



**WATERAID
ETHIOPIA**

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter highlights

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- SCRS WaSH Project: Beyond Job Creation
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- All In for WASH in Healthcare Facilities



WaterAid Ethiopia Quarterly Newsletter -Vol 04

Our work in Ethiopia



WaterAid is an international, not-for-profit organization determined to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere.

Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene should be a normal part of daily life for everyone, everywhere, but 58 million people in Ethiopia lack clean water close to home.

Since 1991, we have worked closely with partners and stakeholders to help people break free from poverty and disease, unlock their potential and change their lives for good through improved access to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, we have also been working towards equitable and sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene. We have also been providing essential handwashing facilities and materials and emergency water tanks to healthcare facilities and COVID-19 isolation centres and intensively rolled out national hygiene and sanitation behaviour change campaigns using various media houses.





Message from our Country Director

Water unites all aspects of life. Access to safe water and sanitation can quickly transform problems into opportunities, giving people more time for school and work and contributing to better health for women, children, and families all over the world. Nonetheless, 785 million people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water. Every day, over 800 children die from diarrhoea caused by poor water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as scarce or unreliable water and sanitation facilities in many communities worldwide.

WaterAid Ethiopia is an innovative and forward-thinking organization that has been working with local and international stakeholders to ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to clean water and sanitation. With nearly two decades of experience under its belt, WaterAid Ethiopia is a strong advocate for the SDGs by using the best infrastructure, resources, and manpower available. We are driven by innovation, creativity, reliability, and a commitment to living our mission.

In a constantly changing and challenging world, we have embraced innovation and service optimization for sustainable growth, reaching more than three million people so far. We are guided by principles that have helped us grow the organization into one of the most prominent WaSH organizations in the country.

We have come a long way with great success, and we still have more work to do. We have a number of new projects to be implemented across the country with the support from various stakeholders, partners and funders. We are open to more sustainable partnerships as we believe in collaborative effort to sustain our goal of making sure everyone, everywhere has access to WaSH. We would like to thank our partners for their trust in us and their support in making sure that we reach our goals.

I hope you will enjoy reading the Newsletter and we look forward to your feedback so that we can continuously improve it along the way.

Warm Regards,

Yaekob Metena
Country Director

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Art for social change

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) are among the sectors which are the most adversely affected by climate change, which impacts the quantity, quality, and infrastructure of water supply technologies. Climate change is one of the biggest issues of our generation, for instance, studies show climate change can increase the population living in extremely high water stress areas from four to five billion in 2050. If climate action is not taken timely, more people will not access clean water and sanitation.

Water is the primary medium through which we will feel the effects of climate change. Water availability is becoming less predictable in many places, and increased incidences of flooding threaten to destroy water points and sanitation facilities and contaminate water sources. These challenges call for necessary climate adaptation and mitigation strategies to guarantee sustainable water and sanitation for all.

Under its Strengthening Systems for Scaling-up of Multi-Village Systems for Resilience project supported by the UK People's Post Code Lottery (PPL) – Climate Action Fund for the piloting of multi-village systems, advocacy, and communication, WaterAid Ethiopia had reached thousands of people with access to clean water in the Amhara region. As part of the project, a documentary and animation videos were produced to showcase how climate change, water, sanitation and hygiene are connected to gender equality.

Our latest documentary and animated videos highlight how WaterAid Ethiopia and its partners are combating the impacts of the climate crisis in Ethiopia.

Watch the videos [here](#).

SCRS WaSH Project: Beyond Job Creation



The Ministry of Water and Energy, WaterAid Ethiopia, and NIRAS International are implementing the Strengthening Climate Resilient (SCRS) WaSH Technical Assistance Project with financing from UKAID. The project aims to organize women and youth organizations as Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) to provide water supply facility maintenance and spare parts supply services, therefore addressing both WaSH and youth unemployment. Strengthening Climate Resilient (SCRS) WaSH Technical Assistance Project Task 2 Diagnostic Assessment Validation and Planning Workshop was held at Base International Hotel. Representatives of FCDO, WaterAid Ethiopia, MoWE, regional water bureaus and Micro and Small-scale enterprises were in attendance. The workshop discussed the key findings, lessons learned, and recommendations from the diagnostic assessment held in six regions across the country over the previous nine months. Attendees also participated in a plenary session to discuss the work plan and prepare the regional action plan for the next six months.

