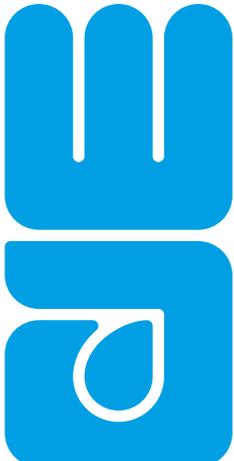


Operakällaren Foundation Six Month Report



WaterAid/Frehiwot Gebrewold

Transforming the lives of people through sustainable access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene.



WaterAid

This report describes the development of the project from September 2018 (start of project) until March 2019 (end of WaterAid's financial year).

How would you get clean water to the people who are the poorest and the hardest to reach? How do you put systems in place for toilets, to change lives day after day, year after year? How do you make sure people can practise good hygiene when climate change brings disaster?

These are some of the challenges we face in Ethiopia, a dry country vulnerable to climate change. Almost six in ten of the country's 105 million people don't have clean water. 50 children die every day from the resulting diseases.

Ethiopia has made impressive progress over the last 20 years. It achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target to halve the number of people without clean water. And the number of people defecating in the open dropped from nine in ten in 1990 to less than three in ten in 2015. But still 60 million people in Ethiopia live their lives without access to clean water.

With the support of Operakällaren Foundation, WaterAid is working in the Jabi Tehnan region, in three kebeles (villages), to transform the lives of some of the poorest and most marginalised people in the country through climate resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Between 2018 and 2022, with your support, we will provide 10,662 people with access to clean water and sanitation.

We are delighted to update you on the progress made from September 2018 – March 2019.

Two friends, Selam, 7, and Bethlehem, 4, enjoy the new drinking water tap at Edget Bihibret Elementary School, Ethiopia.



Location information

Jabi Tehnan is a Woreda (district) in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia, West Gojjam Zone.

Jabi Tehnan is one of the Woredas in Ethiopia with the lowest water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)* service coverage. Climate change has deteriorated the WASH coverage, which has affected water quality and quantity. Pressures such as population growth, an increase in agriculture and a lack of maintenance of existing WASH services has led to a rapidly increasing demand for sustainable WASH services in the area. These factors have led to a high prevalence of WASH related diseases in the area, such as helminthiasis (worm infections), diarrhoeas, and scabies.

The state of water in the Jabi Tehnan Woreda

The water challenges faced by the communities in which we are working are similar to what has been described above. For instance, in Mankusa Abduoma around 700 people fetch water from one water source in the community. Since there is not enough water, people take turns to fetch it, meaning that one household can collect two jerry cans (20 litres in each) of water every other day. On average 6-8 people live in each household, which means that this is not nearly a sufficient amount of drinking water. According to The World Health Organization (WHO) between 50 and 100 litre of water per person per day are needed to ensure the most basic needs.



Tirunesh Alemu, employed by Yiraber Health Centre to fetch 40 litres of water per day, collecting water from the nearest water source 15-minutes walk away, Jabi Tehnan, Ethiopia

About the project

The objective of the project is to reach the most vulnerable and marginalised people with sustainable access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. The aim is also to build capacity so that the project can create a ripple effect, making sure governments, institutions and communities can scale up intervention. In the following section we describe how it already has been, or will be, done.

Identifying and mapping of vulnerability

We will identify and map the need within Jabi Tehnan to ensure that the WASH services which are implemented are effective, sustainable and long-term. The services will be bespoke and specific to the needs of the district and neighbourhoods, taking into account factors such as the impact of climate change.

* WASH is the collective term for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. When writing about water, sanitation and hygiene collectively in this report, we will from here on refer to it as WASH

Strengthening systems and capacity at a Woreda and community level

The lack of capacity in the Woreda to maintain WASH services has been a key challenge, meaning both local institutions and communities don't have the necessary knowledge and financing to demand and provide people with sustainable access to WASH. Strengthening the capacity within communities and institutions is essential to improvements of WASH within the Woreda. WaterAid will build capacity and strengthen communities' ability to govern and maintain WASH in their communities by support and training.



Communities fetching unpiped water in the Woynima kebele town centre, Ethiopia.

Previously, the engagement of communities in WASH planning and service improvement has been very low. As a result, WASH service systems in the Woreda have historically been led by technical approaches which have not met the need of the communities. WaterAid Ethiopia will ensure that communities are engaged in the delivery of WASH services and that there is a strong, robust monitoring system to monitor these interventions.

