



Water and
Sanitation

New Project Opportunity 2008

Safe Water and Sanitation Program

Providing the Basics for Vulnerable Ethiopians

Water and sanitation-related diseases, specifically diarrhea, are among the top three causes of death in Ethiopia. Yet only 12 percent of Ethiopia's rural population has access to clean, safe water, and just 7 percent has access to basic sanitation. In response, World Vision seeks to bring safe water and basic sanitation services to Ethiopians through the Millennium Water Alliance Water and Sanitation Program.

Ethiopia is one of the world's most impoverished nations, ranking 169th out of 177 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index, a comparative measure of life expectancy, education, and standard of living. Poverty in Ethiopia is widespread, and often linked to the degradation of the environment. More than 44 percent of the nation's largely rural population of 75.6 million lives below the poverty line. Life expectancy is just 51 years, and the country is reeling from the combined effects of a poor economy and a succession of devastating droughts and famines.

Almost 90 percent of Ethiopians live in rural areas, working the land and raising animals. Among their many challenges are a lack of health care, food insecurity, high infant- and child-mortality rates, and the HIV and AIDS pandemic. The rural population is also in desperate need of safe water and basic sanitation. Women and girls spend hours every day collecting water from distant sources. They must also cook, collect firewood, tend fields, and care for the sick. The time-consuming task of gathering water often prevents women from pursuing income-generating opportunities, and keeps girls away from school.

Although the cost of basic sanitation facilities is relatively low, it is a significant challenge to change hygiene and sanitation practices. Water supply, sanitation, and hygiene promotion must be implemented as an integrated package to maximize health benefits. For example, safe drinking water is necessary to prevent waterborne diseases, but water must also be provided in adequate quantities to facilitate personal and domestic hygiene.

World Vision Responds

World Vision began its first relief project in Ethiopia in 1971. The Millennium Water Alliance (MWA) Water and Sanitation Program was established by a group of U.S.-based, non-governmental organizations whose goal is to halve by 2015 the number of people worldwide without access to safe water and sanitation. This project will be implemented in rural areas where about 90 percent of Ethiopia's people live.



World Vision 2007

Abera Girma, shown at age 9, helps care for his family's cattle and must gather water every morning before he goes to school. World Vision's MWA Water and Sanitation Program will significantly reduce the time Ethiopian women and children must spend gathering water, allowing them more time to pursue other activities.



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The MWA consists of four interrelated water and sanitation projects—one led by World Vision, and the others led by CARE, Living Water International, and WaterPartners International. All four projects will adopt a common technical approach to ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, and improved hygiene. World Vision's component will benefit 16,800 people, while the entire five-year program will directly benefit 74,400 people.

Goals for Fiscal Year 2008

From October 2007 through September 2008, this initiative will:

- Increase access to sustainable, safe water by capping springs, laying pipeline, and establishing water committees
- Improve sanitation services by building pit latrines
- Improve hygiene practices, and decrease water- and sanitation-related diseases
- Decrease time that women and children spend collecting water
- Promote integrated water resources management with a focus on maintaining the quantity and quality of drinking water
- Empower the community with new skills, knowledge, and confidence by involving people in training and decision-making
- Employ an integrated approach that enhances food security, quality of nutrition, and income-generating activities
- Integrate activities such as soil conservation, water harvesting, and tree planting
- Develop a partnership model that can be replicated in other countries



How You Can Help

World Vision needs \$60,339 in fiscal 2008 to make this vital program a reality. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can help change the lives of vulnerable Ethiopians by providing them with clean, safe water, and access to basic sanitation.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.



Precious Ethiopian children, like these girls playing at a water tap, will have access to clean, safe drinking water thanks to World Vision's efforts to improve water quality and sanitation services.