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WATERAID ETHIOPIA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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A Message from our Country Director

“ Together, we can make difference towards ending the water, sanitation and hygiene crisis together – for everyone, everywhere.”

We are pleased to announce resumption of WaterAid Ethiopia’s Quarterly Newsletter that often highlights our core achievements and conveys organizational messages with the aim of transforming the WASH agenda. Its circulation was interrupted for couple of months due to various reasons.

This year, we have gone through significant milestones in our organizational history. Among others, we finalized the development of new country programme strategy (2023 – 2028) and launched it on October 05, 2023. The strategy focuses on two aims: (1) Achieve universal, sustainable and safe WASH services in focused geographic areas to influence wider change and (2) Strengthen the resilience of WASH to climate change. We have also undergone a change process to reposition ourselves for effective implementation of the strategy and transitioned into a new organisational structure.

In our advocacy initiative, we took active part in various national and global forums to showcase our work and influence specific water and climate related agendas together with stakeholders and CSOs. We have also brought in processes and successes from various projects we are currently implementing across the country.

This Newsletters provides highlights on these and other developments to inform readers on who we are, what we do and where we work. IN case any reader wishes to know more about us, please, explore our website, social media channels and other products we issue.

Together, we can make difference towards ending the water, sanitation and hygiene crisis together – for everyone, everywhere.

Hope you will enjoy reading the Newsletter.



Yaekob Metena

WaterAid Ethiopia’s Country Director

Our New Country Programme Strategy Colourfully Launched

Universal, Sustainable, Safe and Climate Resilient WASH

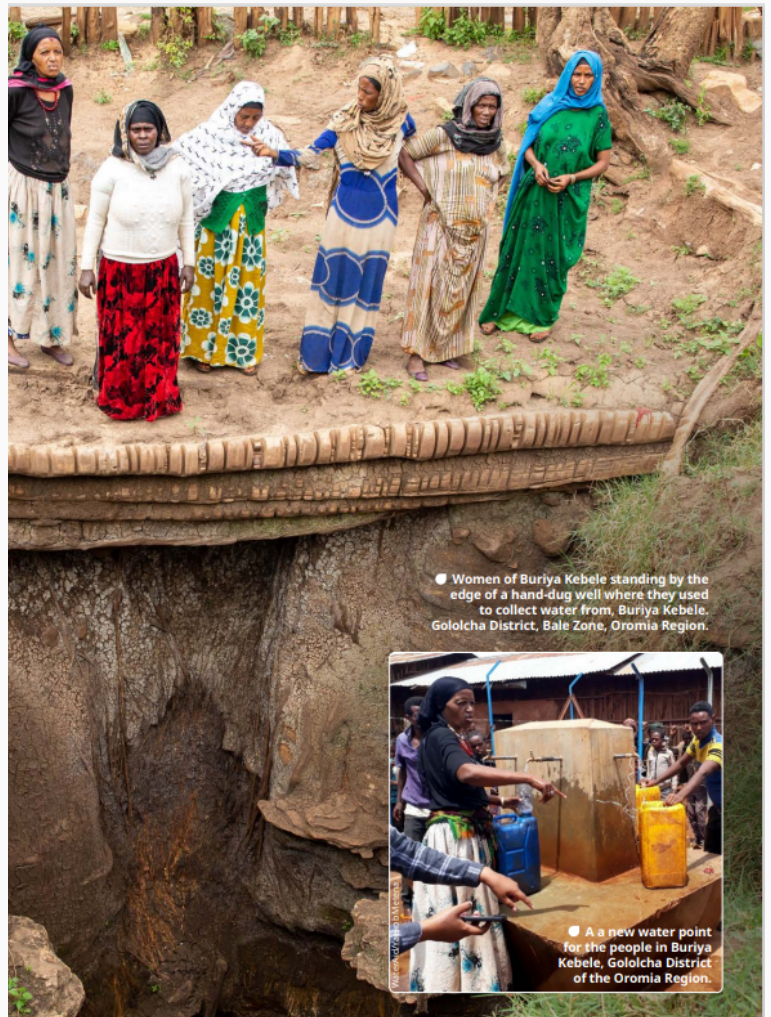
Our New five years' Country Programme Strategy for the period 2023 – 2028, is all about building on the gains we have made so far. It is also about WaterAid's 10-year Global Strategy (2022 – 2032) that made bold commitment to end the water, sanitation and hygiene crises together – for everyone everywhere.

