



Cherishing **The Joy** of  
Girls and Boys

A Glimpse at Our  
**Drought Response**





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June 2024



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## ACRONYMS

**BHA**- Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance

**GBV**- Gender Based Violence

**HH**-House hold

**IYCF**-Infant and Young Child Feeding

**NFIs**- Non-Food Items

**OTP**-Outreach Therapeutic Feeding

**PFA**- Psychological First Aid

**USAID**- United States Agency for  
International Development

**VIP**- Ventilated Improved Pit

**WASH**- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene





# MESSAGE FROM THE RESPONSE MANAGER



Dear Readers,

As we reflect on the challenges faced during the prolonged drought in Ethiopia, we are happy to share the impact of our collective efforts in minimising its effects on vulnerable children and their families. Through the projects, called Integrated Multi-Sector Response for Drought Affected Vulnerable Communities in South Ethiopia and Oromia regions, generously funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), we have addressed the immediate needs of people living in drought stricken areas.

Over the course of 15 months, World Vision reached a total of 346,457 people of which 204,581 are children across the five sectors, including, agriculture, health, nutrition, protection and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

We have made a significant progress in restoring livelihoods and ensuring access to essential services through our agriculture, health, nutrition, protection and WASH sectors. Despite challenges faced, our interventions have brought about tangible improvements in the lives and livelihoods of communities facing the harsh realities of drought.

Looking ahead, we are excited to begin a new, one year long drought response project funded by BHA. The new project will continue to support communities living in five regions in the country including Oromia, South Ethiopia, Amhara, Tigray and Afar.

With a renewed determination and motivation, we are hopeful that we will assist many more children and their families affected by the drought in Ethiopia.

Thank you all for your support and collaboration.

Tadele Seifu

Emergency Response Manager





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ethiopia has been facing the prolonged effects of drought following the failure of five consecutive rainy seasons since late 2020. According to the 2023 Ethiopian Humanitarian Response Plan, Ethiopia an estimated 17.2 million people were targeted for humanitarian assistance due to drought. The Integrated Multi-Sector Response for Drought Affected Vulnerable Communities project, funded by the USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) began its implementations with the main objective of addressing the immediate needs of the drought affected communities, restoring livelihoods and facilitating recovery for people facing food insecurity, malnutrition, and strained resources due to the prolonged shortage of rain.

The 15-month multi-sectoral project implemented April 2023 through June 2024 has reached a total of 346,457 people of which 204,581 are children in Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Protection and WASH interventions. The US\$ 5.15 million project planed to assist those facing the dire consequences of prolonged drought in the six districts of East Hararghe zone of Oromia Region and South Omo zone of the South Ethiopia Region.

Amidst the harsh realities of the drought, the project played a vital role in restoring livelihoods and safeguarding the future of vulnerable populations through agriculture, strengthening the local health system and ensuring improved access to healthcare services. Through protection interventions, supported survivors of gender-based violence underscoring the project's commitment to nurturing well-being and safeguarding dignity.

Nutrition-specific interventions also targeted the most vulnerable, ensuring access to vital nutrition and support for children and pregnant women. Through the rehabilitation of water bodies, construction of sanitation facilities, and hygiene awareness campaigns, the project laid the foundation for a healthier, more resilient future.

## INTERVENTION AREAS



WASH



HEALTH



AGRICULTURE



PROTECTION



NUTRITION





**346,457**

Total Number of People  
Benefited from the Multi-sectoral  
Drought Response Project