Tamiru Gedefa, Water Supply and Sanitation CEO, Ministry of Water & Energy, made the opening remark. In his speech, Ato Tamiru emphasized the efforts of many stakeholders to increase access to WaSH across the country, including the development of the ONE WASH National Program. 'Over the last eight years, the program has accomplished a great deal. Through this and other initiatives, the government is trying to fulfil the SDGs and ensure that everyone has access to WaSH by 2030. With this goal in mind, the ministry has launched the Strengthening Climate Resilient (SCRS) WaSH Technical Assistance Project, which will run from 2021 to 2024 and is being funded by the UK government,' Ato Tamiru said. One of the project's tasks is to organize unemployed youths in all regions to engage in small and micro enterprises to maintain and provide water facilities in rural and urban areas, therefore reducing youth unemployment and enhancing the clean drinking water supply system.



Tamiru Gedefa, Water Supply and Sanitation CEO, Ministry of Water & Energy giving an opening remark.

The main reason we gathered today is to review the results of the diagnostic assessment completed in six regions and reach an agreement on the actions that will be carried out next. Hence, I urge regional water bureaus, job creation and talent development offices, and other stakeholders to actively participate in order to guarantee the project's future goals are met,' he added.

During his welcoming address, Haimanot Belete, Water Scheme Administration Head, MoWE, gave a highlight on the project and discussed the Diagnostic Assessment conducted in six regions of the nation. According to him, studies suggest that more than 17% of water utilities in the country are inoperative for a variety of reasons, including a shortage of spare parts, financing, and maintenance issues.

'The sustainability of water supply schemes will play a significant part in tackling WaSH issues and alleviating unemployment. We must also guarantee that these businesses are inclusive, with at least 50% of members being women or people with disabilities. WaterAid Ethiopia and NIRAS International conducted this diagnostic assessment in six regions. The assessment was carried out to identify current problems and gaps, the responsibilities of stakeholders and partners, and to map best practices and learnings. The findings of this assessment will be critical in developing a strategy to maintain the sustainability of water supply schemes long after the project is completed,' said Haimanot.



Haimanot Belete, Water Scheme Administration Head, Ministry of Water and Energy giving a welcoming speech.

Haile Dinku, WaterAid Ethiopia's WaSH Sector Strengthening Advisor and SCRS WaSH TAP Task 2 Lead, presented project plans that are expected to be completed during the project's four-year implementation timeframe. Among these are:

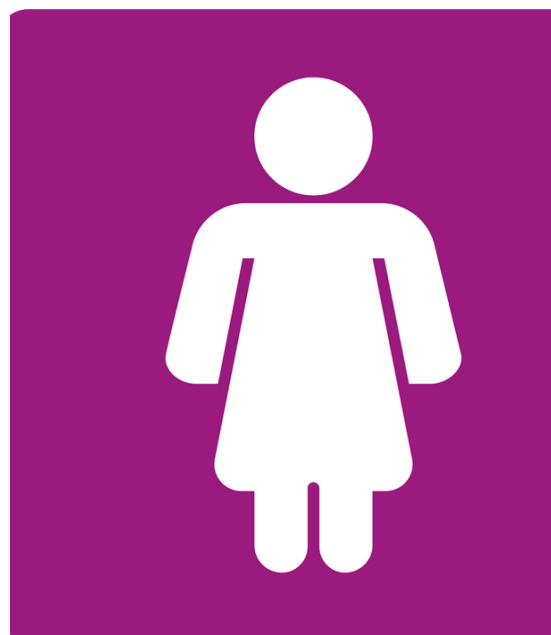
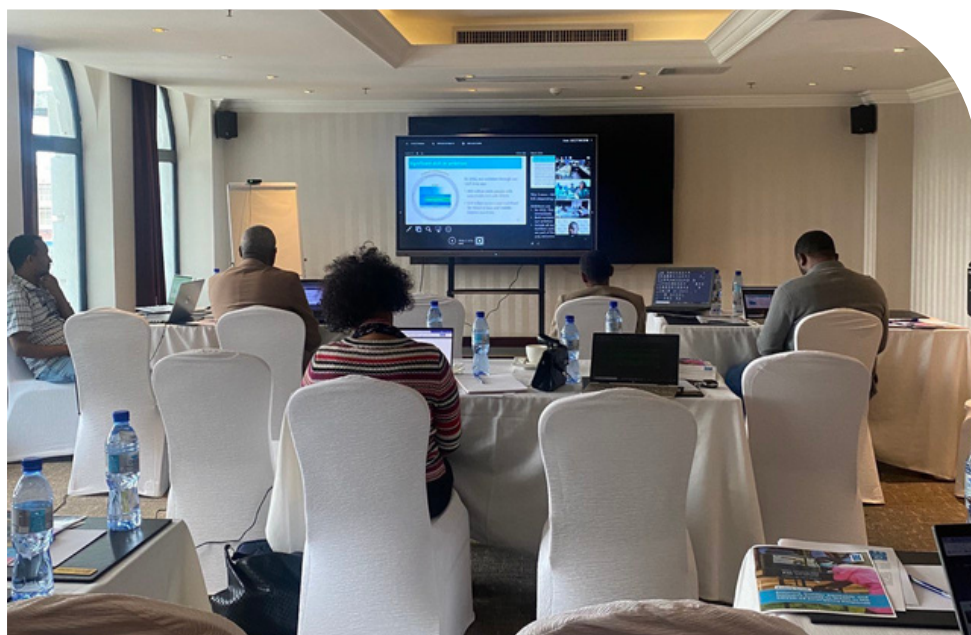
- Access to clean water, improved sanitation services, and proper hygiene habits will be provided to 1.2 million people.
- 900 inclusive (women, girls, and disabled-friendly) WASH facilities for schools and health facilities (health centres/posts) will be built or renovated.
- There will be 98,000 additional residential sanitation facilities developed.



