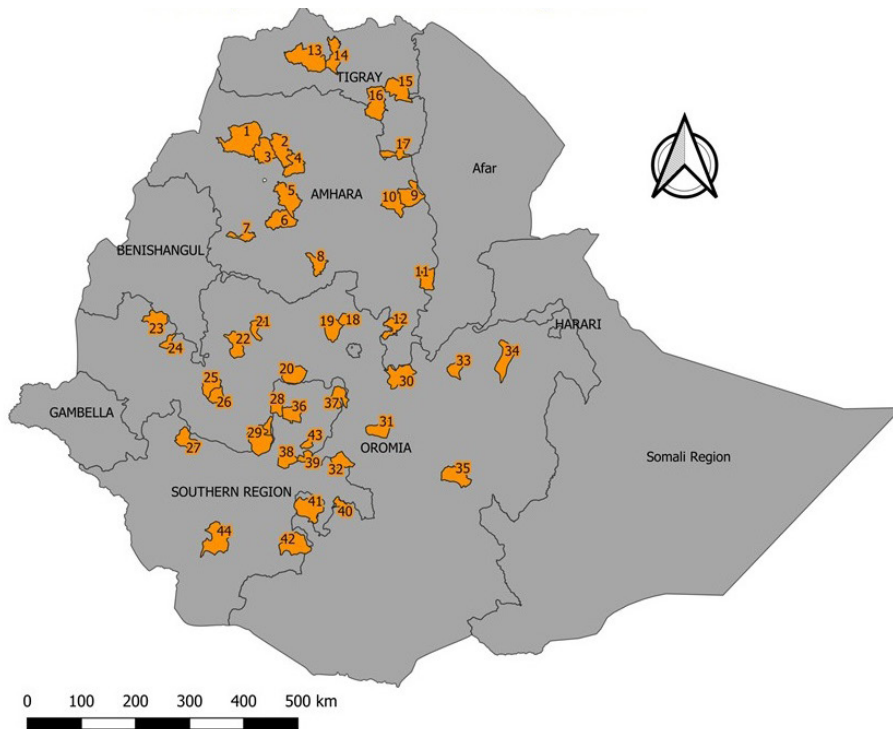
The following sections describe our core WASH technical approaches in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities; summarizes capacities and achievements over the past five years; and presents highlights of our upcoming plans in Ethiopia.

Our four prioritized intervention areas consist of:

- Water supply and quality
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Governance and finance
- Water security and resilience

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Ethiopia WASH Program Areas



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chilga | 24. Lalo Asabe |
| 2. Gondar Zuria | 25. Bedele |
| 3. Dembia | 26. Gechi |
| 4. Libokemekem | 27. Gewata |
| 5. Dera | 28. Sokoru |
| 6. Yilmana Densa | 29. Omonada |
| 7. Banja | 30. Boset |
| 8. Enemy | 31. Digelona Tijo |
| 9. Mersa | 32. Shashemene |
| 10. Ambasel | 33. Habro |
| 11. Jile Temuga | 34. Melkabelo |
| 12. Angolelana Tera | 35. Gorro |
| 13. Asgede Tsimbela | 36. Enemore |
| 14. Medabay Zana | 37. Bui |
| 15. Enderta | 38. Quacha Bira |
| 16. Samere | 39. Durame |
| 17. Alamata | 40. Hulla |
| 18. Yaya Gulele | 41. Abaya |
| 19. Adaberga | 42. South Ari |
| 20. Wonchi | 43. Amaro |
| 21. Jima Genete | 44. Shashego |
| 22. Sibusere | |
| 23. Nedjo | |

Water Supply and Quality

Access to water remains a transformational factor in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities. WVE's main strategy to provide clean and sustainable water supply uses innovative and cost-effective technologies and builds the capacity of institutions to sustain water services. In the past five years, World Vision has provided more than 2.6 million people with clean water in communities, schools, and health facilities. This is in addition to the millions of people who gained access to clean water in the many years since the WVE WASH program was established. This has been accomplished through the expertise of WVE's committed WASH professionals. WVE's in-house technical expertise helps maximize cost efficiencies and ensures quality services for the millions of children and families served.

