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# WaterAid Ethiopia Quarterly Newsletter

January - March 2022

WaterAid/ Behailu Shiferaw

## What's in This Issue:

- Supporting communities in their fight against Covid-19
- Launching our new global strategy
- Event: World Water Day 2022
- Celebrating International Women's Day at Work
- Gender at the center of WASH and climate change
- Participation in the Dereja Annual Career Expo - Meeting potential candidates and creating brand awareness



# WaterAid Ethiopia Quarterly Newsletter -Vol 02

## Our work in Ethiopia



WaterAid is an international, non-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.



# A message from our Country Director



## WHAT WE'VE LEARNED OVER THE PAST YEAR - REFLECTING AND GOING FORWARD

As we reflect back on the 2021/2022 fiscal year, it's important that we also look inward. The year has been filled with challenges, but it's also been accompanied with opportunities to reach out and impact the needy communities. As we close the fiscal year and look forward to 2022/2023, I encourage all to reflect on what has worked and what has gone wrong on a personal and organizational scale and acknowledge where we might need to listen more keenly, and adapt our thinking and change our actions. For WaterAid specifically, we also need to assess how our new Global Strategy will be implemented, how our people and processes adapt, and how our commitment to our mission was seen in our work.

The past three months have been a transitional period that has allowed us to look within and get ourselves ready for the new WaterAid year. With the new Global Strategy launched, we are now committed more than ever to ensuring WASH access for all. Our programs/projects across the country are great testimonies to our work. We have inaugurated various projects in Amhara and Oromia Regional State as Addis Ababa and Harar Towns making WASH facilities accessible for thousands of people.

In this new Fiscal Year 2022/23, let us take a pledge together to increase our impact even further in a way that we embark onto a successful, peaceful and prosperous financial year.

This Newsletter highlights various works of our organization performed in the past three months (January, February and March 2022) that are aligned with our annual plan. Various partners such as the Government of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Water Technology Institute (EWTI), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water, and Energy, and donors such as Heineken Africa Foundation, H&M Foundation, and many others have been supporting us in our work to take actions towards universal WASH access. I am sure we will be continuing to make such an impactful footprint in communities we work with in the coming WaterAid year as well.

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



Supporting communities in their fight against Covid-19

01

Launching our new Global Strategy

02

Event: World Water Day 2022

03

Celebrating International Women's Day at Work

04

Gender and WASH at the center of Climate Change

05

A technical orientation and training program to improve WASH services

06

Participation in the Dereja Annual Career Expo - Meeting potential candidates and creating brand awareness

07



# Supporting communities in their fight against Covid-19



WaterAid/ Frehiwot Gebrewold



Since the first COVID-19 case was discovered in Ethiopia on 13 March 2022, WaterAid Ethiopia has been supporting Government actions in combatting the pandemic as it is closely linked to the organization's commitment to advance WASH. As the pandemic continues to threaten our global community, our work to improve access to clean water, decent sanitation, and good hygiene for everyone, everywhere has never been more critical. Thanks to our supporters and partners such as Heineken Africa Foundation we are working to increase access to these vital needs for the most vulnerable people.

The Heineken Africa Foundation has extended its partnership with WaterAid Ethiopia to support the second phase of the COVID-19 Response Project which was launched last year helping vulnerable communities protect themselves against the spread of the disease. We implemented the 2nd phase of the project from May 2021 to March 2022 in Addis Ababa City Administration and Harar Town.

The project in Harar town and three sub-cities of Addis Ababa (Kofe Keranio, Gulale and Akaki/Kality), has enabled us to reach 115,787 people

(men, women, children, people with disabilities, vulnerable and marginalised persons) by improving WASH facilities and raising peoples' awareness about essential hygiene behaviours.

The project has connected 186 households to water taps in Addis Ababa and Harar, providing water to more than **one thousand people**. This has enabled them to practice good hygiene to help with COVID-19 prevention. It has also contributed to raising peoples' awareness of COVID-19 prevention and necessary behaviours toward this end. WaterAid highly appreciates the commitment of the Heineken Africa Foundation.







With the support of those who share our mission, WaterAid, has helped transform the lives of tens of millions of people's lives through clean water, decent toilets, and good hygiene.

Since 2000, around the world over two billion people gained access to basic water, 2.7 billion have gained basic sanitation, and over twice as many gained safely managed sanitation around the world. But to meet the promise made by the international community to bring a safe and sustainable supply to everyone by 2030, the rate of global progress needs to quadruple.

The new WaterAid Global Strategy outlines that there needs to be a major change in our approach and ambition in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and ensure that everyone has access to safe and sustainable water, sanitation, and basic hygiene. Our ambitions, partnerships, and approaches will be transformed under this 10-year strategy to help end the water, sanitation, and hygiene crisis forever.