**204,581**

Children

WASH



**123,011**

Health



**111,968**

Agriculture



**105,275**

Protection

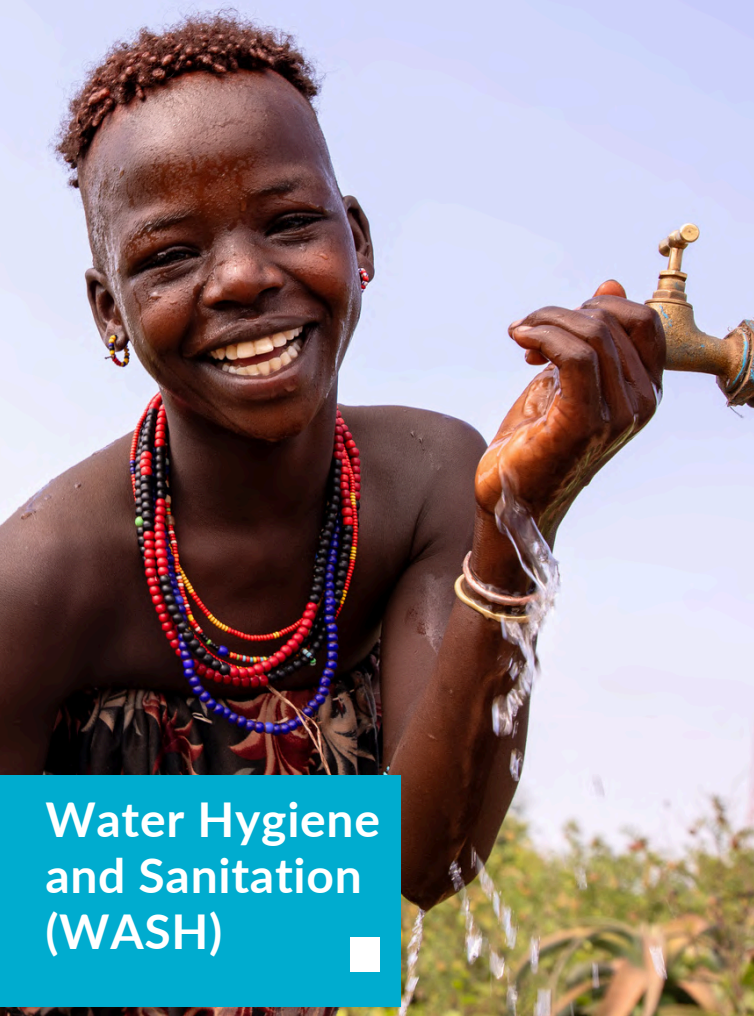


**45,228**

Nutrition



**60,281**



## Water Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

The drought has significantly impacted access to water in the affected regions, which are already water insecure. Water points have dried up earlier in the season. This in turn, demanded girls and women travel to distant areas to collect water while exposing them for the risks of protection. Strategic boreholes that are still functioning are being over-used and at risk of breaking, the 2022 Ethiopian Drought Response Plan (DRP). According to the response plan, 13 million people living in drought stricken areas were in need of WASH assistance in the year 2022.


In response to the critical situation caused by the drought, the project provided water through water trucking. This assistance benefited many individuals severely affected by the drought responding to the immediate need for clean water for drinking, hygiene, and sanitation. The project also rehabilitated and maintained non-functional water supply schemes in the targeted areas. Additionally, the project extended pipeline infrastructure to institutional settings, ensuring basic drinking water access for healthcare facilities and school. In the sanitation sector, the project completed the construction of VIP latrines in healthcare facilities.


Furthermore, conducted awareness campaigns across all targeted areas, strengthened the capacity of WASH Committees (WASHCOs) and provided WASH NFI for households.





# WASH Achievements





 Provided 2,919 cubic meters of water through water trucking benefiting 25,500 people


 Rehabilitated 19 water bodies, benefiting a total of 47,011 targeted individuals

 Conducted pipeline extensions for nine facilities benefiting 76,000 people in need

 Constructed eight VIP latrines in eight healthcare facilities benefiting over 48,000 people per month

 Reached 49,147 through hygiene promotion sessions

 Distributed WASH NFIs, benefiting 15,341 individuals

 Distributed dignity kits to 400 women and adolescent girls



## Quenching Thirst

Imagine a world where the only way to drink clean water is to travel to the city. This has been the harsh reality for the residents of Legegeba, in East Harereghe zone of the Oromia region. School children like 13-year-old Lidiya often had to miss school to fetch water for their families. Lidiya recalls the struggle, “I had to wake up early in the morning and walk two hours back and forth to the pond. By the time I reach to school, I would be exhausted and even late sometimes”.