WaterAid recognises that access to inclusive, sustainable, and safe WASH is a foundation for a prosperous and dignified life for everyone.

During its decades presence in Ethiopia WAE have been involved with numerous WASH interventions and engagements, and still on a quest to end the dire water, sanitation and hygiene crisis in Ethiopia.



Tigist, 14, filling her jerrycan with clean water from one of the waterpoints near where she lives, Addis Alem Village, Mankussa Abdogoma Kebele, Jabi Tehnan.



● 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.

● A new water point for the people in Buriya Kebele, Gololcha District of the Oromia Region.

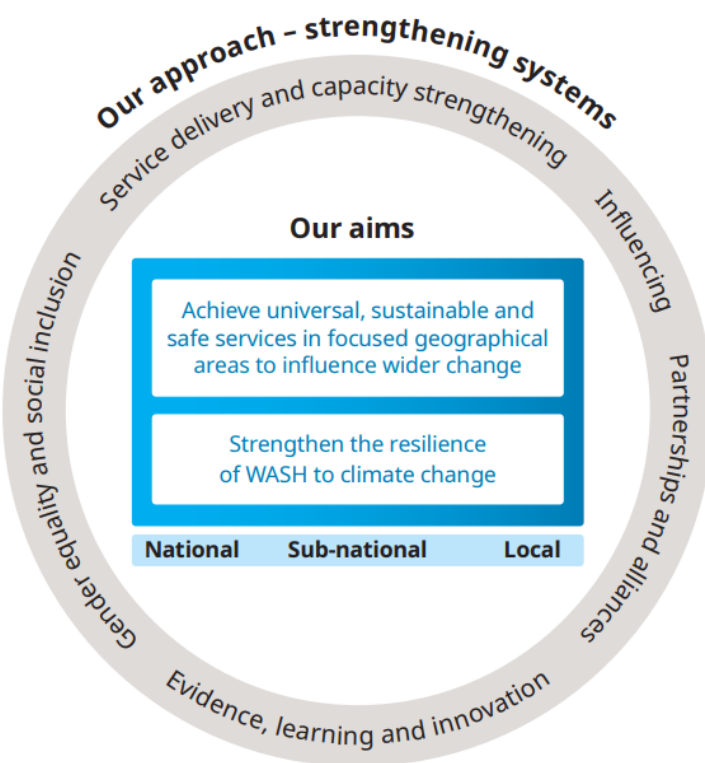
Compared to our previous strategies, the newly launched strategy is more ambitious that requires a collective effort of wide range of WASH actors and other sectors who have interest to WASH through a multisectoral collaboration.

WaterAid Ethiopia (WAE) will engage with and influence service providers and the Government to bring about impactful change, serving as a catalyst for sustainable and safe WASH services to households, healthcare facilities, and schools in rural and urban areas.

The New Strategy

Over the next five years strategy period, WAE will focus on two aims; achieve universal, sustainable and safe WASH services in focused geographic areas to influence wider change and strengthen the resilience of WASH to climate change.

WAE have targeted to reach five million under served people in selected districts of the Amhara and Oromia Regions with sustainable and safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services and behaviour change.



The new Strategy is about demonstrating innovative technologies and approaches, piloting sustainable service delivery and effective management models for inclusive, sustainable, safe, and climate resilient services, and influencing work to their replication which will accelerate actions towards universal WASH access. During the new strategic period WAE will work on improving WASH service delivery, develop capacities and management models, and make strong cases using proven evidence to justify how WASH has a positive impact on society, the economy, and public health, and its linkage with climate change in the broader poverty alleviation work.

PROMOTE WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

- WASH facilities resistant to climate change
- Watershed management
- Use of solar power that is environmental friendly



Through its Climate Resilient WASH project, WAE has reached 53,633 people with access to basic water in its project programme areas.



