The Journey

1975 - 2015
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World Vision Ethiopia’s 40th Anniversary

The Journey 1975-2015

Our Goal
Contributing to the well-being of more than 20 million vulnerable children in the five years national strategy from 2016-2020.

Our Vision
Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness;
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

Core Values
• We are Christian
• We are committed to the poor
• We value people
• We are stewards
• We are partners
• We are responsive

Who We Are
World Vision began its work with the children of Ethiopia with an intensive relief and rehabilitation programme in the 1970s. Since that time, World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) has grown to become one of the biggest humanitarian and development organisations in Ethiopia. From the 1990s onwards, the integrated development approach of World Vision’s Area Development Programmes (ADP) has ensured empowering, sustainable and transformational development across the nation. World Vision is currently delivering change for children through 63 ADPs and a number of emergency and humanitarian responses, in partnership with the government, the community, faith-based organisations and other stakeholders throughout Ethiopia.
Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADLI</td>
<td>Agricultural Development Led Industrialization</td>
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<td>ADP</td>
<td>Area Development Program</td>
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<td>AgPak</td>
<td>Agricultural Package Programme</td>
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<td>ADP</td>
<td>Area Development Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBTP</td>
<td>Community Based Technical Program</td>
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<td>CCDD</td>
<td>Child Care and Community Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO2</td>
<td>Carbon Dioxide</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRGE</td>
<td>Climate Resilient Green Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>EECMY</td>
<td>Ethiopian Evangelical church Mekane Yesus</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-FACE</td>
<td>Ethiopian Fighting Against Child Exploitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>EKHIC</td>
<td>Ethiopian Kale Hiwot Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>EOC/DICAC</td>
<td>Ethiopian Orthodox Church</td>
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<td>GOE</td>
<td>Government of Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSDP</td>
<td>Health Sector Development Plan</td>
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<td>JEEP</td>
<td>Joint Emergency Operations Programme</td>
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<td>KCV</td>
<td>Kind Heart Children Village</td>
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<td>LSAD</td>
<td>Large Scale Agricultural Development</td>
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<td>MFI</td>
<td>Micro-finance Institutions</td>
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<td>MNCH</td>
<td>Maternal and Newborn Child Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Government Organization</td>
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<td>PSNP</td>
<td>Productive Safety Net Programme</td>
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<td>RC</td>
<td>Registered Children</td>
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<td>SAT</td>
<td>Sponsorship Action Team</td>
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<td>SNNPR</td>
<td>Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People’s Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>TVET</td>
<td>Technical and Vocational Education and Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>United States Dollars</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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<td>WVE</td>
<td>World Vision Ethiopia</td>
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2015 marks the 40th anniversary of World Vision Ethiopia

World Vision Ethiopia registered as an official NGO and opened its first national office in 1975. Over the last forty years, the organisation’s interventions for the poor and vulnerable of Ethiopia have grown from a few scattered projects into a significant and valued network of programmes benefiting an estimated 20 million children and their families. Over the years World Vision Ethiopia has built and fostered experience in relief, rehabilitation, community-based development and children’s wellbeing, working with religious institutions, government line offices, World Vision support offices and community groups across Ethiopia.

In 1975 World Vision Ethiopia had five staff and operated a single project for street children in Addis Ababa. Today World Vision manages one of the biggest humanitarian and development portfolios in Ethiopia, with close to 300 long-term development programmes, 63 Area Development Programmes (ADPs) and a staffing base of 1,300. ADPs execute projects in health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS, education, child protection, humanitarian emergency (relief and rehabilitation), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and livelihoods. These projects target the poorest and most vulnerable members of Ethiopian society, especially children. In collaboration with the government and UNHCR, World Vision Ethiopia also provides livelihood, WASH and education in five refugee camps (South Omo, Borena, Dolo Ado, Tongo and Gambella) with a current combined population of 101,443.

World Vision Ethiopia manages an annual budget in the region of USD 84 million. Sponsorship is the major funding source, though grant funding is also used. In 2015, supporters of World Vision Ethiopia were sponsoring 237,758 children.

Though World Vision Ethiopia has enabled remarkable results for communities across the nation, the journey is not complete. Ethiopian children remain vulnerable to the effects of poor health and nutrition, social and gender inequity and the risks of climate change and environmental degradation. Reflecting on its first 40 years, the organisation believes it still has a significant role to play in the long-term development of Ethiopia.

Foreword

Greetings from Ethiopia!

It is my great pleasure to present to you this memorial booklet that highlights the work of World Vision over the past 40 years in Ethiopia.