Apart from the water source being far from her house, it was not clean as well. Everyone in the area use the same pond for household use and also for their animals as the same. This has led the community to be prone to waterborne diseases. “The worst part was the leeches in the water”, says Lidiya. The leeches from the water would stick to the children’s bodies and make them sick all the time.

The pond wasn’t just far—it was also unclean. The entire community, including their animals, relied on the same water source. This led to frequent waterborne diseases. “The worst part was the leeches in the water,” Lidiya says. The leeches would stick to the children’s bodies, making them sick.



“

**Now that we have clean water near, I don't have to be late for school and this makes me very happy.**

Lidiya, 13 years old



The situation worsened with the drought, causing the pond to dry up and offer even less water. Lidiya and her friends often returned home empty-handed despite the long journey.

Then came the Integrated Multi-Sector Response for Drought-Affected project bringing hope to Lidiya and the community. World Vision extended pipelines to build a water point at the heart of the village. This brought fresh, clean drinking water to everyone.

Lidiya filled with joy as she describes the change: “My friends and I come to the new water place and have lots of fun. I love how splashy the water is. I live right in front of the water point and even enjoy watching others fetch water.” She adds with a smile, “Now that we have clean water nearby, I don't have to be late for school, and this makes me happy.”

The residents of Legegeba are now delighted to have access to clean water. They have taken on the responsibility of ensuring that the water point remains clean and functional. Additionally, World Vision has provided training to help them maintain the water point and ensure its sustainability.



## Health

The health sector is one of the sectors affected by the prolonged drought in Ethiopia. According to the Ethiopian Drought response Plan (2022) the health of the population affected by drought in Ethiopia continues to deteriorate as the drought expands to different parts of the country and more regions reporting extremely dry weather conditions. Increase in disease outbreaks such as diarrhea, malaria, measles, dengue. Hence, 11 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in the health sector.

The project has implemented various activities to strengthen health service delivery in targeted districts. These activities include deploying dedicated health officers to provide support to primary healthcare units, training health workers in Public Health Emergency Management, and educating community leaders on recognizing and responding to communicable diseases. Additionally, the project has provided logistical support during national vaccination campaigns, conducted public communication campaigns, joint supportive supervision with health departments.

In terms of essential health services, a significant number of individuals have benefited from outpatient consultations. Progress has also been made in maternal and neonatal health, with antenatal care visits, skilled delivery services, postnatal care visits, and family planning consultations being provided.



# Health Achievements



Deployed and trained 636 health officers to districts to strengthen healthcare delivery. Educated 506 community leaders on how to respond communicable disease

Provided logistics support for vaccination campaigns, benefiting over 20,000 children

Reached 76,000 people with public communication campaigns with messages on disease prevention and treatment

91,968 individuals received outpatient consultations

Procured and distributed essential medical equipment and supplies (Micro hematocrit centrifuge, manual WBC counter, electrical suction machine, electrical centrifuge, ultrasound machine, microscope, complete blood count equipment, and various consumable medical supplies) to 12 health facilities



## A Miracle for Haylo

Haylo wants the best for her children. Despite living far from the Dimeka health center, in Hammer district, South Ethiopia, she gave birth to all five of her children there. Her last pregnancy was peaceful and she has been following up with her midwife regularly.

One day Haylo began to feel pain and went to the health centre for a check-up. Soon after she learned that she was in labor and had to be admitted immediately. Unfortunately, the labor lasted three days and when she finally gave birth, her midwife, realised that the baby is distressed with meconium aspiration syndrome, a condition where the baby inhales amniotic fluid containing meconium.

To treat this, health professionals use a Suction machine to remove the blockage. Any other day, this would have been a highly stressful situation for the midwife because the old suction machine was unrealisable. But everything changed when World Vision provided a new suction machine for the health center.

"Thanks to the new suction machine, we don't lose any baby because of simple complications like this," the midwife said.

Haylo too was super delighted to hold her healthy baby for the first time. "I am happy to see my baby healthy, and I am very grateful", Haylo said.