Children in Woyinima village, Jabi Tehnan, Ethiopia.

Adopting and implementing a community-based and sustainable approach

It is apparent that climate change will have both direct and indirect impacts on the demand and availability of water resources, which increases the risk of conflict in the area. To address this, WaterAid Ethiopia will adopt a community-based and co-ordinated approach to implement a sustainable project. We will ensure the community is empowered to manage the water resources and feels collective ownership of all interventions.



Improving the resilience of WASH services

Improving resilience involves moving away from simply coping with impacts and instead managing risks to make informed investments. WaterAid Ethiopia will implement practical measures which address climate change risks, such as adapting technologies, constructing reservoirs or water storage tanks, and promoting improved sanitation and hygiene. This community-based work includes developing creative, inspiring behaviour change communications that maximise awareness of good WASH, focusing on the benefits of access for health and productivity.

Starting the project

Partnership is at the heart of WaterAid's approach. To achieve our vision, we establish and maintain strategic partnerships with government (at both local and national levels), the private sector and other like-minded organisations to bring about sustainable WASH services for the poorest and most marginalised people.

The first step in launching this project was to **work with the relevant government Bureaus in Ethiopia to sign acceptance letters for project delivery.** This stage of the process involved the **Bureaus of water, education, health and finance** reviewing the project plans and providing feedback before confirming their approval. Due to the number of Bureaus required to review these plans, the WaterAid Ethiopia team experienced a slight delay in starting project activities while they waited for signatories.

We have now received these acceptance letters and countersigned a Memorandum of Understanding, which has allowed the project to continue in earnest.



Project planning: Scoping pre-intervention communities

As part of the planning phase the WaterAid Ethiopia team visited the communities to assess the current status of the WASH facilities in schools and healthcare centres within the villages. These findings have provided the basis for the project plan which will see the transformation of water and sanitation facilities in the region.



Examples of the poor state of the current WASH facilities in the villages can be seen here. The latrines at the Woynima Kebele Health Centre, for example, are very basic and non-functional (see left image). These are used by patients at the centre, including mothers after delivery. Old latrine blocks at the Health Centre (see above image) have fallen into disrepair and can no longer be used.

Project planning: Recruitment

We have successfully **recruited a WASH Engineer (Mr. Abubeker Kedir)** to lead the management and delivery of the project on the ground. Abubeker has carried out an assessment and feasibility study of water and sanitation schemes, including the design and preparation of the 'Bill of Quantities' for the project, in collaboration with the local government.

A scoping visit to the villages has taken place by the Engineer and team to assess the current WASH situation and to plan for the implementation phase of the project.

We then proceeded to hold a workshop in late December 2018 with all project stakeholders to plan for the next phase of the project.

Project Planning Workshop

Key stakeholders and objectives

Zinash Kefale (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Specialist at WaterAid) facilitated a workshop in Fionte Salam Town on the 20th December 2018 where the project was introduced to 36 key project stakeholders.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Provide a brief overview of the programme, outcomes and implementation models.
- Create a common understanding and establish partnerships with key stakeholders on the programme implementation.
- Reach a consensus on roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders.
- To plan for the next steps that will significantly contribute to the achievement of the programme's objectives.



Project Planning Workshop: A discussion on health services in the community

In the Woreda (district), only 4 out of 11 health care facilities have access to water, leaving the other 7 health care facilities in need of assistance.

In addition, 39 health posts do not have water access or even proper latrines for the communities. The discussion highlighted that even when kebeles (villages) declare that they are open defecation free, this is often not the case and people still have to relieve themselves in the open.

Without clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene, it's impossible to stay healthy, which is especially important in hospitals and clinics to maintain safe and hygienic conditions. Where communities lack these basic facilities diseases spread fast, and simple, treatable conditions can kill.

The Health Office reaffirmed that this project can change the situation for the better. Participants from Zone Health Department reiterated that all stakeholders must spend time on capacity building. The support of the community is vital when it comes to changing the attitudes on WASH. The Health Department is assured that because access to safe water is a key challenge in the area the community will support the project in all activities.

Project Planning Workshop: Presentation from the Jabi Tehnan Woreda Water Office

The 'Water Resource Management' team leader from the Jabi Tehnan Woreda's Water Office presented the status of the project to the workshop:

- The Woreda has a total of 40 kebeles, of which 38 kebeles are rural and 2 of them are classified as urban.
- The total population of the Woreda are 222,027 (109,717 are male and 112,310 are female).
- The water facilities already existing in the Woreda are 369 Hand Pumps, 163 Shallow Wells and 84 springs developed to provide service for the communities.

