

ETHIOPIA WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

DROUGHT BACKGROUND

Water shortages, food insecurity, and malnutrition in many parts of Ethiopia are putting millions of lives at risk. Failed rains and the arrival of one of the worst El Niños on record are causing life-threatening drought conditions. The Ethiopian government has declared 10.2 million people in need of emergency assistance and 5.8 million people in need of clean drinking water and basic sanitation. Of those in need of emergency assistance, 1.3 million people live within World Vision operational areas.

The water crisis is so dire that villagers, including children, are walking for hours to find water. Some families are even abandoning their homes and migrating in search of water. Children are absent from school as they search for water far from home or move with their families to find it. Beshadu (pictured at right) is an 11 year old girl with six brothers. She misses school two days a week to fetch water for her family while her brothers go to school. "I fetch water from Awash River, [12.4 miles] from here," she told World Vision staff. "We walk for eight hours to fetch two jerry cans of water. It is carried by our donkeys. The water lasts two days," she explained. In her school, more than one in four students are absent because of the time needed to collect water.

Frequently, families in desperate need are drinking water found at rivers, ponds, or open wells, which are highly contaminated and can make them very sick. World Vision's Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Senior Director, Sean Kerrigan, shared, "Not only can a lack of water kill, but contaminated water can kill just as quickly. Diarrhea, which is often caused by unclean water and sanitation, can kill small children very quickly. The result is that water shortages hit children harder than anyone else."



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EMERGENCY RESPONSE

World Vision is a leading partner in the Ethiopian government's response to this growing emergency. The Ethiopia WASH Program is responding by prioritizing water access for drought-stricken districts in four regions (Amhara, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region, and Tigray).

Our emergency WASH interventions will focus on development of WASH facilities, promotion of healthy hygiene and sanitation practices, and community management of WASH facilities for sustainability. This includes construction of mechanized water systems, improved deep and shallow wells, and spring catchment systems. World Vision will target the most vulnerable schools and health centers for access to WASH facilities, including construction of improved latrines.

This approach will help save lives in priority hot spots, while building resilience within communities to withstand future droughts. The majority of areas served by World Vision's Ethiopia WASH Program over the last five years have shown resilience to the current drought and were not identified as government priority hot spots for emergency response. From 2010 to 2015, the Ethiopia WASH Program brought sustainable clean water to 905,430 people in need. We plan to serve another 1 million people with clean water in Ethiopia by 2020.

YOU CAN HELP

World Vision is seeking \$3 million to meet the urgent needs of 185,000 people for safe water and sanitation. With a matching grant from USAID, your contribution will double in impact to bring life-saving water to some of the world's most vulnerable. We prayerfully request your partnership to address the urgent need for safe water, sanitation, and hygiene for children and families in Ethiopia.



Merdia Ketema collects water with her two children, Sadam and Bushe, in the Oromia region in Ethiopia, one of the areas hit hardest by the drought.

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