



WaterAid/Mekdim Hailu

Promoting Sustainable WASH Services at Scale (SuSWASH) Project Inauguration Report

June 11, 2022



NATIONAL CONTEXT



Ethiopia is the second-largest country in sub-Saharan Africa with a population of over 100 million people. Ethiopia is vulnerable to sustained droughts and famines, severely affecting the rural population which is primarily reliant on rain-fed agriculture as their source of livelihood. Though the country has plenty of natural resources and is rich in history and culture; only 52% of its population has access to clean water services of which 10% is safely managed. When it comes to sanitation; 72% of the population practices sanitation but only 11% has improved sanitation access and 7% practices hygiene.

To change the lives of these people, WaterAid established its office in Ethiopia in 1991 and so far, it has served more than 3 million people with clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services. WaterAid Ethiopia (WAE) is also working towards four strategic outputs: (1) climate resilience knowledge gaps are identified and filled to influence WASH sector actors; (2) marginalized and vulnerable groups are included in WASH programming; (3) effective WASH systems at local government level influence sector processed and (4) WASH systems are integrated with other sectors.

On June 11, 2022, WaterAid Ethiopia held an inauguration ceremony for the construction of WASH facilities in the Gololcha District of the Oromia Regional States of Ethiopia that have improved WASH access to over 24,000 people. This event was attended by government officials, community members, representatives of WAE's partners as well as WAE's staff.

ABOUT THE PROJECT



Studies of rural water supply functionality show 30-40% of non-functionality and for urban water supply, the unaccounted water ranges from 20-40%. On the other hand, the slippage rate of ODF communities ranges from 63-90% using a combination of different criteria. Hence, water and sanitation-related disease remains one of the most significant health problems accounting for 80% of the communicable disease burden and also among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality for under-five children in Ethiopia. According to the National WASH Inventory results indicated that only 33% and 31% of Ethiopia's schools have access to improved latrines and water supply, respectively (MoWIE, 2013).

Institutions and WASHCos lack the capacity to generate income and mobilize resources from communities to sustain WASH services. Available government and donor funds are prioritizing new infrastructural investments than building the capacity of service providers to sustain the existing services. Hygiene promotion efforts have not yet resulted in behavioural change that will help to maximize and sustain the benefits of water and sanitation services.

According to the Gololcha District report, in the intervention area access to safe water supply and improved sanitation are 46% and 22% respectively. On top of this, the sustainability of the services is in question due to a lack of capabilities and robust systems.

To address the problems different models and approaches will be tested to address the WASH service problems in a sustainable manner. Thus, community management plus models, engagement of Micro and small enterprises, hygiene promotion approaches using formative research as well as climate-resilient technologies will be tested and applied to ensure equitable and sustainable WASH services in communities and institutions. The learning from these models and approaches will be documented, synthesized, and shared to inform policy and practice change in the wider sector. There will also be different capacity and system strengthening activities conducted.

The key outcomes of the project are:

- Suitable models and approaches for equitable, inclusive, and sustainable WASH service delivery including hygiene behavior change strategies for households, schools, and healthcare facilities are used to inform local and national level planning, investment, and policy;
- Improved capacity for planning, budgeting, monitoring, and coordinating WASH services at local and national levels;
- Institutionalized processes in place that will facilitate discourse between the service users and service provider to ensure the sustainability of WASH services;
- An improved environment at the local/national level which enables sustainable WASH service delivery with clear roles and responsibilities, institutional arrangements, policies, and regulatory frameworks



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Promoting Sustainable WASH Services at Scale (SuSWASH) project implemented in Oromia region, East Bale zone, Gololcha District is funded by H & M Foundation and Oromia Regional State was a 5-year project that allowed more than **24,000** people to have access to water.

Type and number of beneficiaries:

- Direct (Male and Female) - **17,740** (9,047 Male and 8,693 Female)
- Indirect (Male and Female) - **6,209** (3,166 Male and 3,043 Female)

Total Budget: ETB **57,076,492** or USD **1,102,394.77**

Jara Town Water Supply System and Sanitation Facilities

Number of People benefited: **12,500**

Buriya Water Supply System and Sanitation Facilities

Number of People benefited: **4,144**

Safogue Water Supply System and Sanitation Facilities

Number of People benefited: **3,900**

To meet project objectives, the project expanded and strengthened water supply pipe systems for three communities and four schools, continued sensitizing communities in two rural kebeles (Buriya and Safogue) and Jara town, and conducted WASH interventions in three health care facilities and one school, enhancing citizen engagement, mapping health care WASH facilities, and providing capacity-building support to woreda and community level WASH stakeholders.

Health centers and schools were provided with water systems and sanitation facilities reaching more than **29,000** people in the three kebeles. Hygiene promotion awareness training has also been provided to community health workers, WASHCOs, School WASH, and community members.

In terms of capacity building, the community forum and water board are established and well trained to enhance Jara town water utility service delivery performance. WASH committees are established and well trained in Buriya and Safogue which is playing a huge role in the sustainability of the project.