The team leader held a discussion around the Water Office's challenges in providing adequate services to the communities as per the aims of the government's Growth and Transformation Two Plan which says that water services have to be provided within 0.5 km radius of the community. They then went on to discuss how the Woreda currently lacks equitable distribution among the kebeles.



● The Delivery Ward at Yiraber Health Centre, Jabi Tehnan, Ethiopia.



The Health Office reaffirmed that this project is a great opportunity to benefit their community and that each stakeholder has to own their part of the project to make it a success.

The Zone Administration noted that the even though this project focuses on 3 kebeles, it will have an effect on the wider region. Our interventions will allow more communities to benefit from the capacity building initiatives we are setting up. When a community gets clean water, it creates a powerful ripple effect, saving lives and improving people's health, education and livelihoods.

● Nitsuh Tsehay, 43, waits for her turn at the hand-dug well in Gorad Village, Jabi Tehnan, Ethiopia.

During the reporting period the following activities have taken place:

- The project plan and budget have been confirmed, including formative research and WASH needs assessment.
- Recruitment complete and all project staff in post.
- Contract for the procurement of Electro-Mechanical equipment has been signed. This allows water to be lifted from its source to the communities in the project.
- Contracts for the construction of a 100 m³ reservoir, a 50 m³ collection chamber, a generator house, 2 improved pit latrines, a roto tanker support, a school water point and 6 public water points have been signed.
- Construction of the water supply and sanitation facilities is underway.
- Supply of 12.8 km piping has been completed.
- Pipelines to community water points has been completed.



WaterAid/Gashaw Kebede

Key achievements during the reporting period:

- Construction of **2 water points** (from an existing water source) has improved access to **clean water for 700 people**.
- Household level sanitation interventions through promotional activities has increased **basic sanitation for more than 1,500 people**
- Increased knowledge, skills and awareness on **hygiene behaviours for more than 1,500 people** through hygiene behaviour change promotion activities.
- Baseline survey, context analysis and climate resilience study have been conducted.
- **Training has been given** to the Woreda (district) WASH Team who are responsible for WASH decision making across local government offices. This is aimed at **improving government systems and enhancing accountabilities**.



WaterAid/Gashaw Kebede

Key challenges and solutions during the reporting period:

- The supply of pipelines by the supplier took more time than anticipated. However, at the time of reporting all pipes have been supplied and quality testing completed, and have been partly installed for community water.
- Delays in starting the project have altered timelines for construction and procurement. These processes have since begun and we are making good progress.

Tilahun Abatu

Tilahun Abatu is a coffee farmer in Mankusa, Jabi Tehnan, West Gojjam, Ethiopia.

“We have a water pump in our neighbourhood, but there is always a long line of people waiting to get water and the pump breaks often. When it breaks we face so many problems. It makes it hard to find drinking water.”

“If we didn’t have this coffee farm we would have died, it bears a lot of fruit and sustains us. We sell most of it and use some of it for ourselves, and have managed to cover all of our household expenses through selling coffee. I can’t imagine doing anything else besides farming.”

“Besides our coffee farm we also plant cabbage and tomatoes. It seems the water we get for our coffee farm and vegetables is enough. But we never have sufficient drinking water.”



Tilahun Abatu picking coffee on his farm in Mankusa, Jabi Tehnan, Ethiopia.

WaterAid/afaye Eshetu

● Front page image: Meseret, 8, drinking water from Enqurqur spring, Woynima clinic village, Jabi Tehnan, Amhara, Ethiopia.

**Insamlingsstiftelsen
WaterAid Sverige
Hannebergsgatan 33
171 68 Solna**

**Telefon: 08-677 30 70
E-post: info@wateraid.se**

www.wateraid.se

**Organisationsnr: 802426-1268
BG: 900-1629
PG: 90 01 62-9 , 90 03 81-5 (OCR)**

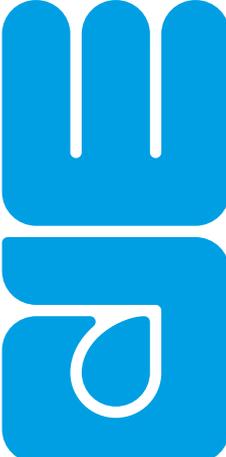
Operakällaren Foundation

**Telefon: 070-5588333
E-post: thony@operakallarenfoundation.com**

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