Haile Dinku, WaterAid Ethiopia's WaSH Sector Strengthening Advisor and SCRS WaSH TAP Task 2 Lead

The validation workshop addressed these operational risks, resulting in cross-cutting solutions in the next action plan. The plan's execution will entail the creation of regional MSE key stakeholders' platforms and MSE in six target regions, as well as technical capacity-building support.

The Gender Effects of COVID-19 on access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



The official launch and dissemination of “The East African Research Study Report on the Gender Effects of COVID-19 on access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene” was held across East Africa in September.

This study was conducted in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda in collaboration with the University of Leeds and The African Women’s Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) to explore how the COVID-19 emergency response has affected girls, women and people living with disabilities (PWDs) ability to meet their water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs.

The study report is currently available and will be disseminated among National Governments, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, as well as Private Sector stakeholders, to create awareness and influence the designing of programs, interventions, and services that meet the needs of girls, women and people with disabilities (PWD), especially those who live in the informal settlements.

The hybrid formal launch event held in person and virtually was attended by Olutayo Bankole-Bolawole, Regional Director of WaterAid East Africa, Yaekob Metena, Country Director of WaterAid Ethiopia, Memory Kachambwa, CEO of The African Women’s Development and Communication Network, and representatives of WaterAid country programmes across East Africa, SCRS WASH, ONE WASH National Program, Community Managed Project (CMP) as well as government and nongovernmental stakeholders.

Read the full report [here](#).

Read the Executive Summary of the study [here](#).

Read the Policy Brief [here](#).

Integrating Menstrual Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Noble Cup is the first menstrual cup available to buy in Ethiopia. Photograph: Noble Cup



Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) play a large role in the lives of adolescent girls and women, both biologically and culturally. Gender equity becomes an issue when women and girls lack access to WASH facilities and appropriate hygiene education, affecting a girl's education, sexual and reproductive health, and dignity. While water is a basic human right, we must acknowledge that in many African countries today, access to clean water remains a major challenge. When there is limited or no access to water, sanitation and hygiene severely jeopardized. This has an impact on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). MHM practices can be particularly unhygienic and inconvenient for girls and women in poorer settings.

Menstrual hygiene management is an essential part of WaterAid's integrated approach to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), which contributes to gender equity, education, health, and employment. It is to be recalled that WaterAid has been collaborating with President's Office through implementing inclusive and model WASH facilities in five public schools in Addis Ababa to impact the discourse on empowering women girls, and women with special needs in WASH. MHM emerged from the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector and has played an influential role in framing the discourse around menstruation. WaSH is crucial in ensuring appropriate menstrual hygiene management among girls. It is, thus, important to improve WASH services. A quarter of women in Ethiopia lack access to period products, and the introduction of menstrual cups offers an eco-friendly alternative for girls and women during their menstruation. Noble Cup, the first menstrual cup available to buy in Ethiopia looks at whether reusable, long-lasting menstrual cups could be the solution. In an interview with The Guardian, Mekdim Hailu, campaigner at WaterAid Ethiopia talked about the taboo surrounding menstruation, and how access to WASH and menstrual hygiene relate.

Read the full article [here](#).

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; The foundation for building resilience in climate-vulnerable communities

Climate change is already affecting rainfall and weather patterns, increasing the frequency and severity of floods, droughts, storm surges, temperature extremes, and sea level rises. As a normal part of everyday life, access to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene can help people cope with these disruptions.