Facilitate universal service coverage

With the introduction of the SDGs, the government of Ethiopia and its development partners are actively working to achieving the ambitious targets for universal and equitable access to WASH services for all by 2030.

Three districts (Omo Nada and Digeluna Tijo in the Oromia region and Jabitehinan in the Amhara region) have been identified for universal service coverage, targeted for completion by the end of 2021. Nearly one million people will be provided with water systems, latrines, and handwashing facilities. This is made possible through a partnership between WVE and the government, which includes developing shared objectives, sharing responsibilities for project components, and government co-financing in some of the program areas. The three districts were selected because they were approaching universal WASH coverage, and they can serve as a model for replication in other districts. In the future, additional districts are planned for universal coverage, in partnership with the government and other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Additionally, WVE is a partner in the Millennium Water Alliance WASH Project, which is a five-year project funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation contributing toward universal service coverage in World Vision's Dera area program in the Amhara Region by 2023. World Vision's work in this project

LEADING WITH EVIDENCE

World Vision partners with the University of North Carolina Water Institute to evaluate and strengthen our approaches. In 2017, a WASH evaluation in communities, households, schools, and healthcare facilities was conducted in World Vision program areas in 14 countries, including Ethiopia.

The evaluation showed that households in WVE program areas were more likely to use a basic water service than those in comparison areas. Nearly 70% of households in World Vision areas had stored water that met WHO drinking water standards, compared to 57% of households in comparison areas. Households in World Vision areas were also more likely to use a basic sanitation service than those in comparison areas. Hygiene service provisions were identified as an area of growth for the country's WASH program.

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mainly involves constructing WASH infrastructure, building capacity in healthcare centers and communities through WASH committees, training on water system maintenance, implementing fee collection systems, along with watershed protection and rehabilitation. This project's full WASH coverage approach is helping WVE and the government to accelerate progress toward universal service coverage in other parts of the country.

Improve water quality outcomes

WVE ensures that all water sources and access points built, including wells with hand pumps and spring catchment systems, meet the acceptable national and World Health Organization (WHO) standards through adherence to a thorough water quality monitoring and testing protocol, so that water supplies are safe and suitable for human consumption. Water quality testing is conducted before handing over the water supply to the community. After that occurs, routine monitoring is conducted by the local government.

Specifically, household water quality is a prime focus because contamination can easily occur during collection, transport, handling, and storage of water. WVE promotes safe water handling practices. Looking forward, WVE will engage with the government and other partners to promote piped-water systems directly to households to ensure the highest degree of water quality possible. This will be achieved in alignment with the government's 10-year WASH sector strategy, which states that by 2030 50% of water supply systems developed should be piped-water systems. World Vision's work is aligned and will feed into this overall strategy.

Provide innovative and sustainable technology

Water distribution systems with electromechanical pumps operated by grid power or diesel generators are not viable for millions of households across Ethiopia. Diesel generators are not environmentally friendly and contribute to climate concerns. Also, grid electricity is not available in many areas to power pumps. Further, wells with hand pumps do not consistently provide enough water for all needs in a community.

These long-standing challenges with water pumping power are being addressed with the use of solar-powered water supply systems across many of World Vision's area programs. World Vision has set the example in Ethiopia for renewable and sustainable WASH technologies, as evidenced by the partnership agreement between World Vision and Grundfos, a leading solar pump supplier. WVE has imported and installed solar-powered water supply systems since 2017, prior to any implementation efforts by other organizations in-country or the government, providing a sustainable and affordable source of energy to pump water to communities, schools, and health facilities. From 2017-2020, World Vision installed solar power for 322 water supply systems, benefiting about 450,000 people.

World Vision's experience in solar-powered water supply systems has repeatedly been cited by the Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Energy as contributing to shape its strategies of expanding solar technology for water supply systems across the country. Negash Wagesho, the state minister for Water, Irrigation, and Energy in Ethiopia shared, **"We've been working with World Vision in expanding solar-powered water supply systems. I saw some of the sites personally and witnessed**

the impacts in the community. We really appreciate World Vision's work, and we gained a practical example from the projects. This is not something that World Vision alone should do. The government is also rolling out similar projects in multiple sites."

