

**Achievements to date:**

- We have now helped over one million people gain access to safe water.
- Helped establish the specialist NGO Water Action and supported the formation of the water unit of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Inter Church Aid Commission.
- WaterAid is seen as the main champion of large sustainable gravity flow water schemes in the country.
- Coordinated WASH Ethiopia, a country-wide water, sanitation and hygiene movement.



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**Zenebech Jewel** lives without clean water in Chobare Meno.



WaterAid/Caroline Irby

“The water is not good in this pond. There are worms and so many ugly things in it. All the animals drink from the pond as well as the community. This pond water is so, so dirty and we cannot do anything about it. Because of the water we get different diseases. I have three children. They have respiratory problems, coughs and flu as well as diarrhoea and malaria. We might visit the clinic two to three times per month. We are hoping and praying for clean water.”

**Hirut Negussie** teaches science at Gergeda Silingo School.



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Hirut teaches classes in good hygiene and has set up a school sanitation club. She says: “I have a folder of sanitation pictures that WaterAid gave me to help in my teaching. Before, the students didn’t wash their hands after using the toilet. Now they do this. They have changed their behaviour. The sanitation club has 100 members and is divided into four groups: controllers of whether students are clean when they arrive at school; classroom cleanliness checkers; toilet cleanliness checkers and rubbish collectors.”

# Ethiopia



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Ethiopia, the fourth largest and second most populous country in Africa, is a land of great contrasts. It is Africa’s oldest independent country and, with the exception of a five-year occupation by Mussolini’s Italy, has never been colonised. Despite a rich religious and cultural history Ethiopia has become better known for its periodic droughts and famines.

Though improving, literacy levels are low and Ethiopia remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with an economy that is highly dependent on agriculture. Water-related diseases are rife, child mortality is high and health services are limited.

**£9** could pay for a bag of cement to produce a latrine slab

**£90** could buy a locally manufactured rope pump

**£150** could pay to train a pump attendant

**£1,500** could pay to construct a hand-dug well

**£3,750** could pay for a school sanitation block for 1,200 children



WaterAid transforms lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world’s poorest communities.



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## WaterAid in Ethiopia



WaterAid has worked in Ethiopia since 1983. We work in partnership with local NGOs, the local private sector and regional government departments to improve hygiene and increase access to safe water and sanitation in the country's poorest and most marginalised communities. We also work with a wide range of other organisations to share knowledge and influence water and sanitation policies.

Together with our partners we help local people understand the need for safe water, hygiene and sanitation. We support communities to plan, build and manage water and sanitation facilities that are appropriate to local conditions, affordable and easy to maintain.

We pay particular attention to

giving women active decision-making and management roles in projects as they are often most affected by water and sanitation issues. We also ensure our support reaches society's most vulnerable, including the elderly, people with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS.

### Water

In the hilly Oromia Region, water projects tend to be spring-fed gravity schemes that pipe water from higher sources to a network of tapstands in villages and towns below. Some of these schemes are very large, with pipelines stretching for more than 100km, providing water for tens of thousands of people. In the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples region, where the water table can be 200 metres below the surface, our water projects include deep boreholes and sand dams constructed in riverbeds.

In Amhara and Tigray the main technologies are hand-dug wells and spot spring development – where springs are protected at their source and the water guided into a collection chamber connected to a water point and, if needed, a cattle trough. In Benishangul Gumuz we help communities to construct hand-dug wells, and are piloting the use of rope pumps, which are cheaper and easier to maintain than handpumps. In Addis Ababa, we are helping urban communities build communal water points that are linked to the city's piped water systems.

### Sanitation

In rural areas we support households in building their own latrines. Designs vary from ventilated improved pit latrines to composting latrines that turn human waste into a rich fertiliser. We also help communities build latrine blocks in schools and health centres. We are currently piloting new technologies that convert sewage from communal latrine blocks into bio-gas that can be used as fuel for cooking.

In Addis Ababa we help construct communal latrine and shower blocks and wastewater management systems.

### Hygiene

We use community meetings, school sanitation clubs, household visits, community coffee ceremonies, posters and booklets to raise awareness of the importance of good hygiene in improving health. We particularly focus on the role that hand-washing at critical times, like before eating and after going to the toilet, can play in reducing diarrhoeal diseases. We also promote the safe handling of water, food, utensils and the safe disposal of human waste.

### Influencing

WaterAid aims to influence the water and sanitation policies and

practice of decision-makers, donors and the public. Our own projects provide evidence of effective ways to deliver sustainable services. We document and share our experiences through publications, radio programmes, events, exhibitions, our website and working with the media to highlight water and sanitation issues. We call for increased and better targeted funding for district governments, who are now responsible for delivering water and sanitation services. We are also closely involved in the WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene for all) Ethiopia movement, the civil society forum on WASH and the Ethiopia Country Water Partnership – an international network focused on promoting integrated water resource management.

**Abadit**, 13, lives 100 metres away from a tap stand in her village in Ethiopia. It used to take her nearly two hours to collect water.



She says, "It was far before and now it is close. With the time I have now I can study more. I learnt that unsafe water brings us bacteria."

### Ethiopia

Area:	1,128,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Capital:	Addis Ababa
Other main cities:	Asela, Dire Dawa, Gondar, Jimma
Population	<b>80.7m</b>
Infant mortality	<b>109/1,000</b>
Life expectancy	<b>55 yrs</b>
Water supply coverage	<b>38%</b>
Sanitation coverage	<b>12%</b>
Below poverty line	<b>44%</b>
Human development index	<b>171</b>
Adult literacy	<b>36%</b>
Annual child deaths from diarrhoeal diseases caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation	<b>55,000</b>

Official statistics tend to understate the extent of water and sanitation problems, sometimes by a large factor. There are not sufficient resources available for accurate monitoring of either population or coverage. Varying definitions of water and sanitation coverage are used and national figures mask large regional differences in coverage.



Sources: Human Development Report 2009 and 2010, UNICEF State of the World's Children 2009, WHO World Health Statistics 2010, WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme report 2010 and World Bank (2010) World Development Indicators database.