As I personally reflect on the history of World Vision in the country, I feel a sense of pride to have been a part of this important, transformational effort. World Vision’s work has touched so many. I often meet people around the country who, though no longer working for the organisation, feel a sense of pride in the fact that they were a part of something special. The strong partnerships with communities, government and other agencies has been a key factor in the success of WV over the years. Through these partnerships and programs on the ground, World Vision has been a part of building a sustainable future for the communities and the households it has touched.

Most importantly, the work of World Vision has changed the lives of millions of children around the country for the better. This important work could not have been accomplished if not for the hard work and tireless effort of thousands of dedicated staff members over the years who worked in both emergency and development contexts to change the lives of millions of children and families.

Our greatest thanks go to these workers as we commemorate 40 years in Ethiopia. WV can be proud of its accomplishments over the past 40 years and looks forward to building on the successes of the past as it continues to support the country’s efforts to transform Ethiopia in years to come.

God bless you!

Margaret Schuler
National Director
World Vision Ethiopia
Background to World Vision as an international organisation

World Vision International began as a Christian Charitable Organisation in September 1950 through the efforts of American evangelist and humanitarian the Reverend Bob Pierce. Moved by the plight of war orphans while on mission in Korea, Bob Pierce began fundraising to support their nurture and care.

Throughout the 1950s support in the US for World Vision orphanages and for families living in poverty grew, and the organisation was able to expand into several other Asian countries. In the 1960s and 1970s World Vision’s programmes gradually reached the continents of Latin America and Africa, while support offices outside the US were established including in Canada, Australia, Germany, the UK and Japan.

Today World Vision International implements development, advocacy and relief programmes and projects in more than 100 countries, with the assistance of support offices and the generosity of governments, corporations and individual donors.

World Vision in Ethiopia

The early years: 1971 - 1975

Sometime in 1971 World Vision began to support cross-border refugees in Gambella and Gode areas, working from its Kenya-based office in close collaboration with World Vision Canada and the Sudan Interior Mission. In 1973, the organisation started the first childcare program by sponsoring 128 street children in Addis Ababa in 1973, the organisation started the first childcare program by World Vision Canada and the Sudan Interior Mission. In 1973, the organisation started the first childcare program through the efforts of European Partner Churches. The main operational areas at the time were Kambaata and Hadiya, Wolaita, Gedeo/Dilla, Sebat Bet Gurage, West Shoa Butajira, and Addis Ababa. Some special development work was also taking place at Surma, Omorate. Later during the relief period, due to the interest to work with Trinitarians, CCCD was introduced through the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Addis Ababa, North Shoa, Gojjam, Gonder, Zuway, Soddo Gurage and other locations.

Deadly famine, massive relief: 1984 - 1985

In the period of 1984/85 a deadly famine in Ethiopia claimed the lives of over two million people. The plight of the nation drew international attention and a large-scale humanitarian response. World Vision was invited by the government's then Relief and Rehabilitation Commission to take part in this response.

World Vision’s massive relief operation commenced in October 1984 in northern, eastern, central and southern parts of the country, mainly Wello, Gondar, Shoa, Sidama, Tigray (Shire) and Kelfla administrative regions. Relief hotspots included Alamata, Adiabar, Lalibela/Sanka, Antsokia/Mekoy, Sekota, Ebat, Omo, Shebelo, Humbo, Shire and Addis Ababa. Road transportation to many of these areas was not possible, and the first relief to arrive in the Antsokia Valley was carried in by camel.

Later World Vision built the Baily Bridge over the Borkena River so that Antsokia (Mekoy) could receive the volume of aid required, along with increasing aid delivery in Abaya. As the programme strengthened, World Vision provided three aircraft for transporting food and personnel, 100 trailer trucks, around 200 other vehicles and 500 pack animals. Airdropping of relief supplies took place in areas such as Sanka because there was no airstrip to land relief aircraft.

This unprecedented response saw World Vision Ethiopia’s ministry grow from USD2.4 million to USD42 million in its first year, with major government donors including...
USA, Germany, Australia, Canada, UK and Korea. From 50 staff in 1984, the organisation had around 6,500 at the peak of the famine, including permanent, contract, temporary and expatriate.

Accordingly, a stronger relief operations office was required alongside the original country office in Addis Ababa. A Memorandum of Understanding between the country office and relief operations ensured that the two World Vision branches complemented each other; the country office continued its CCCD work alongside local recruitment for relief, while the international relief office focused on expatriate expertise and oversight of the Ethiopia Famine programme. The international response was managed initially by Tony Atkins, who then handed over to World Vision International Vice President Cliff Benzel. The surge of staff numbers meant that no premises could be found to house everyone together, and World Vision rented a number of floors at the Ethiopia Hotel as well as seven additional office spaces across Addis Ababa.