Inauguration event

The inauguration event held on June 11, 2022, included visits to Buriya kebele and Jara town was attended by Yaekob Metena, Country Director of WaterAid Ethiopia, Getahun Diriba, Gololcha Woreda Administration Head, and Eshetu Bekele, East Bale Zone Head of Administration. In their speeches representatives of the administration stated that the people of the area long suffered from a lack of water and this is a huge relief for them.



Yaekob Metena, WAE's Country Director; Getahun Diriba, Gololcha Woreda Administration Head, and Eshetu Bekele, East Bale Zone Head of Administration cutting a ribbon by the communal waterpoint in Jara Town





Invited guests visiting the well the people of Buriya used to fetch water from.

The warm inauguration ceremony at Gololcha District took place in the presence of community members who were highly involved and supported the project throughout its implementation. The guests and staff of WaterAid Ethiopia visited some WASH facilities completed under the project and witnessed their function. The invited guests also visited the hand-dug water well where the people of Buriya Kebele used to get water from. This well, which is said to be more than 50 years old has been the only source of water for the community. For many, collecting water from this place has been dangerous. The groundwater well that has been observed is too deep that people built layers of stepping grounds underneath so they each could stand on it and transport a bucket of water upwards from person to person. This dangerous process has caused loss of lives and injuries, especially to women.

'I have stopped collecting water since that bad moment. My leg doesn't allow me to move as I used to,' says Memuna Malima, 65. Memuna is a mother of four and lives in Buriya Kebele with her children and grandchildren. Like most women in Ethiopia, Memuna is also responsible for taking care of the household chores. Fetching and carrying 20 litres of water in a jerrycan on her back was Memuna's daily chore, and she used to do this more than five times within a day. However, one day a very sad incident happened that changed Memuna's life. As usual, she went to the well carrying her jerrycan to collect water, and she was standing by the edge of the well to pull jerricans full of water out of it. However, that day the edge collapsed and four women including Memuna fell into the well. One of the women died, and the three who survived were badly injured. Memuna broke her leg and since then she hasn't been able to do the things she used to and can't move from one place to another easily like before.



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Women of Buriya Kebele standing by the edge of a hand-dug well where they used to collect water from, Buriya Kebele, Gololcha District, Bale Zone, Oromia Region, Ethiopia.

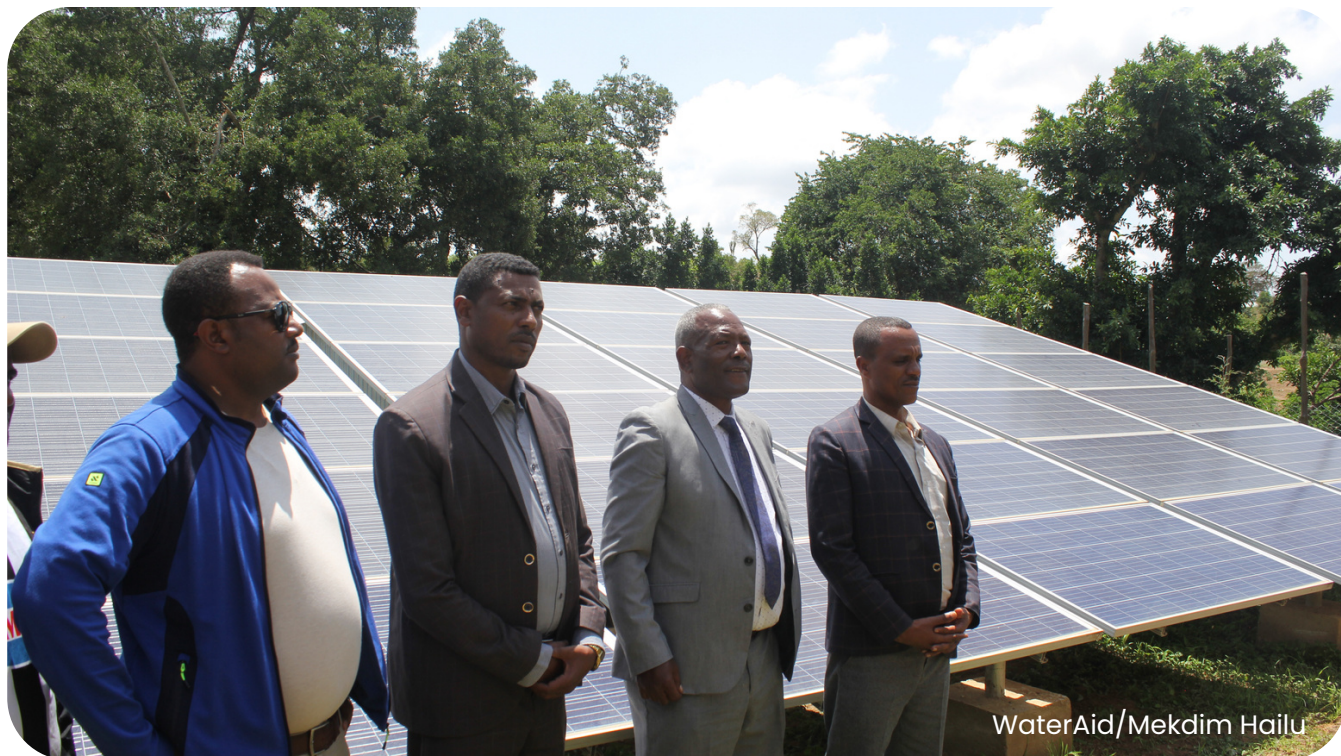
Now, Memuna's village has access to clean water and there is a water point near her house. This made life easier for Memuna's family as it was impossible for Memuna to go out and collect water for her family because of her injury. Memuna and her family are very grateful to WaterAid for its support in providing access to clean water in their village.

