Amhara Region,
Area brief

Regional Overview
The Amhara Region is located in the northwestern part of Ethiopia; its land area is estimated at about 170,000 square kilometers. Amhara borders Tigray Region in the North, Afar in the East, Oromiya in the South, Benishangul-Gumuz in the Southwest and the country of Sudan in the west. Based on the 2007 figures from the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) of Ethiopia, Amhara has an estimated total population of 20,136,000. 88% of the population is estimated to be rural inhabitants, while 12% are urban dwellers. Bahir-Dar is the capital city of the Amhara Regional State. Amhara is divided into 11 zones, and 167 woredas (districts). There are about 3,429 kebeles (the smallest administrative units). Decision-making power has been decentralized to woredas and thus the woredas are responsible for all development activities in their areas.

The historic Amhara region contains much of the highland plateaus above 1,500 meters with rugged formations, gorges and valleys, as well as millions of settlements for Amhara villages surrounded by subsistence farms and grazing fields. Located in this region are the world-renowned Blue Nile River and its source, Lake Tana, as well as historic sites including Gonder palace, and the Lalibela rock-hewn churches. The land in Amhara has been cultivated for millennia with no variations or improvement in the farming techniques. The resulting environmental damage has contributed to the trend of deteriorating climate with frequent droughts, loss of crops and the resulting food shortage. Of the 167 woredas in the region, fifty-eight (35%) are drought-prone and chronically food-insecure.

Location Map

Location of the area offices
Save the Children has a number of field offices in different parts of Amhara Region. The Dessie field office is located near St. Gabriel church in Dessie town, Woldiya field office is located on the main highway at the entrance from Dessie to Woldiya, the Bahir-Dar field office is located in Bahir-Dar town on the 7th floor of the ELPA building and Gondar field office is located in Gondar town in the zonal education bureau.

Summary of programs implemented in Amhara
Our current projects in different locations across the Region include a child survival project integrated within the existing government systems, early childhood care and development and basic education expansion programs implemented in North Gondar
and north Wollo areas, and HIV/AIDS programs around Bahir-Dar and the main towns along the high transport corridor that links Amhara to Djibouti through Afar Region. Through our emergency response program we work with the government to fill the food gaps and protect the assets of vulnerable communities in the drought-prone districts of the region.

1. Health program:
   - Child survival initiative, ICCM (Integrated Community Case Management) implemented in 25 Woredas of south Wollo zone and Oromia zone of the Amhara region (UNICEF funded).
   - Strengthening University-to-PHCU Partnership for Effective and Replicable Approach to Improve Maternal and Newborn care (SUPPER AIM), Scenario-based Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (BEmONC) Health Center Pilot Project (Internally funded).
   - ENGINE (Empowering New Generation to Improve Nutrition and Economic opportunities): An Integrated Nutrition Program in Bahir-Dar field office in 7 zones and 22 districts of the Amhara Region (USAID funded).
   - Integrated maternal and child health program, implemented in four zones of Amhara region (West Gojam, South Wollo, North and South Gondar) in 50 health centers and four referral Hospitals (USAID funded).
   - Community care, support and prevention in six zone and 72 districts of the Region (West and East Gojam, North and South Gondar, Awí zone and Bahir-Dar city) (USAID funded implemented in partnership with MSH/ENHAT-CS).
   - Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health in Amhara, implemented in 10 districts of south and north Wollo zone (EU funded).
   - KIR (Keep It Real) school-based sexual reproductive health project implemented in two districts of north Wollo zone (Netherlands Government funded).
   - Youth in Action, implemented in four districts of north Wollo zone, namely Gidan, Gubalafto, Habru and Kobo (Mastercard foundation funded).

2. WASH:
   - School WASH/improving access to Water and Sanitation in 10 districts of south Wollo zone in more than 40 schools (Aus Aid Funded).

3. Education:
   - Improving quality of basic education in Amhara Region, in the entire Amhara Region (NORAD cooperation funded).
   - Disaster Risk Reduction and school feeding project implemented in four districts of north Wollo zone (DANIDA funded).
   - Improving quality of basic education in Chilga and Layarmacheho districts (NORAD cooperation funded).
   - Literacy boost/enhancing children reading skill in North Gondar zone (NORAD cooperation funded).
   - ECCD program in three districts of Amhara Region namely Chilga Lay Armacheho and Wogera woredas (Norway committed donors funded).

4. HIV/AIDS Prevention and HIV/Nutrition Program:
   - TransACTION and Food by Prescription (FbP) operates in 12 Zones, & 29 towns and 1 City Administration (USAID funded).

5. Emergency response:
   - JEOP emergency response program implemented in six districts of north Wollo and Waghemra zones (USAID funded).

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