World Vision’s relief programme included kitchens and therapeutic feeding in 13 locations for those seriously affected by the famine, plus distribution of dry food to address household food shortages. Medical and sanitation services with a focus on affected children under five, lactating and pregnant women were an important addition to the programme. Over the life of the programme (1984-1987), World Vision distributed around 100,000 metric tons of food plus a further 18,000 tons of relief supplies and medicine, with a total value of approximately USD68 million. The cost of running the 13 nutrition and health centres was estimated at more than USD100 million.

The response was not without its challenges. Sadly, World Vision lost two staff members to violent attacks during the relief operation in Alamata, when a nurse and a social worker were shot dead. The attackers were never identified. Staff in Ebnat also encountered misunderstandings with the local government and needed to withdraw due to safety concerns.

However, in general, World Vision’s response to the Ethiopia disaster was remarkably successful. At the height of the crisis, World Vision was assisting up to 300,000 people each month in the camps. By the end of the programme, the organisation had directly contributed towards saving the lives of an estimated 3.2 million people. Relief assistance was also used for rehabilitation, irrigation and reforestation for pastoralists and farmers affected by drought. The famine response represented a substantial upward shift in World Vision Ethiopia’s capacity to deliver relief and development programmes on a large scale.

From Relief to Rehabilitation (1986 – 1989)

In October 1985, relief services for drought-affected families began to scale down, but it was clear that the suffering of the people of Ethiopia, particularly the children, was not yet over. While immediate relief continued, World Vision Ethiopia also commenced a rehabilitation phase designed to help drought survivors return home and begin producing their own food once more.

Though famine survivors had recovered some strength, they had no resources of their own and needed seeds and tools to begin the restoration of their livelihoods. World Vision Ethiopia’s agriculture experts at the Relief Operation office designed the Agricultural Package Programme (AgPak) to support beneficiaries of the health and nutrition centres as they returned to their homes in Alamata, Antsokia, Adigab, Omo Sheleko, Humbo, West Abaya, Sekota, Lalibea/Sanka, Ebnat, and Mehal Meda.

In and around Omo Sheleko, Humbo and Antsokia, World Vision also commenced an agro-forestry programme, a primary healthcare package, and infrastructure including water development and civil works. The Large Scale Agricultural Development (LAD) Program concept (pioneered by John McMillan) applied the remainder of the relief money in Antsokia (Mekoy) to promote new farming techniques such as fishery, irrigation, double digging and other new ideas. New vegetables, fruits and root crops were introduced. LAD offered training and demonstrations of modern farming methods in poultry rearing, beekeeping and multi-cropping horticulture to increase yield and household self-sufficiency.

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Extensive soil and water conservation/forestry activities were also implemented during the rehabilitation phase using Food For Work programming. This included construction of a road to reach Mekoy from the Bayli Bridge over the River Borkena. Using the CCCD model in Omorete and Surma around Mizan Tefari, projects lessened the need for pastoral lifestyles by providing better farming and livelihood opportunities close to home.

As donors began to pull out of Ethiopia’s famine relief, World Vision Ethiopia started strategising for an effective transition of the short-term progress made into a broader model of sustainable development. They trialled a community-based technical programme (CBTP) based on lessons from the previous CCCD model and incorporating the thinking from AgPak, agroforestry and LAD.

**The beginnings of World Vision’s Area Development Programme: 1988 - 1990**

By 1987, donor fatigue towards Ethiopia’s multiple food security challenges was evident. AgPak and LAD were forced to scale down and a new conversation at World Vision Ethiopia considered how best to continue assisting famine survivors as non-sponsorship funding diminished. The solution marked the beginning of the model of community development through sponsorship of most vulnerable children that is still used today. This was a significant threshold for World Vision to cross, as both sponsor and sponsored family were familiar and used to the concept of a one-to-one relationship. World Vision Ethiopia deployed a cluster approach which connected village level sponsorship projects with a central management team. The former health and nutrition centres were converted into community health facilities or kebeles, with social workers onsite who reported back to World Vision’s community programme. Antsokia, Adjibar, Omo Sheleko and Humbo were the first sites chosen for this approach.

World Vision International’s Sponsorship Action Team (SAT) was established to assist World Vision Ethiopia with this groundbreaking transition. The team worked with support offices, regional offices and other field offices to understand and monitor the new approach and to create designs that could further improve the use of sponsorship funds for sustainable community development. Antsokia was a demonstration site and the location of an international SAT workshop to develop a Vision Statement for the future of sponsorship at World Vision. The workshop concluded that sponsorship funding could indeed be a developmental mechanism, stable enough to conduct sustainable development over time.