During its regional management team meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, WaterAid East Africa team formally welcomed and inaugurated the new Global Strategy. WaterAid Ethiopia team actively participated in the meeting, themed "Enhancing Strategic Prioritization of WASH in East Africa."

Over the next decade, the new Global Strategy envisions bringing sustainable WASH to 400 million more people, focusing for the long-term on specific towns and districts until universal WASH access is achieved. Every year, WaterAid globally aims to unlock \$15 billion in new public and private investment in projects related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

WaterAid Ethiopia will use the Global Strategy as a foundation for developing its Country Program Strategy. The Strategy that has guided operations the period from 2016 – 2021 has ended and evaluated for learning and preparations are underway to kick-start defining a new Five Years Country Program Strategy.



## Event: World Water Day 2022

Globally nearly 99% of the freshwater on the planet. With nearly half of the world's population facing severe water scarcity for at least some part of the year, while around 2.2 billion people currently do not have access to fresh drinking water, there is still a lot to do. To give special emphasis on the importance of groundwater, This year's World Water Day was celebrated on March 22 with the theme "Making the invisible visible".

To recognize the efforts so far on water access and raise awareness on the global water crisis, WaterAid Ethiopia partnered with the Ministry of Water and Energy and other WASH actors at national level. The event was attended by H.E. Ambassador Asfaw Dingamo, Water and Sanitation State Minister of Ministry of Water and Energy, H.E. Motuma Mekassa, Advisor to the Minister, State Ministers and representative of UN Agencies and INGOs/NGOs. WaterAid Ethiopia was represented by Yaekob Metena, the Country Director and other staff. The event was officially opened by H.E. Ambassador Asfaw who highlighted the government's commitment to achieving SDG goals and protection of groundwater from different pollutions and climate change-induced challenges. In the event, multiple studies and researches on groundwater pollution, status, and importance were presented and discussed to solve the current global and national water crisis. WaterAid Ethiopia used the opportunity of the event to showcase its success and approaches through presenting its stories in physical and audio-visual display. The Guest of Honor and other participants visited WaterAid display and expressed their appreciations.



*H.E. Ambassador Asfaw Dingamo, State Minister of Ministry of Water and Energy visiting WaterAid Ethiopia's booth.*





International Women's Day (March 8) is a global event for women and girls' accomplishments as well as a call for action about the challenges that remain on the road to gender equality. Women play a very important role in achieving WaterAid's vision. As an organization, we owe a lot to women and the incredible work they do, but we also have a lot to gain from having a diverse workforce that is comprised of women and men from all backgrounds!

In this spirit, WaterAid Ethiopia held a ceremony at its head office to celebrate its women employees. At the event, the audio-visual address by UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous was shared in which she recognized the leadership and courage of women and girls as solution multipliers against climate change. Moreover, two major topics were discussed: *What is it like to work for WaterAid Ethiopia as a woman, and how can we ensure we have more women staff members?*

Following the discussion, a short survey was sent out to the staff to gather their ideas on the matter

Various suggestions were provided through the survey on how to create a better working environment for women staff, increase the number of female staff members, and promote gender inclusivity in WASH service delivery and advocacy projects.

Capacity development; training education opportunities (scholarships) for women staff were recommended among others to make sure the working environment is empowering to women. It was also suggested that women should be purposely supported to engage in the WASH management Committees and WASH enterprises in our interventions and beyond to be able to generate income, providing incentives for women such as transportation fees where needed to participate in WASH Management Committee, work more on MHM to reach more in-school girls, working closely with the women, children and youth affairs office in project implementation areas to contribute to women's empowerment in every aspect as these are vital in promoting gender inclusivity.



Water and sanitation are fundamental human rights and integral to a human rights-based approach to development that recognizes the importance and indivisibility of all rights. Yet, women and girls bear the greatest burden from lack of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services – and these inequalities are exacerbated by climate change. WaterAid Ethiopia conducted a policy review to generate evidence of whether WASH and climate change policy documents are sensitive to the vulnerability of women and girls; whether climate change and WASH policies prioritize gender-sensitive objectives and review the role of Ethiopia women rights organizations and women associations in climate adaptation negotiations globally and in Ethiopia. The policy assessments were validated and policy action plans to be taken up by the WASH sector, the Climate Change sector, and CSOs and gender rights organizations were identified for action.