WaterAid Ethiopia Country Programme Strategy 2023–2028



Strengthening systems for universal, sustainable and safe WASH services and behaviour change





The Launching Ceremony

The successful strategy launch took place at Hilton Hotel, in Addis Ababa in the presence of H.E. Ambassador Asfaw Dingamo, State Minister, Ministry of Water and Energy, Lelisa Amanuel, Chief of Staff, State Minister office, Ministry of Health, Dr. Getahun Garede, Director General, Environmental Protection Authority, Water Utility office representatives as well as beneficiaries from the Amhara and Oromia Regions, Olutayo Bankole-Bolawole, Executive Director for People and Culture, Terfund and outgoing Regional Director for WaterAid East Africa; Maurice Kwizera, WaterAid East Africa Regional Director, Yaekob Metena, Country Director for WaterAid Ethiopia; representatives from United Kingdom, Danish as well as Canada Embassies; representatives from CSO; partner organisations; and the media; as well as WaterAid Ethiopia staffs.

The launching event featured an exhibition that displayed WaterAid Ethiopia's achievements throughout previous strategic year, a panel discussion, a comprehensive documentary video viewing session and an official CP Strategy document inauguration that ended with a cake cutting ceremony.



Ambassador Asfaw is making keynote address.

“WaterAid’s contribution is significant in advancing WASH in Ethiopia and the Ministry is committed to provide the necessary support for the success of the new strategy”

Ambassador Asfaw Dingamo,
State Minister, Ministry of Water and Energy



The revealed new strategy document contains relevant information on the country context, the role, and value addition of WaterAid in the Ethiopian WASH ecosystem, the region and beyond. It describes the strategic Aims and approaches that will guide our work. The detailed programme plans, and strategy resourcing plans to implement the strategy are in separate documents accompanying the strategy.



Ambassador Asfaw having a conversation with Maurice, Yaekob and Tayo at the display room



WaterAid Ethiopia Team at the new strategy launching event

WaterAid Ethiopia's high level Advocacy efforts



Ethiopian Ministry of Water and Energy organised a month-long exhibition, under the theme, “Our Water Resource for our Prosperity,” at the Addis Ababa Science Museum. The exhibition brings government, private, and Civil Society Organisations together to exhibit Water, Energy and Metrology related services and technologies.

Our Water Resource for our Prosperity exhibition was officially opened on August 18, 2023 in the presence of Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, along with other high government officials. WaterAid Ethiopia was one of the CSO's selected by the ministry to exhibit its model WASH delivery services.

Through out the month, there were over 100,000 visitors at the exhibition. WAE's booth was visited by Dr. Eng. Habtamu Itefa Geleta, Minister of Water and Energy, State Ministers, other high government officials, developmental organisations, Ambassadors, WAE staff and the public.



Celebrating Global Hand Washing Day



World Toilet Day Commemoration



In partnership with Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MOH), WAE celebrated Global Hand Washing Day 2023. The event was celebrated at Hilton Addis Hotel under the theme "Clean Hands Are Within Reach" with a high-level Advocacy Workshop. Abireham Misganaw WaterAid Ethiopia's Policy and Research Advocacy Specialist was one of the 6 panellists among representatives from MOH, MOE, UNICEF and Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disability. Abireham presented WAE's commitment and contribution towards promoting hand washing behaviour.



Prior to this high-level advocacy workshop WaterAid staff celebrated the day, with a social media campaign holding a slogan that displayed this years theme "Clean Hands are Within Reach."

WaterAid Ethiopia took a significant role in the celebration of World Toilet Day for the 7th time in Ethiopia. The day was celebrated in the presence of high government officials, representatives from other CSOs and the media under the theme "Accelerating Change for Safely managed Toilets." World Toilet Day was commemorated on November 23, 2023.

The celebration was officially opened by Dr. Dereje Duguma, State Minister of Ministry of Health at Mezgebe Birhan Primary school followed the participants visit of the school toilets and households safely managed toilets. Dr. Dereje in his speech explained that children under the age of 5 years in Ethiopia, suffer from various water and respiratory related health problems, due to unsafely managed toilets.

