

Roughly 18% of all infant and under-five deaths are related to poor access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. Small, stagnant bodies of water can harbor diseases from waste materials and quickly transmit infection. Poor hygiene practices and drought in rural communities exacerbate the spread of life-threatening illness. Children are among the hardest hit, affecting their health, nutritional status, sociability in communities, and school attendance. In 2010, only 44% of Ethiopian children routinely used safe drinking water services, while only 54% of communities had acceptable forms of sanitation. At any time, around 25% of the rural water supply is non-functioning, creating continuous stress for communities and children.

Save the Children provides life-saving WASH services in pastoralist, agro-pastoralist, and emergency contexts. **In 2012, Save the Children implemented WASH programmes in 82 districts across six regions. Our interventions directly benefitted over 367,000 people, of whom 58% were children.** In addition to supplying water trucking and water purification chemicals in emergencies, we rehabilitate non-functional water and sanitation facilities, construct new water points, and promote improved hygiene practices. Working in partnership with the government of Ethiopia, Save the Children is protecting children from preventable illness, expanding water infrastructure, and supporting communities to rapidly improve their health and wellbeing.



Lucia Zoro/Save the Children

Birtukuan, five, plays at a mechanical well built by Save the Children in Afar.

ENHANCED LOCAL CAPACITY TO MANAGE WASH NEEDS

OUR EXPERIENCE

- ❖ In 2012, we trained over **1,000 members** of water, sanitation, and hygiene committees at the woreda level.
- ❖ Save the Children established 147 community-level WASH committees and 139 school WASH clubs to **promote community uptake.**
- ❖ Working with schools and PTAs, we **increased knowledge** of the importance of hand washing at critical times by **78%** in 46 woredas of Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR.

THE PROBLEM Ethiopia lacks national-level WASH implementation guidelines and strong WASH coordination mechanisms to harmonize approaches across national, regional, zonal, and woreda levels. Local institutions are often ill-equipped to handle the challenges of water scheme construction, rehabilitation, and management, leading to preventable water shortages in rural and isolated areas. Communities are slow to respond to WASH-related emergencies and disasters due to poor local capacity to manage WASH schemes and services.

OUR APPROACH Save the Children and its partners can work to maintain **effective and appropriate long-term WASH services.** Through trainings, Save the Children can strengthen water supply chain services and sanitation of communities and build the capacity of village level WASH committees, community health volunteers, school WASH clubs, parent-teacher associations (PTAs) and woreda water authorities. Through **partnership** on WASH projects, we can **reinforce proper management** of water schemes and water storage facilities, enabling local institutions to better respond to WASH-related disasters.

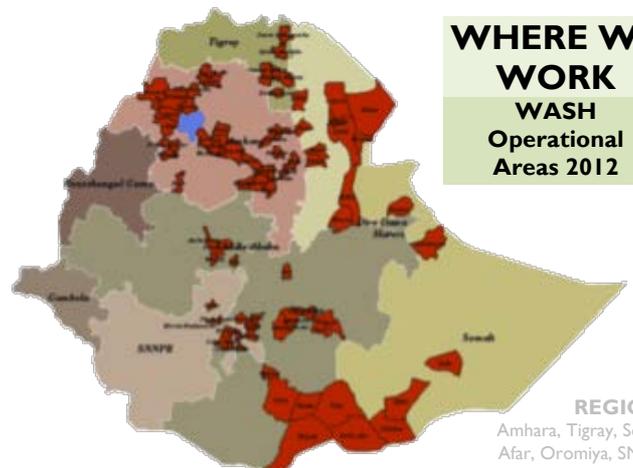
COMMUNITY LED TOTAL SANITATION & HYGIENE

Save the Children's global experience shows that creating an open defecation-free environment through adoption of community led sanitation and hygiene practices can eliminate many health risks to children and communities. Throughout our operational areas, we are scaling up the Community Led Total Sanitation & Hygiene approach to prevent child mortality from WASH related diseases.

- ✓ **WASH breaks the cycle of illness that contributes to stunting, malnutrition, and poor health and learning.**
- ✓ **WASH interventions reduce the likelihood of child mortality by diarrheal diseases by 65%.**

WHERE WE WORK

WASH Operational Areas 2012



REGIONS
Amhara, Tigray, Somali,
Afar, Oromiya, SNNPR

IMPROVED ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE WASH SERVICES

Anne-Sofie Helms/Save the Children



Adolescents wash their hands at Deka Bora School in Oromia as part of Save the Children's Community School Partnership Program.

THE PROBLEM Limited access to safe water has compounding effects on children's wellbeing. Children below the age of five are extremely vulnerable to WASH-related infection and disease. Poor community standards of hygiene underlie the high prevalence of unsanitary practices, such as open defecation and low levels of hand washing. Use of shared water supplies with livestock allows for the rapid spread of illnesses between animals and humans. Inadequate access to water further disrupts children's learning and productivity in schools, while often leading to crop failures, food shortages, poverty, and hunger.

OUR APPROACH Save the Children can improve access to **sustainable, child-centred water and sanitation services** for communities and livestock to build resilience to drought and water shortage. By digging wells, constructing new water access points, building latrines, trucking water, and training communities on the use of purification tools, we can support the healthy growth of Ethiopia's children. Through **integration with health, nutrition, education, and livelihoods interventions**, Save the Children can reach vulnerable populations and **prevent the leading causes of under-five mortality**, such as dehydration and waterborne disease. When children are at the centre of our approach, we can ensure that they have access to clean water where they need it most.

OUR EXPERIENCE

- ❖ In 2012, our WASH programmes provided access to safe water for **217,341 children**, offering basic services across Ethiopia.
- ❖ We are scaling up use of **community led** and **school led** total sanitation and hygiene behaviour change practices to end open defecation in communities in rural highlands, pastoralist, and semi-urban communities.
- ❖ We provided **emergency WASH responses** for people in hard-to-reach and historically marginalised areas, including Afar and Somali Regions.

DID YOU KNOW... on average, our WASH interventions increase access to water for children and communities by **26%**

IMPROVED LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, RESOURCES, AND CAPACITY

THE PROBLEM The link between poor sanitation and poor health is strong. Prevailing intestinal parasitic infections, cholera, typhoid and skin and eye infections in Ethiopia are linked to unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and poor hygienic provisions. In 2011, only 13% of households reported having water on their premises, with a mere 8% using improved toilet facilities that are not shared with other households. Availability of well-documented preventative cleaning agents, such as hand soap, is minimal, especially in schools and homes. The critical absence of implementation guidelines for local communities, robust monitoring mechanisms, and integrated policy frameworks for WASH programmes has resulted in a piece-meal response. Consequently, local capacity to support WASH interventions is weak.



Students use the water tap at Aybeto School, a Save the Children primary school in Tigray

OUR APPROACH Through action research on community led total sanitation processes, Save the Children can encourage **greater uptake of evidence-based WASH interventions** in rural communities. Using **innovative child-centred practices and child-friendly WASH technologies**, we can better respond to key risks to children and drastically improve their wellbeing. By circulating these findings to our partners, we can support **enhanced information and technical knowledge** of community-led approaches and proper application of WASH systems.

OUR EXPERIENCE

- ❖ Save the Children improved access to sanitation facilities for **139,312 people (87,599 children)** in communities, schools, and health institutions.
- ❖ We **piloted** an innovative spare part supply chain program in 46 woredas to **improve local capacity** to manage and rehabilitate non-functional water schemes.
- ❖ Save the Children is working with UNICEF, WaterAid, and the World Bank to **advocate for WASH sector reforms at the national level**.

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children. Our vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development, and participation. Our mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

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