“

The ultrasound machine has helped identify cases and help so many save lives

*Nurse Kerima, East Hararghe*



## Motherhood Rescued

“I am so happy to see my patients' reactions when they see their fetus for the first time through the ultrasound,” says Nurse Kerima from Deder in East Hararghe, Oromia. She has been working as a midwife at Deder Health Centre for a few years now and deeply appreciates how the new ultrasound machine has been incredibly helpful to her patients.

Before World Vision provided the machine, Nurse Kerima recalls how challenging it was to follow up on patients. “I did not have much information about how the fetus was doing. Whenever we sensed something might not be okay, we used to refer the mothers to another facility, which is over a four-hour drive from here. Many mothers faced difficulties both financially and physically,” she said.

Now a new dawn has come. The machine has changed everything. Nurse Kerima and the other midwives can now diagnose problems quickly and offer the necessary support. “In the past few months alone, I have done ultrasound checks for some 300 mothers and was able to identify that five of them had problems with their pregnancies. These mothers then received the proper treatment. If it was not for the machine, we might have lost these mothers”, Nurse Kerima added.

In addition to providing the machines, World Vision has also equipped the health professionals with the necessary skills to use them effectively.



## Agriculture

Following the prolonged drought, farmers encountered difficulties in sustaining their farming activities due to a lack of agricultural inputs, particularly seeds. According to Humanitarian Response Plan, Ethiopia (2023). The drought continue to compromise fragile livelihoods that are heavily reliant on agriculture, worsening the food security crisis and increasing malnutrition while eroding coping strategies for the most vulnerable. The drought is impacting severely on farming and pastoralist communities/ livelihoods through livestock deaths, loss of income, absence of milk, and crop failure. Over 6.8 million livestock were estimated to have died due to lack of pasture and water.

To mitigate these challenges, the project has been working hand in hand with farmers and stakeholders by distributing cereal, legume, and vegetable seeds. Despite adverse weather conditions, including heavy rain and flooding in some areas, the successful germination and growth of planted seeds allowed project participants to harvest and consume crops.

The project further enhanced agricultural productivity by providing motorised irrigation water pumps and farming tools. Moreover, the project addressed declining livestock productivity through the provision of animal feed and improved chicken breeds. Veterinary support and capacity-building training further strengthened resilience and sustainable livelihoods.



# Agriculture Achievements



**105,275**  
Total number of people reached through Agriculture interventions



**58,634**  
Total number of children reached through Agriculture interventions



**22,765**  
Total number of Women reached through Agriculture interventions



Distributed improved seeds for 44,103 individuals and covered a total of 3,827.88 hectares of land



Trained 1350 individuals in modern farming practices and post-harvest handling to enhance agricultural productivity



Provided 23 motorised irrigation water pumps to targeted households, enhancing their capacity for vegetable and maize production through irrigation



Distributed 2171 farming tools to 1,165 households, improving soil preparation, planting, weeding, and harvesting



Distributed 400 quintals of animal feed to 483 households. Additionally, 270 households received improved chicken breeds



Distributed veterinary drugs and supplies to eight clinics, treating 84,658 livestock and provided training to 79 extension workers to enhance livestock resilience.



## Seeds Of Hope

Imagine having to drop out of school because there is no food at home. This is what happened to Fetima, a first grader living in Deder, East Harerghe. Due to the severe drought in the area, Fetimas family could not produce crops like they used to, making it difficult to cope with the impacts of the drought. The family had to make the ultimate decision to keep Fetima at home because they could no longer afford to send her to school.

Fetima's father, Abdella, was devastated to see his nine children hungry and out of school. His farmland, which once provided abundantly, had become barren. He said, "The weather has been different these past four years. When it first started, there was no rain, and we were unable to harvest like we used to. It continued like that for two years. And after that, there was rain, and I ploughed, but it was too much and destroyed all my crops."

This led the family to face an unbearable shortage of food. Abdella had to look for other ways to earn an income and became a daily laborer. He and his wife would collect wood from the forest and sell it at a low price so they could at least afford to eat once a day.