In collaboration with Union for Ethiopian Women and Child Association, WaterAid Ethiopia held a policy roundtable discussion on gender at the center of WASH and climate change with representatives from civil society organizations, national and subnational government stakeholders, and partners. The aim of the 3 days long roundtable discussion was to make gender and climate change the centers of WASH. Discussions helped identify policy gaps, way forward to address them, and set future coordination mechanisms to fill the gap. Common understandings reached among participants that national policies, strategies, and programs do not adequately address gender issues, and this causes gender inequality not to be recognized at the expected level. It was noted that the importance of involving women in the preparation, formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies as well as in the process of making decisions and policy. It was decided to take a variety of actions as a way forward to address the issue, among them:

- Establish WASH, climate change, and gender nexus platform at a national and local level
- Review climate-related policies to focus on Gender equality and WASH
- Establish standalone policy on gender-related to climate action and WASH.



# A technical orientation and training program to improve WASH services

Through the Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene services at scale (SusWASH) and the Future on Tap projects which are currently under implementation in Gololcha and Berbere Woredas/Districts of the Oromia Region, WaterAid is working to contribute towards universal and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) access.

As part of its work in the region, WaterAid Ethiopia conducted training and learning visit session in its project sites to support in facilitating training & workshops of Gololcha District and also conduct monitoring visit to Gololcha and Berbere Districts. The sessions included meetings and discussions with Gololcha and Berbere project teams and a learning field visit to project implementation sites to provide on the site technical support.

Accordingly, 6 days technical training and orientation was provided for zonal, woreda and community members in Bale Robe town on Gender, Equity and Inclusion guidance paper, Business Plan preparation, Asset & Financial Management, Operation & Maintenance etc. The joint training was provided by WaterAid Ethiopia Headoffice and Project Field staff and the Ethiopian Water Technology Institute (EWTI). Assessment results showed that district stakeholders, including WASH service providers and rights organizations lack adequate capacity to play their roles related to gender equality and social inclusion. Community members have low awareness on the outcomes of achieving gender equality and social inclusion in WASH.

In monitoring visits to projects, lessons were learned and areas of improvement were captured and shared. It was learned that the Buriya kebele (Gololcha District) water supply system that uses both solar energy and generator is made functional addressing the dire need of the community providing water to more than 40,000 people. The system serves the community, schools, and health posts and WaterAid initiated the formation of WASHCO to manage the system and developed its capacity. Construction of roof water harvesting systems is also finalized in other kebeles of the District enabling health center and health pots to access safe water.

WaterAid Ethiopia's projects in the Oromia region are expected to provide up to 100,000 people with clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services. These two projects are financed by H&M Foundation and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.





# Participation in the Dereja Annual Career Expo - Meeting potential candidates and creating brand awareness

The Dereja Annual Career Expo is a recruitment platform organized in a standard location to hire staff for several organizations at once. It serves as a networking and discussion platform for recruiters, employers, and job seekers who just graduated from university.

Through multiple events throughout the past five years, the expo has enabled more than 70,000 students to find jobs.

The annual job fair for fresh graduates, Dereja career expo was held for two days on January 13 and 14 at Ghion hotel.

More than 60 companies participated at the two day long career expo, which aligned more than 15,000 fresh graduates with potential employers.

The curtains of the event were raised in the presence of Nigussu Tilahun, Commissioner of Ethiopian Job Creation Commission and project managers of the Dereja.com, Info Mind Solution.

## What made it necessary for WaterAid Ethiopia to attend the Annual Career Expo 2021?

- 20,000+ Access to CV Search on Dereja.com

By participating in this job fair, we were able to get access to large pools of qualified candidates and an opportunity to meet potential candidates in person.

- 50,000+ Candidates Long- Listing services

By attending this job fair, we were able to reach out to a large pool of potential employees without having to advertise and find exceptional candidates quickly by attending the Dereja job fair, rather than sifting through lists of random candidates.

- Increase Brand Awareness

Attending this job fair encouraged talented job seekers to be aware of and consider WaterAid and developed strong brand awareness among job seekers, students, employees, and even other employers.

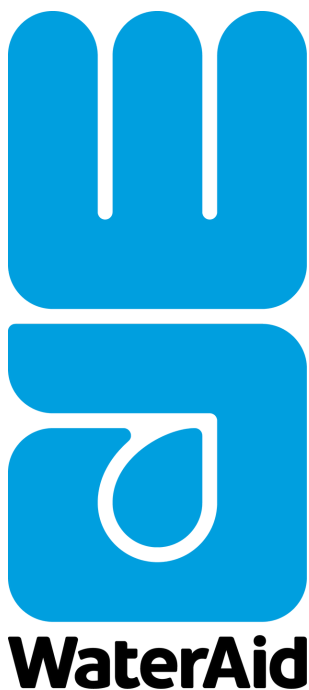
- Find Young Talent

Through the Dereja job fair, we were able to connect with students who are ready to start their careers and reach out to young talent before they graduate and are picked up by another company.





**One WaterAid.  
Three goals.**



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