

Building Better Lives for

Children

WVE Quarterly Newsletter
Volume 4, No. II February 2019

World Vision
ETHIOPIA



*H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed welcomes WVUS
President Mr. Edgar Sandoval.*

World Vision Enjoys Double Portion of Favor in Halls of Power

In a historic first, World Vision leadership met with the Head of Government and the Head of State on the final day of WVUS President/CEO Edgar Sandoval's first field trip to Ethiopia.

Mr. Sandoval's met with Dr. Abiy for nearly an hour before rushing to the airport for his flight back to the U.S. It was the climax of a four day trip including meetings with WVE staff and partners in Durame AP, Hawassa, and Addis Ababa (DFSA, SLT, et al) and numerous site visits. "It was the best organized field trip I've ever seen," said former WVE National Director and current Senior Vice President Margaret Schuler. "It was so emotional and made me so proud," she added.

"Being given the honor of an audience with His Excellency the Prime Minister in light of his busy schedule was a huge answer to prayer and the result of the efforts of our Government Relations Team and our reputation with government," said WVE National Director Edward Brown. "For the Board Chair and Senior Leadership Team to also meet with Her

Excellency President Sahlework on the same day is a miraculous reflection of the excellent working relationship we have with government from the grass roots to the palace. No other organization has had such a privilege," he added.

The WVUS and WVE leaders discussed the current situation and how World Vision is growing its operations in response to emergency needs as well as long term development opportunities. "Her Excellency was appreciative of all we have done and supportive of all we plan to do," said Mr. Brown.

Mr. Sandoval emphasized World Vision's integrated, multi-sectoral programmes focused primarily on children and women, as well as our community-based approaches. Both Dr. Abiy and President Sahlework were well aware of World Vision's long history of service to Ethiopia and encouraged us to continue our contribution to the country's sustainable development as we all focus on a future that is peaceful and prosperous.



World Vision USA President Enjoys Emotional 'Best Ever' Field Trip



■ Mr Sandoval with returnee students at chiriku

WWUS president Edgar Sandoval and Senior Vice President Margaret Schuler along with National Director of World Vision Ethiopia, Edward Brown, visited hundreds of internally displaced peoples (IDPs) and returnees in Yirgachefe woreda of the Gedeo Zone in South Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region.

The team visited WW's emergency response and rehabilitation efforts including food distribution sites, health facilities and reconstruction of damaged houses in different parts of Gedeo Zone and talked to affected children, families, and students living in plastic tents.

"I am very impressed with the way WW Ethiopia is integrating and leveraging all resources to make the most impact for Ethiopian children. This is really the most organized response I

have ever seen where food is distributed to beneficiaries using digitized technology," said Mr. Sandoval.

According to the president, the response is well progressing while meeting the immediate needs of affected families and children. "The good news is there are no malnourished children in the stabilization center because of all the great work WW is doing. WW Ethiopia staff are committed to teaching pregnant, expected, and breastfeeding mothers how to prepare food and feed children, and have a proper care to children," Mr. Sandoval added.

Over the last one year, WW has benefitted 1.6 million drought-affected people and IDPs through WASH, livelihood and food security, health and nutrition, education, and protection in addition to food assistance to 494,882 IDPs.

Women and Children Cheer Arrival of Clean Water

Women and children cheered and sang songs of praise as they welcome the arrival of clean water in their villages in Mehal Wonz, Ephrata District in Amhara Regional State, on 30th October 2018.

The deep water well drilled in the area has helped children access clean water in their schools. Women in Mehal Wonz no more travel for more than two hours in search of water. Seven water points were constructed in the area including one for a primary school, totally benefiting 6000 children and family members in the locality.

The project was financed by Rotary Foundation in a fund matching partnership with World Vision, at a cost of close to US\$162,100. Representatives of Rotary International who traveled all the way from the United States and local Rotarians joined the community in the celebration and visit. Abraham Asmare, World Vision Ethiopia WASH Director, and other staff hosted the team.



■ Women in Mehal wonz singing on the inauguration ceremony.



Ethiopian Children Shine in Geneva



Eyoel Sisay (Student), H.E. Mr. Negash Kebret, Ethiopian Ambassador to Geneva, Mr. Eshetu Alemu, WV Ethiopia Protection and Equity Manager, Constanza Martinez, Senior Advisor UN Representative, WVI.

WV Ethiopia takes part at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child at the UN Palais des Nations in Geneva held under the theme “Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders.”

World Vision represented at the event by delegations from WV UK office, Brazil, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh.