When World Vision began its intervention in the area, the family was among the first to receive support in the agriculture sector bringing hope to them.



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**I am excited to be back to school. I want to learn hard and become a doctor when I grow up**

*Fetima, East Hararghe*

The family received improved seeds for haricot beans, wheat, and various vegetables. Abdella was delighted to see the seeds grow, and he was finally able to harvest. He said, “I harvested close to 200 kilograms of wheat and 150 kilograms of haricot beans. We used half of it for our daily consumption, which lasted us for six months. We then sold the rest at the market and earned some cash to help us cope with the economic struggles we were facing.”

Fetima was finally able to return to school because her family could now afford school materials and food for her. She was overjoyed to get the opportunity to learn again and reunite with her friends. Fetima said, “I am excited to be back to school. I missed my teachers and friends so much. I want to study hard and become a doctor when I grow up.”

In addition, Abdella bought ten chickens with the money he earned. The chickens give ten eggs per day, providing the family with a constant source of income and nutritious food for the children.



## Nutrition

The Ethiopian Drought Response Plan (2022) states that the nutritional status of children under five and pregnant and lactating women is quite fragile. Accordingly, the document shows that 3.4 million people were in need of nutritional support in 2022.

The nutrition intervention of the project mainly focused on preventing and managing acute malnutrition. Through the intervention training for healthcare staff on essential topics such as active case detection, Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), and the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was provided. Children with SAM were treated in Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) centers, and those with medical complications were rehabilitated in stabilisation centers.

In the maternal, infant, and young child nutrition in emergencies subsector, World Vision had established and strengthened breastfeeding and counseling corners in health centers. Health workers received training to improve breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices. Caregivers were educated on nutritious cooking practices through various counseling sessions and cooking demonstrations, enhancing child health and development. Facilitated the formation of Mother to Mother Support Groups (MTMSG) for pregnant women, fostering discussions on health and well-being



# Nutrition Achievements



Trained 557 healthcare staff on active case detection, Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), and the management of severe acute malnutrition



Treated 3,173 children with SAM in Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) centers, while 524 children with SAM and medical complications were rehabilitated in stabilisation centers



Provided IYCF training to 155 health workers to enhance breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices. 322 caregivers also received IYCF messages through various counseling sessions



Conducted 24 cooking demonstrations with 720 pregnant and lactating women to promote nutritious cooking practices



## Triumph Over Malnutrition

Three-year-old Ebano lives in Hamer, South Omo. Her family lost their crops and most of their livestock creating food shortage in their household. This was when Ebano began to exhibit signs of severe malnutrition.

“When Ebano first fell sick, I did not think it was something serious and hoped that it would go away. But then she was very weak to a point where she no longer could walk. My husband could not bear to see her condition therefore one morning he left us and never returned”, said Buno.

Her mother, concerned and frightened by the rapid deterioration of her daughter’s health, brought Ebano to the Dimeka health center where she was diagnosed with sever malnutrition. Ebano’s journey to recovery began with her admission to the Stabilisation Centre (SC) at Dimeka Health Center, one of the health centres that World Vision supports in the area. Ten days of intensive care, free medical and non-medical supplies, and nourishing milk became the pillars of her rehabilitation. As the days passed, Ebano’s transformation was nothing short of miraculous. She regained her strength, her laughter returned, she started gaining weight and she began to walk on her own again.

Buno says, “No word is enough to describe how thankful I am. My daughter was on the verge of dying but now she has fully recovered.”

“

**I was terrified I might lose my son. Now, I am incredibly grateful to see him healthy, strong, and happy.**

*Fatima, East Hararghe*



## Healthy and Thriving

Little Kalid is a playful two-year-old who loves balloons. He enjoys running around and exploring his environment. However, a few months ago, he started getting sick. His mother, Fatima, thought his illness would go away on its own, but his symptoms continued to worsen. Even his balloons could not cheer him up. “I was confused when he kept getting sick. I was not sure what was happening to him, so I took him to the health centre,” Fatima said.