The Vision Statement developed at Antsokia triggered great change for World Vision globally. With the endorsement of sponsorship funding for community development, communities such as Antsokia, Omo Sheleko, Adjibar and Humbo could be led into the next phase of recovery: sustainability. The CBTP championed by Helena Eversdale during the rehabilitation phase, could deliver on its promise. Staff working in CCCD and rehabilitation were trained and on board to take the step towards becoming a development agency. World Vision Ethiopia’s ND at the time, Miksegat Abebe, led a series of reflections and SAT interactions that eventually led to the full concept of the ‘Area Development Program’ (ADP).

In their first years, the new sponsorship programmes supported children in schools including healthcare and clothing, and also carried out income generation activities with their communities in Omo Sheleko.

In their initial stages, the ADPs were assigned to World Vision Ethiopia’s sub-national structures in the Southern, Northern and Central Regions. The first ADP was supported by MWWUS and implemented in Kemisse district as the Antsokia II programme, under the management of World Vision Ethiopia’s Northern Regional office and with Dr Belay Guta as the first ADP manager. Soon afterwards other former health and nutrition centres that had adopted the cluster approach followed suit: Antsokia/Mekoy, Omo Sheleko, Humbo, and Adjibar ADPs. Later, six new ADPs were designed for different districts: Mehalmeda, Hobicha, Aboli-Aberta, West Abaya, Adama and Tiya.

The concept of phasing out was developed sometime in 1999. The objective was to transition support from existing, successful ADPs to start new programmes in unreached areas. Since then, using this approach along with an expansion strategy and partnership with many more support offices, World Vision Ethiopia’s number of ADPs has grown to 63. They use mixed funds obtained from support offices including sponsorship and non-sponsorship...
Relief and rehabilitation expertise was downsized significantly but nationally based expertise in ADP priority areas was retained. This included agriculture, potable water development, soil and water conservation, family income generation, infrastructure (school, health, rural roads and bridges), small scale irrigation and afforestation. As the transition neared completion, Dr Tracey handed over leadership of World Vision Ethiopia to its first Ethiopian National Director, engineer Tsega Woldemariam. Mr Woldemariam was succeeded in 1994 by Mulugeta Abebe. Eng Tsega also commenced building a new office on the site of a previous relief warehouse at a cost of USD 1 million. The Head Office building, which remains in use today, was inaugurated on February 2, 1995.


World Vision Ethiopia implemented a number of decisions and organisational change processes from 1995 to 2005, aiming to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of its development activities. These included an intensive ministry review to determine the way forward on programme effectiveness and the scheduling of redesigns for existing programmes. In 1997, the first year of redesign, 13 ADPs examined and re-targeted their strategies for change. Also in 1997, Wisdom Micro-Finance Institution was founded to provide microfinance services to World Vision beneficiaries. This continues today under the banner of VisionFund Ethiopia.

In 2001/2002, redesign every five years became part of every programme cycle, commencing with self-review assessments, then applying the results to ensure programmes remained relevant and effective in reaching the most vulnerable. Seeing the challenges for technical programming in remote areas, World Vision Ethiopia created three branch offices in regional locations to decentralise operations and more closely support ADPs. This was another period of great expansion for World Vision Ethiopia in 2003/2004, and once again World Vision Ethiopia responded with substantial support through a Category III emergency programme in all ADPs and other areas as required. The response reached more than five million drought-affected people. In 2011, the whole Horn of Africa region was affected by drought, requiring yet another scale up of emergency and rehabilitation/recovery programming.

In 2005 World Vision Partnership introduced the organisation’s vision statement: Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness; Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so. This courageous aspiration continues to guide World Vision’s strategy and actions today. In 2005/2006, World Vision also introduced a framework for programme quality known as Learning through Evaluation for Accountability and Planning (LEAP). This was another period of great expansion for World Vision, moving into new geographical regions and opening seven additional programme offices to support these ADPs to deliver organisational priorities. In 2007/2008, programming for children became more intensive, including strengthened collaboration with Wisdom MFI to offer child savings accounts for long term support. In 2009 World Vision Ethiopia’s national strategic plan articulated child wellbeing outcomes as its major focus for the first time.

Improvements to sponsorship systems and initiatives that incorporate the wellbeing of children of all ages have helped to attract and retain a variety of valued donors to make sponsorship viable. Between 2005 and 2015, the number of sponsored children increased from 95,828 to 237,758.