WorldVision Ethiopia was represented by its sponsored child, Eyoel and Protection and Equity Manager Mr. Eshetu Alemu.

The Day of General Discussion (DGD) 2018 caught the attention of many stakeholders as it is the first time ever that the DGD was hosted with a massive contribution of children and young people from all regions - a record-breaking number of children were present at the UN in Geneva. The young leaders were outstanding and articulate participants, and they showed

their commitment to the WV campaign to end violence against children.

“You can do nothing for us without us,” said one of children representatives showing the value of child participation in all matters affecting their life.

Eyoel from Ethiopia shared a panel on child abuse and traditional harmful practices that affect millions of children in Africa. Together with the other participants Eyoel also participated on a pre-DGD Facebook live question and answer session.

Participants from Ethiopia also met H.E. Mr. Negash Kebret, Ethiopian Ambassador to Geneva. He was impressed with the role of young people in the DGD and made a commitment to collaborate with World Vision in future actions around the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as one of the original champions of the Convention.

World Vision Ethiopia Staff Finish Strong In Ethiopian Great Run

Nearly 100 World Vision Ethiopia staff including the National Director, Mr. Edward Brown, took part at the 18th Ethiopian Great Run, a 10 km run, advocating for ending child marriage in Ethiopia as part of the “It Takes a World to Ending Violence Against Children” Campaign on 18 November 2018.

This year's Great Run theme was: “Empower Girls Now; they are the next leaders!” It attracted over 45,000 participants including the diplomatic communities residing in Addis Ababa, UN agencies, various INGOs, tourists as well as people from various parts of the country.

The Child Protection and Equity Programme and the Communications Department have been undertaking a number of advocacy and campaign works at different levels through engaging and mobilizing both internal and external stakeholders for the cause of ending child marriage in Ethiopia.

“We can run fast alone but we can run far together,” Mr. Brown said after finishing the run, alluding the importance of working together to stop child marriage in Ethiopia.

“If you want to get improved in your running pace, you need to exert more effort every day. It never get easier for those who want to see improvement. The same is true with ending child marriage, it requires more effort everyday” said Biruk, ICT Infra Specialist who finished the race in 44 minutes and 9 seconds.



WVE staff including the National Director, Mr. Edward Brown, advocating for Ending Child Marriage in Ethiopia at Ethiopian Great run.

Drylands development Programme Holds National Stakeholders Workshop



Edward Brown the National Director of WV Ethiopia, Alex Whitney Integrated Programmes Director, Robe Kelly (PhD), WV Australia Grants Manager for DRYDEV, Tony Rinaudo, WV Australia Principal advisor for Natural Resources, George Okwach (PhD) DryDev Programme Manager and Sahel Regional Programme Coordinator and others after the workshop.

WV Ethiopia Dryland Development Programme held a national workshop aimed at sharing best experiences, lessons learned and plans for scaling up on 15 November 2018 at Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa.

In his opening remark, DryDev Programme Manager and Sahel Regional Programme Coordinator George Okwach (PhD) said “Dryland development programme should be implemented throughout Africa where there is a dry land. By doing so it is possible to transform lives and landscapes with trees.”

The programme is employing an integrated approach designed to increase food and water security, enhance market access and strengthen the local economy for the transition of subsistence farming and emergency aid to sustainable rural development.

“Roof water harvesting has helped me a lot in saving my time. It enabled me to get water from my own house without traveling long distances to fetch water as before. I do all house works, feed my cattle and grow vegetables,” said 46-year-old Hiwot Kassa, a mother of four children, who came from Kilde Awulalo District in Tigray Region.

“The Farmers Managed Natural Regeneration programme has benefited me a lot. I earn more than 400 birr a month

from the sale of grass and milk,” said Remila Yesuf, 42 and a mother five.

Drylands make up 43 percent of Africa’s land area and home to more than 320 million people. These areas are hot-spots for natural disasters, conflicts, and poverty.

“We work in partnership with local governments and the community has helped a lot for the effectiveness of the programme. As a result, the lives of many farmers changed and the landscape transformed from dry to green view,” explains Assefa Tofu, Dry Lands Development Manager with WorldVision Ethiopia.

WV Ethiopia managed to reach a total of 58,429 farmers, including 22,441 women and rehabilitated a total of 43,678 hectares of land.

In Ethiopia Dry Land Development programme implemented in Oromiya and Tigray regions by a consortium of World Vision, World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), The Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC) and Relief Society of Tigray (REST) using a sequentially integrated sub-watershed development approach following principles like inclusive, bottom-up, climate-smart, cost-effective, sustainability and resource leveraging since 2014.

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