At the health centre in Goromuti, East Hararghe, Fatima learned that Kalid was showing signs of malnutrition. The healthcare professionals identified the case right away and referred him to the stabilising centre established by World Vision.

World Vision provided different medical equipment and the medical staff were also equipped with all the necessary training needed to help treat malnourished children. Kalid stayed at the health centre for ten days. Fatima was hopeful that her son will make a full recovery and she was delighted to see him get better quickly.

She said, “I was terrified that I might lose my son. Now, I am incredibly grateful to see him healthy, strong, and happy. My son has now fully recovered and I am very grateful for the support we received.”



## Protection

The Ethiopian Drought Response Plan (2022) stated more than 9 million people were in need of specialised protection services. This group includes more than 3 million children and 1.6 million IDPs. Child labor, street begging and an increase in the number of school dropouts and early marriage cases were observed in drought-affected areas. Cases of family separation and of serious neglect of children, older persons and persons with disability were reported as well.

The risk of GBV significantly increases in drought-affected areas as women and girls are forced to travel far distances to fetch water, while in other cases they are often left alone while family members are away looking for food or livelihood. The systems in place, responsible for preventing GBV and providing support to survivors and their families, are, however, weak or overstretched.

Our Protection activities included strengthening the referral system, updating protection service mapping, and establishing child protection committees. Comprehensive case management services were provided to children at risk. Continuous protection awareness-raising sessions reached a large number of individuals through campaigns, school programs, and community conversations.

GBV survivors, mostly rape cases also received high-quality multisectoral services.



# Protection Achievements



**45,228**

Total number of people reached through protection interventions



**22,362**

Total number of children reached through protection interventions



**11,496**

Total number of Women reached through protection interventions



Established Four Child-Friendly Spaces, and safe spaces for women and girls were constructed benefiting 1059 children and girls.



Provided comprehensive case management services to 634 children at risk



Conducted continuous protection awareness-raising sessions through mass campaigns, school programmes, and community conversations to address gender based violence issues reaching 42,493 individuals,



44 GBV survivors received high-quality multisectoral services, with most cases involving rape.



Provided psychosocial support by training community volunteers in psychological first aid (PFA) and reached 998 children



## New Addition to the Family

Arbor is very happy to have an addition to his family and he just can't keep his eyes off Paris, his new sister. One might think his mother gave birth, but that is not the case for this family. They recently adopted her and welcomed her into their loving home.

In Hamer, South Omo, there is a harmful traditional belief called Mingi. A child is considered Mingi for a number of reasons. Babies born out of wedlock or from a union that has not been blessed by elders, twins, and children whose top teeth grow before the bottom ones are believed to be cursed and are left alone in the forest to die. This was what happened to Paris. She was born without a blessing from the elders in the area, and her parents abandoned her in the forest.

Luckily for Paris, the police found her and brought her to a health centre in Dimeka where World Vision provides protection services. Right after she was admitted, World Vision brought clothes, milk, and other essential materials she needed. Apart from this, along with the local government, they found a foster home for her.

Arbor said, "Paris means blessed in our language. We named her that because she is a blessing to the family and the community." Paris now has a loving home where she will grow up to be a contributing member of the community.





“

**I am deeply thankful for the support and I hope for brighter days ahead**


*Fetiya, East Hararghe*

## Recapturing Dreams


Fourteen-year-old Fetiya's life was turned upside down when she suddenly lost both her parents within a short time. With no other family members to support them, she was forced to shoulder the responsibility of taking care of her six siblings at a young age. She said, "I did not know what to do. We did not have anything at home, and I used to cry day and night."


When World Vision began working in the area, Fetiya and her siblings were among the initial recipients of support through the protection sector's case management, giving Fetiya a renewed sense of hope. Fetiya received cash support to help her get by. With the help of her kind neighbors, they bought food items for the family. They also bought goats and a calf to improve their livelihood and benefit from them.


Her neighbors now assist her with any support that the family needs. "I am deeply thankful for the support and I hope for brighter days ahead," said Fetiya.


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