Mulu Kasa, the principal of Mezgebe Birhan Primary school said that the school was awarded for its clean and safely managed toilets. She added that the school provided 1 toilet accessible to 28 students in 2023.



Our Presence

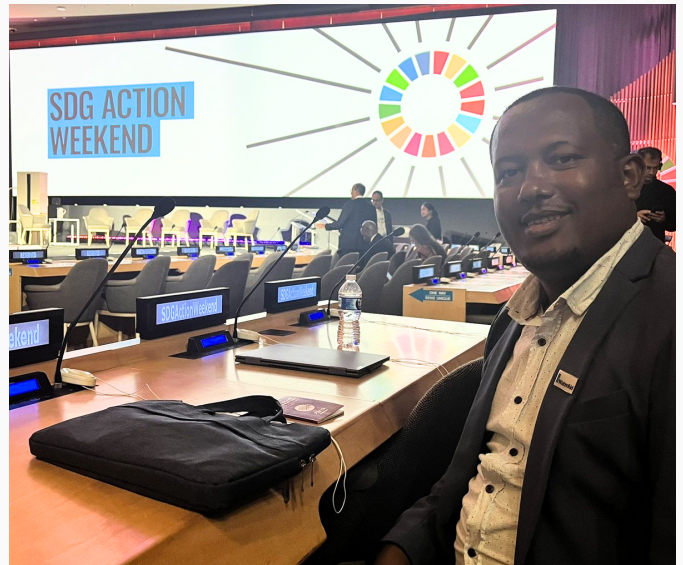
The 78th United Nations General Assembly

Our Policy and Research Advocacy Specialist, Abireham Misganaw attended the 78th UN General Assembly in New York from September 16-22, 2023. The Assembly gathered to discuss on important global issues. WAE delegates attended on the side events that elevated WASH matters like WASH for Pandemic Preparedness, Prevention and Response (PPPR), Universal Health Coverage (UHC), WASH in Health Care Facilities and SDG. WAE delegate Abireham was part of:

- SDG Action Weekend CP representation on the Sunday of the SDG Action Weekend, attending sessions on financing primary healthcare at the sub-national level, building impactful climate finance marketplaces, and the SDG Stimulus.
- New York Climate Week - Goals House and the People’s General Assembly relevant to water
- WA Dinner with CPs and Tim W. Tim emphasised leveraging funds beyond ODA and exploring private sector involvement. Topics included: role of women, infrastructure development, specific CP examples, inc. role of women in institutional fixes to long-standing issues. Promising follow-up engagements including trips to Bangladesh and Kenya discussed, alongside a imminent meeting with Bill Gates.

“We wanted our presence to first and foremost put authentic, country experiences at the centre, and made the decision early on to maximise Country Partner attendance.”

WaterAid Delegates



Africa Climate Week



Africa Climate Week is one of the 4 regional climate weeks held ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP28. The annual event brings together policymakers, practitioners, businesses and CSOs to discuss climate challenges, explore ways to reduce emissions and adapt to the mounting effects of the climate crisis across Africa. Hosted by the government of Kenya, it was organised in parallel with the Africa Climate Action Summit in Nairobi from September 4-8, 2023. The event was hosted together with National Youth Parliament of Burkina Faso to call for the inclusion of water, sanitation and hygiene in countries’ official plan to combat and adapt to climate change.

WaterAid together with the Burkina Faso Youth Parliament on Water, jointly led a successful side event on gender, climate and WASH. Abireham Misganaw, Policy and Research Advocacy Specialist of WAE attended the event. Abireham shared WAE’s experience in the WASH delivery, Climate and Gender Nexus intended at advocating African countries to incorporate climate resilient WASH as their National Determinant Contributor and National Adaptation Plan.

7th Africa Sanitation and Hygiene Conference

The 7th Africa Sanitation and Hygiene Conference, themed "Strengthening Systems and Partnerships for Accelerated Action on Safely Managed Sanitation and Hygiene," was held in Swakopmund, Namibia from November 6-11, 2023. Our WASH Specialist, Dejene Tagese attended the event and shared WAE’s learnings and challenges on achieving sustained behaviour change during public health emergencies at scale.