World Vision Ethiopia has been working locally and at national level to bring about social and institutional change. In 2009, the organisation began the For Every Child Campaign focusing on Christian Commitment, WASH, and Microfinance. As part of this, and with WASH a priority for preventing maternal and child deaths, the WASH division began extensive and coordinated activities across Ethiopia in 2010. In 2012 the Child Health Now Campaign launched to increase the social focus on child and maternal health. The organisation continues to learn and respond in a changing world. In 2014 and 2015, while introducing the ‘technical approach’ of World Vision’s LEAP III guidelines, World Vision Ethiopia shifted its strategy for decentralisation from woreda level agreements to regional oversight and support. The current One Plan One Region strategy for consolidated programming aims to increase visibility, improve government partnership and increase efficiencies for ADPs and their projects.
Raising the bar for children: 2016 - 2020

World Vision Ethiopia’s 2016-2020 Strategy outlines its continued commitments and aspirations toward child wellbeing. It was developed based on World Vision Ethiopia’s accumulated experiences over the last 40 years that have brought meaningful and positive change in the lives of children and their communities. World Vision Ethiopia will continue to prioritise its current operational areas where development and emergency programs are implemented (all regions except Afar and Harari).

World Vision Ethiopia’s child protection and participation programming focuses on protection and empowering children and youth with special focus on children aged 3 years that have brought meaningful and positive change in the lives of children and their communities. World Vision Ethiopia’s 40th Anniversary

World Vision Ethiopia livelihood programming focuses on rural resource-poor smallholder farmers, female-headed households and people affected by disasters. Unemployed youth will also be a priority through vocational training. Pregnant and lactating mothers, malnourished children and households as well as schools and health institutions will be the focus in implementing health, nutrition and WASH programs. The education programming aims to improve access and quality of education and life skills for children and youth programming in this strategic period and will make critical context analysis to determine priorities for potential urban programming. The youth development programming will intentionally work to create employment opportunities through strengthening TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training). This strategic objective is well-aligned with the Government of Ethiopia (GOE) policies and strategies, mainly the agriculture sector of the Growth and Transformation Plan and Agricultural Development Led Industrialization (ADIL) strategy, to create productive, effective technologies and income oriented agriculture. Among the four pillars of the GOE’s Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) is land productivity enhancement focusing specifically on forest restoration and environmental protection, which is closely linked with World Vision Ethiopia climate and environment models. In the area of disaster risk management, the GOE ratified Disaster Risk Management policy, which shifted from disaster management to risk management. The policy also underlines the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into development programs, which World Vision Ethiopia can leverage in addressing its targeted households/communities.

Health, Nutrition and WASH for healthy growth and development of children, women and families

World Vision Ethiopia’s health programming aims to improve MNCH (Maternal, Newborn and Child Health) through creating access to and utilisation of quality maternal, newborn, and child and adolescent health care services thus contributing to the reduction of child, infant and maternal mortality rates. Improving access to high quality nutrition specific will also be delivered to contribute to improving nutritional status of children and pregnant and lactating women. Water and sanitation related diseases and deaths will be reduced significantly through improving access to sustainable adequate water, sanitation facilities and improved hygiene practices.

Maternal and newborn health care and under-nutrition are among the major areas recognized by the government in the currently active HSDF (Health Sector Development Plan) IV and the planned Health Sector Transformation Plan for the coming five years. This plan has specific focus on mothers and newborns with nutrition as a crosscutting intervention. World Vision Ethiopia’s Health and Nutrition Technical Approach has aligned to both global and national health sector priorities including maternal and newborn care, nutrition and quality and equity of services.

Improved Quality of Education and Life Skills for Children and Youth

Education plays a vital role in allowing communities and individuals to transform their world. World Vision Ethiopia believes all children should have equal access to quality education. The education programme focuses on improving equitable access contributing to increased primary enrollment rate. This programme also seeks to improve education quality to address the low literacy rate.

Enhance Protection, Participation and Holistic Development of vulnerable children and adolescents

With the aim of reducing high prevalence of harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation, abduction and early marriage, the child protection programming focuses on protection and empowering children to meaningfully participate in decisions that affect their lives. The programme brings all concerned partners together for the realisation of child focused, equitable and inclusive protective systems thereby contributing to holistic development of boys and girls.
Programming Highlights