Yet in 2020:

- 771 million people still did not have access to basic water
- 1.6 billion did not have basic sanitation
- 2.3 billion could not access basic hygiene services, of whom 670 million people had no handwashing facilities at all

• Around 90% of extreme weather events are related to water – be they through droughts, floods or storms. Natural disasters can often damage or contaminate water sources, affecting the overall availability of water. But as it stands, only 1% of climate finance is invested in providing and protecting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for vulnerable communities.

In collaboration with the University of East Anglia's Water Security Research Centre, WaterAid undertook a study to explain how WASH builds people's resilience to climate change, especially those who are most vulnerable to its effects.

The research found that investing in clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene makes a lasting difference. While these services do not themselves ensure resilience, communities without them will struggle to cope. What's more, better WASH systems can improve a community's well-being and climate change resilience. Key outcomes include:

- Increased household wealth from more secure or diversified employment and livelihoods
- Better WASH governance and community empowerment through strengthened social capital and safety, particularly for women
- Improved access to education and training
- Better community health

• This report, which involved input from across WaterAid, in particular from the Programme Support Unit (PSU) of WaterAid UK, includes case studies from a variety of countries, including Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, India and Nepal, each demonstrating what must be done now to improve WASH services and address current challenges, in order to increase community resilience to climate change.

This report will be a useful resource for WASH and climate specialists, campaigners and decision-makers in the lead-up to COP27 as the need for urgent action on climate resilience and WASH increases.

Download the report [here](#).

Phase 2 – Cluster Approach

Project startup workshop



The Cluster Approach WASH Capacity Development Project (Phase II) is a continuation of the 20 Towns Capacity Development Project, and aims to increase WASH service standards, performance, equity, and access in targeted towns in the Amhara region. The project which has received 250,000 GBP in funding from Yorkshire Water will be implemented over a period of two years. The project will continue to consolidate and build on gains and approaches from the 20 Towns Capacity Development Project /Phase I/ whilst evolving the implementation modality of the project to strengthen foundations for scale and sustainability.

The project startup workshop was held in Bahirdar Town for two days with representatives from Amhara region water bureaus, water utilities, and other stakeholders.

Tesfaye Ababu, Deputy Head of Amhara Region Water & Energy Bureau presented the opening remarks, thanking WaterAid for its constant support in the form of technical and financial assistance to improve WASH services in the Amhara region. Ato Tesfaye also emphasized the necessity of community capacity development training to improve community ownership of water infrastructure and make it more sustainable.

Abraham Misganaw, WaSH Advocacy Advisor at WaterAid Ethiopia, welcomed invited guests and reaffirmed WaterAid's commitment to retaining its support in the wash sector in the region. He stated that the project will enhance wash services in four towns and will meet the wash requirements of 200 impoverished homes in collaboration with water utilities.



Tesfaye Ababu, Deputy Head of Amhara Region Water & Energy Bureau presenting the opening remarks



Abraham Misganaw, WaSH Advocacy Advisor at WaterAid Ethiopia making a welcoming speech

The two-day workshop held on October 18-19, addressed current water utility challenges as well as the project's primary emphasis areas, priorities, and approach.

All In for WaSH in Healthcare Facilities

Strengthening Systems for WASH in Healthcare Facilities project is implemented in Amhara National Regional State: North Mecha, Dera, and Farta districts with the financial support of Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. This project will last from July 2022 to June 2023 and has a budget of 317,000 USD. The one-year project is intended to benefit 36 healthcare facilities through increased social accountability and funding for enhanced data on clean water.

The project was launched on October 17, 2022 in Bahirdar town in the presence of invited guests. Abraham Misganaw, Advocacy Advisor of WaterAid Ethiopia, representatives of the regional finance bureau, regional health bureau, district health office, healthcare facilities in North Mecha, Dera, and Farta districts, government officials, and other invited guests attended the launching workshop. Participants reviewed the present state of WaSH in healthcare facilities and the steps that should be taken to enhance services and achieve the SDG goals.



Addisu Abebaw, Amhara Region Health Bureau Resource Mobilization, Administration and Partnership Directorate Director made an opening remark about the importance of infection prevention control and how it can improve healthcare facilities' services and the lives of patients and health professionals. He went on to say that the workshop will showcase the current state of these facilities while also laying the groundwork for the future with realistic and feasible objectives.



Addisu Abebaw, Amhara Region Health Bureau Resource Mobilization, Administration and Partnership Directorate Director

Throughout its implementation period the project is expected to strengthen healthcare systems and accelerate reliable access to safer water that is affordable, inclusive and sustainable.



**One WaterAid.
Three goals.**

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Ideas, suggestions or questions? Let us know!

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