“This side event has brought innovative design behaviour change intervention, its implementation at scale, practical experiences from those intervention and results from multiple countries including Ethiopia.”

Dejene Tagese
WASH Specialist, WAE

In-Depth

AGFUND's Cluster Approach Project launch

As a continuation of Urban WASH Capacity Building Programme, WaterAid Ethiopia launched AGFUND's Cluster Approach project to be implemented in 5 cluster lead towns, Ambo, Bishoftu, Jimma, Shashemene and Wolliso, linked with 43 surrounding sub-cluster town water utilities in the Oromia Region.

Phase I of our Urban WASH Capacity Development Project was implemented in twenty towns across the country between 2013 and 2019, with funding from Yorkshire Water. These towns were selected as they had previously received infrastructure investments from the government and development partners, however such investments did not incorporate capacity strengthening components.

The region-wide cluster approach brought together small and rural towns to help them build their WASH capability. The 20 towns Project took a holistic, sustained, systems building approach to capacity development. Extensive trainings along with the provision of manuals and equipment brought big changes. Towns like Debre Tabor significantly changed their services and generated adequate money to run public services including providing water for free to the very poor in the community.utilities in the Oromia Region.

Phase I of our Urban WASH Capacity Development Project was implemented in twenty towns across the country between 2013 and 2019, with funding from Yorkshire Water. These towns were selected as they had previously received infrastructure investments from the government and development partners, however such investments did not incorporate capacity strengthening components.

The Urban WASH Capacity Development Project (Phase II) has been continued to consolidate and build on gains and approaches from Phase I whilst evolving the implementation modality of the project to strengthen foundations for scale and sustainability. The project funded by the Arab Gulf was officially launched and opened by Mrs. Azeb Tadesse, representing the CEO of Water Supply, from the Ministry of Water and Energy, on November 2, 2023, in Adama Town. key stakeholders such as representatives of the government from national, region, zone & town level, developmental partners, CSOs, and media houses attended the event.

The official launching ceremony of the project was followed by presentations from WAE's Policy and Research Advocacy Specialist, Abireham Misganaw, WASH Sector Strengthening Advisor, Haile Dinku, representatives from the 5 cluster lead towns on their best practices, challenges and areas of capacity gap.

The second day of the launching event included presentation from Ethiopia Water Technology Institute (EWIT) team on their rapid WASH baseline assessment survey conducted on the 5 cluster lead town utilities. The team revealed their key findings with regard to the utilities' major challenges and best practices in each cluster lead towns, and presented their recommendations. The second day concluded with participants arranged in groups to fill out short term action plan sheet with specific timeline.



The first of the series training commenced on November 13, 2023 at the Ethiopian Water Technology Institute training center. The trainings were given on Operation and Maintenance, Non-Revenue Water Management, GIS & Networking, Climate resilient Water Safety and Water Quality Monitoring. The trainees were both from Oromia and Amhara regional State, selected with their respective area of expertise.



Highlights

Future on Tap's School WASH Facilities handed over

Promoting gender-responsive, climate resilient WASH in the most vulnerable, drought-prone communities” or “Future on Tap Project identified Bale zone of the Oromia Region, as front line of Climate Change, residing highly vulnerable communities as a result of low adaptive capacity, lack of reliable safe water supplies and high exposure to waterborne diseases due to poor sanitation and hygiene services and behaviours.

Berberere woreda (district), population of 116,385, was prioritised as the area ranked 10th among 134 woredas (districts) based on combined selection criteria, including water scarcity, vulnerability to flooding, frequency of drought and low groundwater availability (World Bank, 2018).

The project commenced on August 2021 and expected to end March 2025 benefiting 41,549 primary and 50,888 secondary beneficiaries in 7 kebeles, 5 schools and 3 healthcare facilities in Berberere Woreda through community watershed management, capacity development on risk planning, provision of drought and flood-resilient WASH services and policy influencing.

The reduced scope of the project targets 3 schools and 2 healthcare facilities creating access to WASH services for 18,460 poor, vulnerable marginalized people directly, and improving hygiene behaviour for 5,922 people.