- CBTP (1986 – 1995) was an empowering participative approach that enhanced facilitation and programme development skills within communities.
- AgPak (1986 – 1991) assisted over 100,000 famine-affected farming households through essential agricultural distributions.
- ADPs (1990 – current) have helped World Vision Ethiopia to become a leading organisation in the field of sustainable community development.
- Food-for-Work (1986) accomplished significant results in soil conservation, environmental rehabilitation and development of rural infrastructure, as a first step towards ‘drought-proofing’ vulnerable agricultural communities.
- LAD (1985 – 1987) raised yield and income from long-term food production and improved the living standards of farmers and their families in Antsokia Valley (around 37,000 people).
- Agroforestry (1985 – 1990) stabilised and rehabilitated degraded ecology through afforestation and agroforestry methods, which contributed to the enhanced agricultural productivity and mitigated the impact of future droughts.
- Social integration for the Fuga people of Omo Sheleko district (1995 – 2000) reduced their marginalisation from neighbouring communities and helped them with social, psychological, economic and spiritual inclusion.
- The Hope Initiative (2001 – 2012) in Amhara, Tigray, Benshangul Gumz and Addis Ababa was World Vision Ethiopia’s contribution to the global goal to reduce the prevalence and impact of HIV/AIDS. The project enabled the formation of 1,000 community care coalitions with more than 13,000 volunteers/home visitors, and supported an estimated 290,000 orphans and vulnerable children.
- Micro-enterprise initiatives including the Women Saving Group scheme have, beyond food security, contributed to women’s empowerment and gender equality in target areas. World Vision Ethiopia also set up a micro-finance institution, Wisdom MFI, in 1998.
- Micro-nutrient and Health Program (1997 – 2001) improved the nutrition and health status of 1.5 million women and children through effective and sustainable interventions.
- Carbon Selling Projects implemented through the Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration approach in Humbo and Soddo have traded 171,157t of CO2 emission since 2010 and is the first of its kind in Ethiopia. The Humbo project is the world’s second biggest carbon selling project.
- Channels of Hope (2006 – current) has engaged the faith community to deconstruct barriers to health and mobilise them to play their role in MNCH-HIV/AIDS, Gender and Child Protection.
- The E-FACE project (2011 – current) has reached 20,000 children vulnerable to child labour with educational opportunities, economic development, strengthening social protection for children and capacitating national institutions.
40 years at a glance

World Vision’s contribution to development and resilience in Ethiopia;
68,000,000 communities reached 32,601,493 children assisted

Child Sponsorship 245,713 reached: with education, medical care and nutrition assistance; support and skills development for families.

Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS 20,125,839 reached: Improving the health and nutritional status of children, and pregnant and lactating women; contributing to national efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality.

Child Protection 376,450 reached: Promoting child protection and participation.

Humanitarian Emergency Affairs 14,171,927 reached: Effective, timely, efficient response to save lives and provide basic services in times of crisis.

Education 3,911,340 reached: Access to quality education; building schools and village libraries; donating desks and teaching materials.

WASH 8,309,281 reached: Access to adequate safe water; sanitation and hygiene practices.

Livelihoods 21,020,940 reached: Improving household food security status, resilience to shocks and recovery from disasters.

Climate Change & environment: 369,475 reached improving household food security, health & economic status through improved ecosystem, access to clean technology and carbon finance.

Key success factors

Committed and competent staff

Development approach (good practices, flexible and adaptable to different contexts)

Evaluation, accountability and planning

Sponsorship in programming

Focusing on the most vulnerable

Partnership

Participatory (Engaging with community and partners)

Understanding local context

Evaluation, accountability and planning
Antsokia Valley

My name Metekia, means 'replacement'. I lost my father soon after birth, then my mother remarried and moved to another village. I started living with my grandparents in Antsokia and was eight years old when the famine hit us. I have terrible memories of those days. Whenever I hear the number 77 (the year 1984 on the Ethiopian Calendar) I feel sick, because it brings trauma of those days to my mind. I was with other children, and we tried to play but we had no energy. We thought it was a big adventure to go to the airdrop field to gather the grain and supplementary food, but we also saw people burying the corpses of their loved ones every day. It saddened me.

The famine also separated families. When the drought hit Antsokia my grandparents sent me to my mother, but there was no food in her village either. After three months, World Vision arrived and opened therapeutic feeding centres as part of the famine response.

I was at World Vision Mekoy's Feeding Centre. There were many starving people there, from different parts of Wollo, Argoba and Shewa. They were assigned three categories depending on their level of wasting: red, yellow or green. I was in the green category, which was a relatively good status. I was not admitted to the feeding centre. But this didn’t mean I wasn’t hungry. One day when the people entered the feeding centre I jumped in with them and hid in the toilet. When food was served I came out, took my share, and hid again. After a while a woman called Genet Wolde Gebriel finally noticed me. She asked what I was doing. I was scared, but I told her that I wanted to be at the feeding centre, not outside and hungry. She looked at me in sympathy, then ordered the guards not to chase me out, I was allowed to remain.

With time our health improved and we were discharged from the feeding centre. Instead, World Vision offered a school feeding programme that benefited me and many other children in two ways. Firstly, it helped us to get three meals a day which sustained our lives. Secondly, we were also able to continue our education in spite of the emergency.