USAID SPIR WASH PROJECT

World Vision Ethiopia implemented the USAID Strengthen Productive Safety Nets 4 Institutions and Resilience (SPIR) Program from 2017-2021. The \$176 million program addressed underlying causes of food insecurity. The WASH-specific component of the program sought to reduce diarrhea and waterborne diseases by increasing access to sustainable and safe water services and water-related products as well as increasing the number of Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages where community members practice safe hygiene behaviors. As of FY20, the project provided 98,000 people with access to basic drinking water through 187 water points and supported 147 villages to achieved ODF status.

In 2020 alone, the SPIR project:

- Constructed and rehabilitated 33 water systems that serve 38,593 people
- Trained 68 WASH committees with 482 people in maintenance and sustainability of water systems and provided maintenance tools to 71 committees
- Established 501 handwashing facilities at neighborhood institutions, including at health posts
- Established 10 new school WASH clubs with 246 WASH club members and implemented hygiene campaigns, benefiting 7,425 students
- Provided hygiene messages on COVID-19 prevention to more than 1.5 million community members



World Vision uses solar-power as a sustainable source of energy for mechanized water systems.

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Sanitation and Hygiene

World Vision embraces a multi-pronged approach to improving sanitation and hygiene services, simultaneously working to bolster demand for sanitation products through tested and emerging methodologies; identifying and filling supply gaps and inequities; and engendering behavior change through people-centered approaches. Between 2016 and 2020, WVE provided nearly 2.3 million people with sanitation services and reached 2.3 million people with hygiene education. Additionally, 509 schools and 200 health facilities received WASH services, benefiting 874,831 children and nearly 1.3 million patient admissions, respectively. Key aspects of WVE's sanitation and hygiene programming are as follows.

Emphasize a market-based approach

Notwithstanding significant progress made through WVE's demand-creation efforts (certification of more than 7,100 communities as ODF in the past five years), WVE is prioritizing and expanding its Sanitation Marketing approach. Through the creation of WASH Business Centers for sustained sanitation and hygiene services in communities, WVE is supporting households to progress up the SDG service ladder (from unimproved/limited sanitation/hygiene facilities to improved and safe alternatives).

The WASH Business Center is a one-stop shop for all WASH infrastructure-related needs, including spare parts for water system maintenance, production and sale of latrine slabs, liquid soap, sanitary pads, cooking stoves, and other WASH-related products. These products are made by local artisans and entrepreneurs and are sold in communities and towns. Since 2017, 21 WASH Business Centers have been established throughout Ethiopia, creating over 200 jobs for women and young people, all while providing affordable WASH solutions to communities.

Engaging faith leaders for behavior change

In addition to market-based solutions, World Vision also has undertaken faith-based initiatives aimed at promoting hygiene behavior change. Faith leaders have been an integral part of World Vision's hygiene promotion as they are highly trusted and valued figures in their communities.

WVE provides training tailored to both Christian and Muslim faith leaders, focusing on key hygiene behaviors that faith leaders take back to their congregations and communities. In the past five years, 2,744 faith leaders participated in hygiene and sanitation programming. World Vision continuously adapts these trainings to reflect the specific contexts of the villages that faith leaders serve to make messaging more effective.

Governance and Finance

Improved WASH governance and financing—from re-engineering community-based management approaches to strengthened regulatory oversight to innovative financing approaches—are critical enablers for achieving progress under SDG 6 and ensuring long-term sustainability of our work. Embracing a systems-based approach to build sustainable and resilient WASH solutions is linked to the capacities of local stakeholders and national governments as critical components of that system. Government must provide or allow for the enabling environment for WASH services to remain viable enterprises and expand to meet the needs of the unserved and under-served. Further, governments, the private sector, nonprofits, and civil society all need to leverage additional financing for WASH, recognizing that no single actor in the sector has the resources to independently achieve the SDGs. Important elements of WVE's approach in WASH governance and financing follow.

Engage at the national level for systemic change

World Vision has prioritized engagement and advocacy with the national government as a critical component of our broader WASH strategy. WVE has been one of the largest contributors to improved WASH services in Ethiopia, and as such has been active in various forums to propose and demonstrate better WASH governance. WVE is active in the WASH sector nationally, regularly participating in and contributing to the WASH Cluster (hosted by the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy) as part of a wider range of humanitarian partners to coordinate emergency responses.