WAE project team handed over 1 health center and 3 schools Haro Dumal and Goro Burcho kebeles to the woreda office officials. These completed WASH facilities are expected to benefit:

1,467 students in
Haro Dumal Secondary school

170 students in
Miyara Primary School

341 students in
Goro Burcho Primary School

25,000 people within the catchment
reach of Haro dumal Health Center



The new handed over school WASH facility in Haro Dumal Secondary school



GHWD 2023 Celebration at Berebere

WaterAid Ethiopia Berbere project team seized the opportunity of GHWD annual world wide celebration to create awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives in that area. The project team cheerfully celebrated the day at Haro Dumal secondary school and Goro Burcho Burcho primary school on October 13 and October 16, 2023.

The celebration was held with the objectives of :

- Fostering global and local culture of hand washing with soap
- Shining a spotlight on the state of hand washing around the world
- Raising awareness about the benefits of hand washing with soap
- Advocating handwashing with soap practice in schools and
- Influencing the community and Woreda stakeholders on good hygiene practice



During the celebrations a total of 1324 (M 636 F 688) students, teachers, Health Development Army's (HDAs), representatives from Woreda administration, Woreda health office, Water and Energy Office, Women and Child Affairs and Education office were present.

The ceremony was officially opened by Mohammed Haji Woreda Admin delegate, Kedir Shamsi, the Woreda's Head Education Office and Hussien Sultan Berbere Woreda Health Office Vice Head. The opening was followed by a short remark by WaterAid Ethiopia's Sanitation and Hygiene Specialist addressing the importance of hand washing at critical time. Some of the activities from the event were:

Poem

“Let us Wash Our Hand at five critical time!” - The poems disseminated messages related to the importance of hand hygiene in preventing communicable diseases.



Role Play

Participants showed a role play and dramatisation on proper use of sanitation facilities at their schools.

Question and Answer session

Participants held a question and answer session relating hand washing and hygiene habits. Winner were awarded with presents.

Hand Washing Demonstrations

Participants presented demonstration of the five Critical handwashing timings, i.e. after using the toilet, after changing diaper, before feeding children, before food preparation, and eating and The ideal steps and procedures of hand washing proven to reduce mortality related to diarrhoea and increase school attendance of students and productivity of the community



2023/24 Q1 and Q2 Programme Performance Reflection Sessions

As part of the PMER core procedure, WAE has conducted Programme Performance Reflection (PPR) session for first and second quarters of 2023-2024 Fiscal year on July 20-21, and October 24-25, 2023 respectively. These sessions gave the opportunity for WAE team to reflect on progresses of ongoing projects as well as programme and organisational performance in accordance with their annual plan.

These PPR sessions provide overall 'health check' on the status of programme/project within our organisation. The sessions include discussions on

- What went well
- Current status of our projects outcomes
- Best learning sharing aspect of our projects
- Sharing challenges,
- Identifying areas of improvement
- Opportunities for learning and reflection

Both quarter PPR sessions were held virtually on Microsoft Teams where departmental representatives reflected on the progress of their respective projects and presented their action points, outlining the outputs achieved, budget utilisation, challenges faced, and measures taken to overcome those hurdles. Proceeding the reflection session department heads presented update on their work status in reference to their set plans and action points in the prior PPR sessions. The programme's and project's outputs were RAG rated based on the set criteria's.

The presentations were followed by comments and questions from staff across WAE.

In order to increase accountability across the organisation, head of each department along with their team are expected to share their next action points, assign responsible lead person for the identified action, as well as the accountable person to follow up.

Our SMT Visit to Amhara project sites

WaterAid Ethiopia's Country Director Yaekob Metena, Head of People and OD Filagot Lemma and Acting Head of Programmes conducted a visit to Amhara region.

The ongoing security development in the Amhara region has been a big challenge for WaterAid Ethiopia to continue implementation of the large scale projects in the area. According to our new five years strategy, the Amhara and Oromia regions has been identified as the two key strategic focus areas. WAE aims to reach over five million people in selected districts of these Regions with WASH services and behaviour change.

The Senior Leadership Team made a visit to Bahir Dar, capital of Amhara Regional State on November 3, 2023. The purpose of the visit was to meet and discuss with staff and regional government authorities on the security situation and status of ongoing projects that are being implemented in the region.