When the first World Vision children’s home opened in Antsokia (Ambowuha), I remember that I was among the first to be enrolled. Later the number of children in the children’s home increased to 38. We stayed there for two years (1984 -1986) before finally returning to our families. Even then, World Vision’s support continued, through food and other assistance to our community.

After two years in the children’s home (1984-86), we returned to our original communities (1984-86), we returned to our original communities but WV’s support (food assistance, oil, etc.) continued until 1988. In the end, 20 children including myself transferred to a private child care organisation called Kind Heart Children Village (KCV) operating with the full support of World Vision. When KCV closed in 1995, I was 19, supported by the National Children Commission, the children there were all old enough to continue their education independently.

I finished school and enrolled at Wondogent College of Forestry, where I graduated with my science degree in forestry in 2002. Since then I have been working in various roles for government, private sector, UN agencies and other non-government organisations.

When I think about World Vision’s arrival at a time of despair I see it as God’s plan to rescue us, to spare us from that catastrophe. World Vision worked to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. If they hadn’t been there you wouldn’t see me today. World Vision is the reason why I not only survived but also succeeded in life.

World Vision has done so much in Antsokia that words cannot explain. The changes for me and my community are beyond imagination. From starvation and death, World Vision supported us to prosper, use new agricultural technologies and practices, grow fruit and vegetables, build schools, health and water facilities. This is the legacy of World Vision, who will always be in the hearts and minds of the people of Antsokia.

Metekia Getachew, 40, born in Antsokia (Afsa locality), a father of one, BSc in Forestry & Masters in International Cooperation and Humanitarianism.
“My name is Indris Abdu. I was born in 1984. My family survived through rural subsistence agriculture but production was very low. In my village we didn’t have access to potable water, health facilities or schools. When World Vision started working in my village, things changed for the better. We have health facilities, schools and clean water supply.

As a sponsored child every year I received support such as educational materials, school uniform and clothes. Later on I joined college and received a stipend for two years. I still remember annual children’s events and Christmas celebrations organised by World Vision where all children came together to have fun. It was so enjoyable!

Today, I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree, I am married and I am the Mayor of Kemissie town, some 330km from Addis Ababa. I am what I am today because of the support I received from World Vision.”

Indris Abdu
Sponsored child
1992-2004

“My name is Senayt Seyum. I am married and a mother of one girl. I have two sisters and two brothers. We were all sponsored children of World Vision Ethiopia. Nowadays the urban and rural life setting has become similar. All children have access to school nearby, heath centres, potable water and so on. A girl or woman won’t spent the whole day fetching water. When I reminisce of when I was a young girl, if it had not been for World Vision I wouldn’t be here today. To begin with there was no school in our area.

World Vision built both primary and secondary schools. My parents couldn’t afford to provide for all of us education materials, but World Vision donated them. Girls had to walk long distances to fetch water. However, the water was not clean and getting sick was very common. World Vision constructed water points. In addition, World Vision raised the awareness of our community including religious leaders to stop different harmful traditions such as early marriage. World Vision Ethiopia paved the way for my success and the success of my community.

Currently I am working in the Agriculture bureau of the government in Antsokia district as a Forestry Agricultural Officer. All my siblings are employed, with families of their own. As some of my work relates to World Vision I have had a chance to work as a partner with the World Vision agriculture specialist in Antsokia. It was a great pleasure!”

Senait Seyoum
Sponsored child
1989-2001
“My name is Mohammed Tilahun. I am 32 years old. I am married and a father of two sons. I have a Master of Science in Agro ecology and am now a lecturer at Mekelle University.

My family was one of the lowest economic classes in Ambowuha village in Antsokia. My father started to go blind when I was very young. Since then, as the first-born all responsibilities came to me. I had to carry out all the farming activities to support our family. I was not enrolled at school. In 1989 I was registered as a sponsored child with World Vision Ethiopia. It was the turning point for my life. My family was supported and I got the opportunity to start and complete my school. I was one of the highest performing students in my class, I completed high-school with high distinction. It was the happiest day of all my life and the beginning of a bright future. World Vision Antsokia ADP organised a small ceremony to celebrate my success.

In 2000, when I was a third year student at Hawassa University, I and four other students from the sponsorship program were supported to take part in an international exhibition in Hanover, Germany. I had a chance to meet my sponsors at Frankfurt Airport. I had no words to thank them enough for their continued support. I wouldn’t be the person I am today if it had not been for World Vision Ethiopia and my sponsors. I have learnt that anyone can change their life if they have been given the chance.”

Wulita Ketema
Sponsored child
1992-2004

“My name is Wuleta Ketema, I am a lecturer at Debre Berhan Teachers college and a mother of two.