**SCHOOL WASH BEHAVIOR CHANGE**

WVE helps establish school WASH clubs to provide students with key skills and messages that enable the adoption of healthy sanitation and hygiene behaviors. Each school WASH club has students who are ambassadors in their schools to disseminate messages and influence their peers to practice handwashing with soap at critical times and to keep their surrounding environment clean. Members of the clubs engage their school communities with plays, poems, songs, and other performances to convey key sanitation and hygiene messages.

From 2016-2020, WVE developed and trained 1,496 WASH clubs across schools in its operation areas. Male involvement in the school WASH clubs, notably in promotion of safe and healthy menstrual hygiene management, is helping schools break taboos and supporting girls to avoid missing class.

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Work alongside local governments

Working with local governments has been vital to implementation of transformational WASH services. They provide existing information and data to be used for feasibility studies and technical designs for water supply systems. Because of their connections with communities, local governments mobilize community members to assist WVE with projects that require labor, such as the installation of water pipelines. Local government offices also help supervise the construction progress of water systems, alongside WVE staff.

Water Security and Resilience

The sustained availability of water—both in sufficient quantity and adequate quality—is fundamental to the successful expansion of safe water services under SDG 6.

WVE implements environmentally friendly initiatives and climate sensitive approaches since 2017:

1. WVE prioritizes drilling and mechanizing deep wells that serve multiple villages, and these facilities are climate resilient. WVE has reduced drilling of shallow wells and stopped manual drilling practices, which are less climate resilient.
2. We have shifted to using environmentally friendly and renewable solar-powered water supply systems, rather than more harmful diesel-powered pumps.
3. WVE participates in campaigns facilitated by the government around promoting tree planting and other environmental protections.

Partnerships for Effective WASH

Over the years, WVE has built strong partnerships at the local, national, and global levels to develop joint efforts that address the WASH challenges in Ethiopia and foster sustainability for WASH investments. For example, World Vision currently serves as a co-chair of the Water and Sanitation Forum, a coalition of civil society organizations under the Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations. The forum serves as a learning and policy discussion platform for WASH NGOs. Through this forum, WVE has shared experiences and lessons learned with member organizations and the government through reports and key WASH sector events.

World Vision has created strong partnerships with government ministries and media groups with the aim of amplifying impacts. WVE helps build capacity of government organizations and groups to improve their ability to implement, monitor, and sustain WASH interventions within their jurisdictions. Capacity building activities include trainings on water management-related software, hydraulic modeling options, water resource management, and monitoring skills. Some of WVE's WASH projects have developed manuals and trained government staff in the operation and maintenance of water system. Additionally, WVE's sanitation and hygiene

team closely works with the government to provide training to healthcare workers on key sanitation and hygiene behaviors. More than 1,000 government staff from the various sector offices were trained in 2020.

Additionally, WVE collaborates with international academic institutions such as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the U.S. to support decision-making and improve program impact, as well as local universities. WVE works with Adama Science and Technology University in Oromia region, Wollo University in Amhara region, and Arba Minch University in South Ethiopia to train members of the WASH Business Centers, most notably in soap production.



GENDER INTEGRATION IN WASH

To address gender inequities, World Vision's WASH program ensures the engagement of women, girls, men, and boys in the design of facilities so as not to exclude any person or group of people. One important example is the prioritization of menstrual hygiene management interventions across the Ethiopia WASH portfolio. From 2016-2021, WVE helped design and construct 349 latrines in schools across its operational areas. Each school also was supported with access to safe water to facilitate improved hygiene. These facilities include changing rooms for girls and women to manage menstruation and are equipped with sanitary pads. Since implementing menstrual hygiene management interventions, WVE has seen better performances of girls in schools, and the interventions have contributed greatly in reducing school absenteeism among girls. Birtukan (pictured above), is from a school where World Vision built inclusive latrines in 2021 and established a WASH club. She shared, "We are more aware and have the space to manage our period safely. I never miss class because of menstruation now."

Further, WVE has prioritized gender equality in the formation of WASH committees to ensure equal participation by men and women. In the 661 WASH committees established in FY20, women constituted 50% of the membership, holding positions such as committee chair and finance manager. In some committees, women even participated in repairing water systems.

