



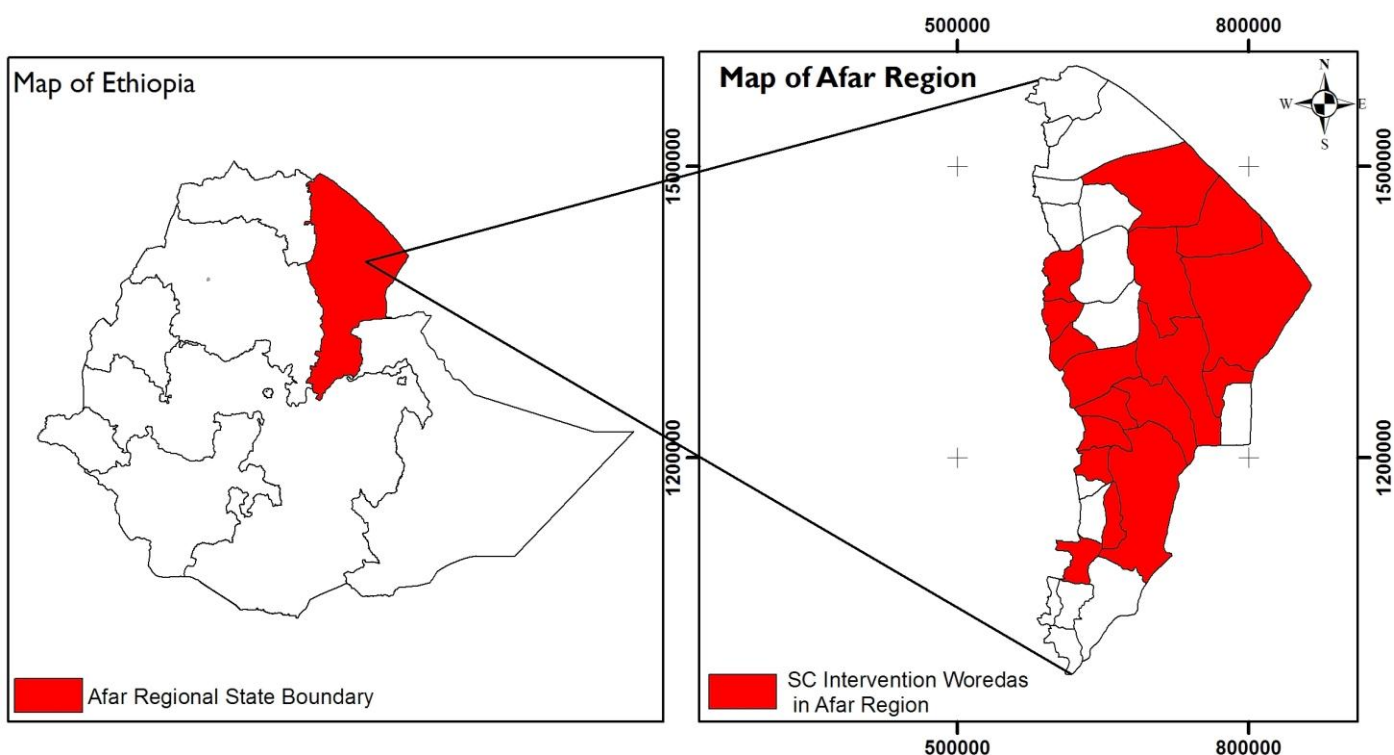
Regional Overview

Afar is one of the nine ethnic divisions (*Regions*) of Ethiopia and is the homeland of the Afar people. The Afar Depression, also known as the Danakil depression, the lowest point in Ethiopia and one of the lowest in Africa, is located in the north of the Region. Based on figures from the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA) published in 2005, Afar has an estimated total population of 1,389,004, consisting of 772,002 men and 617,002 women. 1,263,000 or 90.9% of the population are considered rural inhabitants (pastoralists); while 126,000 or 9.1% are urban. With an estimated area of 96,707 square kilometres, this region has an estimated density of 14.36 people per square kilometre.

Basic service provision in the pastoral areas of Ethiopia has historically been problematic, with less than one-fifth of pastoral communities in Ethiopia having access to basic social services such as health care and education; Afar is no exception. The situation facing children in Afar is daunting; the challenging environment, the huge distances between communities and the unique way of life combine to pose challenges to families which are almost unequalled anywhere in the world. Only 32.3% of women receive any kind of antenatal care from skilled providers and only 2.7% from health extension workers. Delivery in a health facility is low with only 6.8% institutional deliveries in the region, and only 7.2% of deliveries were assisted by a skilled provider. In addition, only 8.6% of children are fully vaccinated and 46.1% of children have moderate malnutrition.

The water supply coverage in Afar is only 17 per cent. A considerable number of schemes are non-functional, which makes the effective water supply coverage in the region less than 13 per cent. Sanitation coverage is even lower at less than seven per cent. Save the Children aims to improve the water and sanitation coverage by constructing new water supply and rehabilitating the non-functional facilities. We also work with the local community and government to increase communities' awareness on the importance of sanitation through effective community based approaches, such as CLTS.

Location Map



Location of the area office

Save the Children's Afar field office is located in the capital city of Afar, Semera on the main highway connecting Semera to Djibouti, 500m from Ertale Hotel on the right hand side of the road.

Summary of programs implemented in Afar

Save the Children has over 70 years of experience of working in Ethiopia and have been running projects in the Afar region for the last 8 years. Our current project work covers 23 districts and benefits a total of 287,600 people.

Our work in Afar focuses on health, emergency nutrition, DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction), education and child protection. We work closely with the government to develop sustainable, replicable solutions to ensure that children grow healthy, safe and can reach to their potential. Through our EVERYONE campaign, we aim to increase government and community awareness to reduce maternal and child death.

- Reduction of child mortality and morbidity through implementation of community based case management of common childhood illness that is implemented in five districts namely, Asayita, Addar, Chifra, Gulina and Yalo (USAID funded)
- Afar Pastoralist Girls Education Support/PAGES implemented in eight districts of the Afar Region, namely Chifra, Mille, Adeaar, Buramedayitu, Gewane, Hadelela, Dewe and Semurobii (UK aid funded)
- Emergency Drought Response in Ethiopia (Appeal funded)
- Strengthening Community Health Care in Afar, that is implemented in Adaar (Clore Duffield Foundation funded)
- Community Managed Disaster Risk Management (CMDRM) Response in Afar PILLAR IV is implemented in Chifra, Telalak, Dewe, Adaar & Ewa districts (ECHO funded)
- Integrated Health and Nutrition Response Project, implemented in Afdera, Erebti, Abala, Dalol, Elidar & Asayita (ERF funded)

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