All I can say is, my success would have been impossible without World Vision intervention. It’s not only me but the whole community I used to live with. My parents were farmers and could not have made it without World Vision. World Vision built schools and gave us school materials, but they also brought different people in so we could learn things outside the school curriculum, such as first aid, drama and literature, music and the like. They gave rewards to the top five students in each class, such as Oxford dictionaries that were not available in the market. This motivated the students and created a more competitive environment which I believe had a huge impact in the students including myself.

When I finished high school, I joined Gondor College. On completion I was one of the high distinction graduates in my diploma. Then the university retained us as teachers, while at the same time we continued our education for a Bachelor of Arts degree. Now I am a lecturer at Debre Berhan Teachers college and enrolled for post graduate studies. The value and the passion I have for education is as a result of World Vision Ethiopia’s efforts.”
"World Vision has taught me about the person I am in a process of self-development that progressively transformed me into a person who I am today. Taking part in the 1984 Famine Response was the toughest but at the same time the most rewarding experience."
Bekele W/Kidan - 1985 - 1997

"When I joined World Vision, I felt that there was a bigger picture to why I found that it was about making a difference in people’s lives. The work environment is so different, I believe this is because each person that I work with not only chooses to be here, but they really love their work."
Yoseph Illana - 1982 - 1999

"The thing I loved about working for World Vision is that everyone is so passionate about their work and is dedicated to succeed in whatever role they fill in. World Vision is unique in its commitment to serve the children and community."
Betel Tede 1985 - 2015

"Working for World Vision has been and continues to be a great experience. Knowing my service has contributed to save many lives and seeing the change that we’ve brought to rural villages is a great feeling."
Hailu Gossaye 1984 till now

"I have a lot of happy memories in World Vision and sad moments too. It was on the evening of March 8, 1985. The day was Saturday. I was working at World Vision’s Health and Nutrition camp in Alamata. We spent the day in celebrating March 8 with the community and went back to our camp at dusk. Suddenly, the camp was attacked by unknown people and we lost two of our colleagues. Some five of us were also injured. Even though that was the worst moment of my life, it was also a driving force that kept me going on for years to provide service for the most vulnerable communities. If you want to serve people in the deepest way, World Vision is the place to work."
Hiwot Abate - 1984 till now
The Journey 1975-2015
Photo Album

The Journey 1975-2015
The Journey 1975-2015

Photo Album
World Vision Ethiopia has been working with the government, non-government organizations, private sector, and various communities to reduce the vulnerability of children in Ethiopia in various ways. World Vision Ethiopia obtains fund for its development programs as well as emergency response from World Vision Support Offices through child sponsorship and grants from governments, multi-lateral agencies, and other corporate and private donations.

“World Vision is grateful to its donors and partners for their continued support throughout the years.”

Financial Summary

Financial Spending by Sector

Funding By Source

Trend graph in the last 15 years
Meet our National Directors over the years …

Terry Naire (1975)
Ben Webster (1975)
Getachew Chuko (1975 – 1980)
Tesfatain Delew (1980 – 1983)

Eng Tsega W/Mariam (1986 – 1991)

Tsegaye Lemma (2006 – 2011)
Margaret Schuler (2012 – now)

Memorial

This page is dedicated to staff members who lost their lives while working with World Vision Ethiopia.

Belaynesh Benti (Nurse) & Messeret Moges (Nutritionist)
Lost their lives at WWE Alamata camp in 1978/79 EC during the war between TPLF and the Dergue regime.

Messeret Kidane (Engineer) who lost her life in a car accident in 1990 during ADP designing period.

Zelalem Aynew and Beyene Gutema, WWE SLT members lost their lives on November 23, 1996 in the Ethiopian Airlines plane that crashed off the Comoros Islands.
Sponsored Children Graph

No. of Sponsored Children

Year | No. of Sponsored Children
--- | ---
1975 | 128
1980 | 6,000
1985 | 14,116
1990 | 76,605
1995 | 99,828
2000 | 102,476
2005 | 131,268
2010 | 224,312
2015 | 237,758
2016 | 273,579

Operational Map

The Journey 1975-2015

World Vision Ethiopia's 40th Anniversary

World Vision Ethiopia's 40th Anniversary
Current Senior Leadership Team

Margaret Schuler
National Director

Alex Whitney
Senior Operation Director

Elenie Mergia
Integrated Programmes Director

Chris Muuya
Finance & Support Service Director

Abebe Negatu
People & Culture Director

Tigist Kelenwerk
Support Service Director

Beyene Geleta
Programmes Development & Quality Assurance Director

Dereje Alemu
WASH Director
World Vision Ethiopia provided over $1 billion over 40 years to support relief and development in the country.