



Bayray Tesfay – Tigray Region

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Child/adult [Bayray Tesfay, 30, Male, Dongolat village, Basic Education Integrated with Food Security]

Themes [Education]

Photo references [picture ref numbers]

Related interviews [N/A]

Summary

Bayray Tesfay married and father of three children lives in a small rural town called Dongolat which is located on the main highway that connects Amhara to Tigray region of Ethiopia. Bayray and his family used to suffer with food insecurity before Save the Children’s intervention. After moving around in other places in search for work and better life, he was unsuccessful and returned back home to Dongolat. After returning back home he had the support of Save the Children’s Food Security and Livelihood project which provided him with a dairy cow and related capacity building training. Currently the dairy cow is producing over 15 litres of milk per day for sale and his family’s consumption.

Save the Children has built and furnished the Dongolat first cycle primary school that currently enrolls 640 students in the area. Of these 342 are girls. Save the Children also provides training to teachers and the community about the importance of education, teaching methodologies such as literacy boost that improves children’s reading ability. It has also integrated the food security component along with Basic Education which benefits families that were food insecure and were of lower income background.

Bayray’s story in his own words

My name is Bayray Tesfay. I am married and have three children; one boy and two girls. My first daughter Birhan is currently enrolled in 0 class in Dongolat first cycle primary school which is near our home. It was built and furnished by Save the Children. My second son Haben, 3 years old is a very curious child who is looking forward to going to Early Childhood Care and Development [ECCD] centre which will soon finish its construction. My third daughter who is now only four months old is Akberet who is a healthy and happy child.

In the past, I used to suffer with food insecurity and moved to many places in search for a better life. Thankfully, in 2010 Save the Children provided me with a dairy cow that has transformed my life for the better. Before being provided with the dairy cow which was worth 12,000 birr at the time I received it, I was given an intensive training on how to better manage and care for it. The cow soon after gave birth to a calf. It was also able to produce up to ten litres of milk a day. Ever since, with the milk I receive from my cow, I have been able to provide my family with dairy products and sell the rest to the community and earn money at the same time. I also believe nutrition will have a positive impact on children’s health and education.



Last year, I sold one cow with a total of 17,000 birr [approximately USD \$1,000]; again I sold a bull for 14,000 [approximately USD \$ 900] and one calf for 4,000 birr [approximately USD \$ 200]. In total, within the last year alone, I've been able to save around 65,000 birr [approximately USD \$3,500] from different sources.

Because of the support that our family received, we were not only able to feed ourselves and get by, but also change our lifestyle from rural to semi-urban. With the money that I saved, I have been able to construct a better house which is estimated at 600,000 Birr [approximately USD \$ 31,500]. I've also saved more money which I hope in five years time will make me purchase a car.

Currently, I am not one to be categorized as an ordinary farmer but an investor and a model farmer to my community which has enabled me to receive recognition in forms of awards, medals and certificates by the regional and federal government of Ethiopia which I'm very proud of. Because of the good nutrition that my family gets we have never fallen ill or gone to the clinic other than for vaccination to prevent diseases.

Before, I used to keep my cow in the same house where we live. Currently, I've managed to build a separate shed for the cow and the calf which I believe is a positive change in terms of our health. I also look forward to buying 500 chickens and become a distributor and a poultry farmer along with what I am currently doing. I hope in the near future many farmers will follow my footsteps and be food self sufficient in this community

Interview conducted by Seifu Assegid and Amerti Lemma, during a recent communication assignment to Tigray region in [December, 2013]

Location and background

Tigray is located in the northern part of Ethiopia. It is home to a total population of 4.3 million, of which about 51% are female. The estimated population of children between 5 and 9 years is 1,752,374 (868,052 female), those between 1 and 4 years old are 511,210 (251,414 females), and children under one year are estimated at 118,307 (58,532 females). Among the 46 districts/ woredas Save the Children reaches only five. Hintalo Wajirat is one of the districts that Save the Children has long been implementing its educational program. Maicheka and Shimena villages are located in this district. Majority of the population is reported to be directly dependent on rain fed agriculture and dry land farming as a livelihood means.

As a result, Tigray region is characterized by dry climatic condition, severe natural resources (land, water and vegetation) degradation and cyclical droughts. Traditional farming practices and inadequate involvement of women in all aspects of development compounded with the above factors have significantly affected the performance of the regions' agricultural production and productivity. Consequently, numerous rural households have been subjected to chronic food deficit failing to feed their family in general, their small children in particular throughout a year and over years.

Tigray region has long been among the major war zone of the country during the civil war which lasted nearly two decades and claimed many lives. The area has been impacted heavily by the war and is most remembered by the drought that affected many livelihoods in the area. Because of the war many schools have been destroyed and children were forced to drop out of school. This has influenced the access to education and leaving the region to be among the least developed regions of Ethiopia.

Project background

Since 2006, Save the Children through its Basic Education project has constructed more than 46 primary schools and 12 Early Childhood Care and Development Centres and 72 intervention schools for SHN in Tigray Region of Ethiopia with funding support from Save the Children Italy. So far the project has benefited more than 36,500 children. Save the Children is working with the Ethiopian Government to improve the



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quality of education through construction of schools, provision of in service training for teachers, capacity building of community representatives, woreda expertise and supply of books and vital equipment to educational institutions.

Save the Children Basic education integrated with Food Security project provides economic support to those families who are food insecure which enables them to send their children to school.