Accordingly, series of meetings were conducted with staff working at Bahir Dar and Finoteselam Offices coordinating projects in Jabi Tehnan, North Mecha, Farta and Dera Woredas and relevant government authorities on the security situation, status of ongoing projects and way forward.

WAE staff took training on Funding partnerships and Winning Proposals

The Business Development department organised a three days training on funding partnership and winning proposals. The training was given by Juliet Penina Kayendeke, Regional Funding Manager and Zerihun Endale, WAE's Head of Business Development from December 5-7, 2023.

The three days training incorporated lessons on crafting a winning proposals, understanding donor requirements and navigating funding partnerships. Trainees also gained practical experience by involving in writing narrative proposal, reviewing log frame and financial proposal for an actual bidding to be submitted to Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA) for a the project ECOSAVE: A Sustainable Solution for Conserving the Bale Eco-region.

Recall from last quarter

Heineken Africa Foundation Phase III Project closes

WaterAid Ethiopia together with Heineken Africa Foundation implemented a two years project in Harrar city. The final phase of the project was built on the successes of the first two phases, embedding work carried out in the Gulale and Kolfe Keraniyo sub-cities of Addis Ababa, Harar town and North Wollo Zone, Amhara. The Phase III of the project provided around 200 low income households with access to safe water by constructing water supply connection, providing hygiene behaviour change training as well as advocacy and technical support to ensure the sustainability of WASH services. The project has also constructed advanced WASH facilities, provided training for health extension workers and conduct 60 face-to-face hygiene sessions for 3 health care centres in the city of Harrar with The project was officially closed on June 2023 in the presence of H.E Ordin Bedri, Chief Administrator of Harari Regional State , Yaekob Metna, WAE’s Country Director and Fekadu Beshu, representative from Heineken Africa Foundation. H.E Odrin appreciated the successful collaboration between WaterAid and Heineken Foundation in contributing to access to WASH to Harar Town residents.



Do you know ?

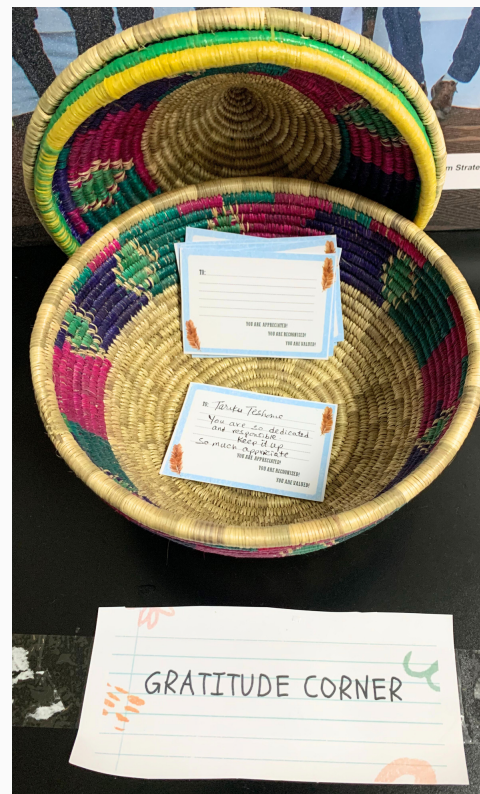
Do you know about our Gratitude Corner?

Yes!, if you want to express your gratitude to the colleagues who supported you on a project or thank your team who continuously have your back, there are **“Thank you”** cards placed in all our offices by the *Gratitude Corner*.

“ We want staff to feel appreciated for works and behavior they exhibit to foster and enhance a gratitude culture in the organisation. ”

Filagot Lemma

Head of People and OD
WaterAid Ethiopia



Grab one and write your thank you messages now!

Do you know what to do if you encounter a Safeguarding concern?

Well 🤔

You should report all safeguarding concerns to a manager or to the Safeguarding Focal Point.