'I am very much excited because now my family can access clean water near our house. It really makes our life easier,' says Memuna.



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Memuna Malima, 65, Resident of Buriya Kebele



Guests visiting the solar panel in Buriya Kebele

The team also visited the solar water panel located in Buriya Kebele. The project pioneers the use of a hybrid system that combines a generator and solar pump to reduce costs. Solar pumps reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, which are costly for poor people in rural areas. Decentralized renewable energy systems that rely on locally accessible resources might be the answer to the rural energy crisis, especially in isolated locations where the use of generators is not a practical option. Solar energy, with its essentially endless potential and free availability, provides a nonpolluting and inexhaustible energy source that can be exploited to satisfy a significant portion of humanity's energy demands.





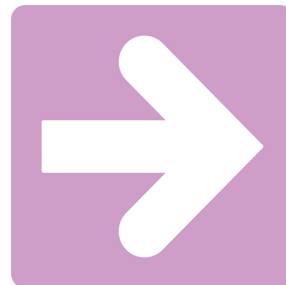
Mussa Allo, pictured above and Afework Tadesse, pictured below, the project's coordinators gave the media and invited guests a brief on the project stating that this would not have been possible without the support of the community and the district and zone administration. Afework, WaterAid's WASH Officer stated that the 5 years long project has changed the lives of more than 24,000 people. 'With a cost of 57 million birr WaterAid Ethiopia has implemented this project by building solar and generator powered water systems that provide clean water to the three kebeles in the Gololcha District. Currently, the facilities are being managed by the association formed by the community and we believe this has an immense impact on the sustainability,' added Afework.





Yaekob Metena, WaterAid Ethiopia's Country Director congratulated everyone for the inauguration of the project as it's a collaboration effort. Yaekob explained the process of the works undertaken through the project. He said, "WaterAid Ethiopia works in 37 countries around the world to provide the society with clean water and standard sanitation and hygiene facilities. It has been 30 years since WaterAid started operation in Ethiopia and has served millions of people. Our work in the town of Robe that has been serving the community with water for the past 20 years is a proof of the sustainability of our work. The project inaugurated today is one of our 18 projects across the country. The project came to succeed through a combined effort. We first had to identify the problems the community has been facing in hygiene and sanitation, and we needed to make a proposal based on that. We then had to look for donors who could support us to work towards combating the problem. Luckily, we have found an organization called H & M foundation. For almost a decade, the H&M Foundation has been working with WaterAid at a global scale to reach people with lasting clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. The foundation funded SusWASH project took place in four countries: Cambodia, Uganda, Pakistan and Ethiopia. In addition to H & M Foundation's support, it is important to acknowledge the Oromia regional state for donating 5 million birr in matching funds. The administration was engaged in every part of the process which played a huge role in its success. As WaterAid, nothing makes us happier than to see people have access to clean water. This is a joy for us all.'

Ato Eshetu Bekele, Head of East Bale Zone Administration thanked WaterAid for its effort in tackling the water crisis in the area. "The people of gololcha have long suffered from lack of water," he stated. "As we have seen in our visit to Buriya Kebele people had to get water from a very dangerous well risking their lives. It is great to see their problem solved with the joint effort of WaterAid and the government. We have seen various projects being implemented but not sustainable. That is what makes WaterAid different. For the past two years, we have seen it being sustainable with capacity-building training given to the community on how to manage the facilities. This creates a feeling of ownership in the community. We would like to share our deep gratitude for WaterAid for this project and we hope we will be able to work on more projects in the area as Gololcha is comprised of 27 kebeles. There are still 24 kebeles that are facing challenges in water access. We look forward to helping the community with your support."



The community showed its appreciation for WaterAid by presenting the staff with various cultural clothes and awarding a certificate for the organization.

WaterAid Ethiopia believes that the inaugurated project will contribute a lot to the government's plan to provide clean water, and standard and inclusive WASH facilities to the people of Ethiopia.

WaterAid Ethiopia's staff receiving cultural attires and an appreciation certificate from representatives of the local government.



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Three goals.**