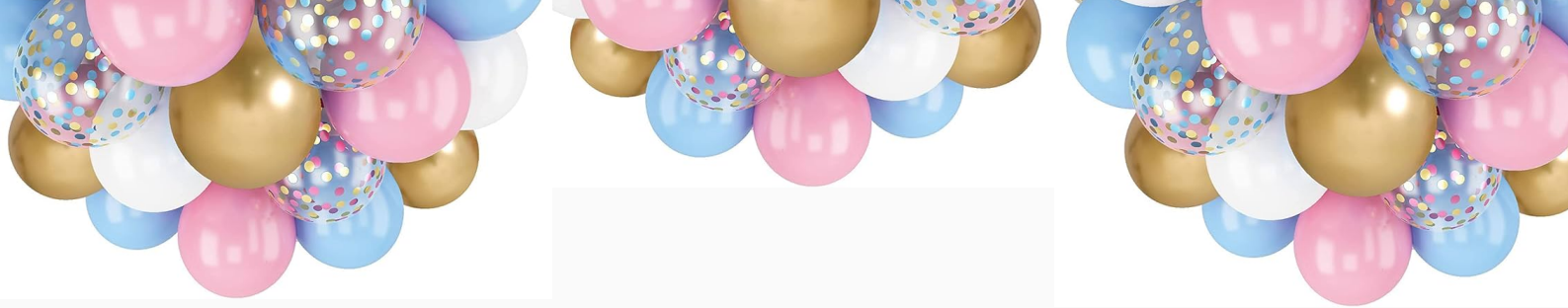
If you are not sure if something is a safeguarding incident or not, report it!. The Global Safeguarding Team will be able to provide guidance and support if needed.

Safeguarding at WaterAid means taking all reasonable steps to prevent harm, particularly sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment from occurring; to protect people, especially vulnerable adults and children, from that harm; and to respond appropriately when harm does occur. It includes the responsibility that organisations have to ensure their staff, associated representatives, and programmes do no harm to people.

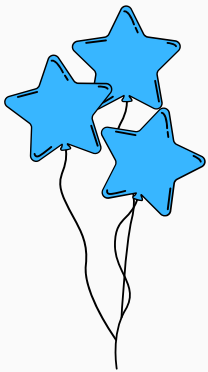
Contact your CP Safeguarding Focal Point: Eгла Yetnayet

or

email the Global Safeguarding Team safeguarding@WaterAid.org.



Congratulations to our colleagues who...



Earned Promotion

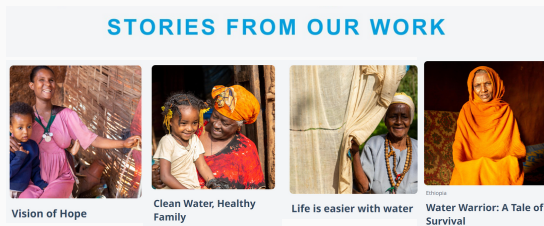


Married their better
half

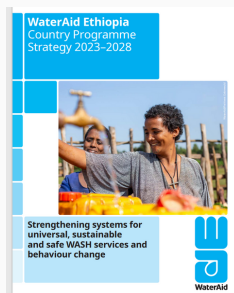


Blessed with new bundle
of Joy

Checkout



 <https://www.wateraid.org/et/stories>



 [WAE New Country Programme Strategy](#)



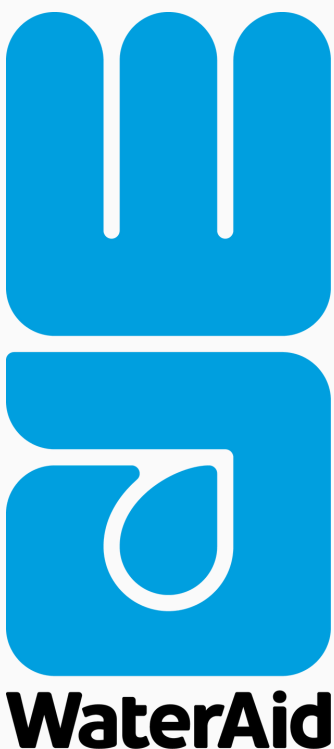
 [Guidelines for strengthening woredawide WASH systems in Ethiopia](#)

If you want to contribute a piece for this Newsletter, please contact:

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Clean water.
Decent toilets.
Good hygiene.



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