



## Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WaSH) Project Achievements

Emmanuel Development Association is an Ethiopian Charity Development Organization, committed to improving the lives of vulnerable children, youth, and women through integrated and community based development programs. Partnered with international donor organizations, The organization implements projects on education, child protection, livelihood and environmental development, community health, and WaSH. In the case of WaSH, Emmanuel Development Association has partnered with WaterAid, an international donor organization on a mission to overcome poverty by enabling the world's poorest people to gain access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene education. Since 2009, Emmanuel Development Association has implemented WaSH projects with the financial and technical support of WaterAid Ethiopia.

## About Projects



Between 2009 and 2015, with the technical and financial support of WaterAid Ethiopia, Emmanuel Development Association (EDA) implemented two projects in the Akaki-Kality sub-city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Largely industrial and semi-rural in parts, Akaki-Kality is an area where high poverty exists. The area's population growth has outpaced the provision of services, leading to low access and poor quality of services. Many homes and communities are congested and lack basic infrastructure for water and sanitation facilities. As a result, community members like Zenebech Molla spent a lot of time, money, and energy in their search for clean water (page 4); whereas residents of Tigist Eshetu's community commonly practiced open defecation due to the lack of sanitation facilities (page 6).

In the course of Emmanuel Development Association and WaterAid Ethiopia's partnership, the first project was implemented in two Akaki-Kality communities between 2009 and 2012. The project's aims were to perform action research on WaSH-related problems in the community, construct improved WaSH facilities to serve the area, and build the capacity of youth and women through their involvement in WaSH-centered business cooperatives. While WaterAid Ethiopia provided the funding of ETB 1,935,752 (USD 96,788) for three years, Emmanuel Development Association implemented the project's activities.

The partners implemented another project between 2012 and 2015, with the primary aim of improving the health and livelihoods of slum dwellers and school children in Akaki-Kality. After the action research conducted during the first project, the second project was scaled up to build more facilities in schools and communities, and also build the capacity and awareness of more school and community members. The budget was also scaled up to ETB 24,493,465 (USD 1,224,473) for three and a half years, and was funded with the financial support of Comic Relief.

The primary goal of Emmanuel Development Association's is to improve access to WaSH facilities for poor schools and communities. Accordingly, over the course of their two projects, the partners have built nine school water points and separate blocks of male/female latrines, nine community water points, and six community WaSH centres complete with latrines, showers, and hand-washing stations. The improved access to WaSH facilities has positively impacted the health and livelihoods of beneficiaries, and promoted the equity and inclusion of marginalized or underserved community members like women, children, and people with disabilities. With personal testimony from beneficiaries like Zenebech and Tigist, this report details these and other project achievements.

## Health-Related Benefits



Before Emmanuel Development Association intervention, target schools and communities had limited access to clean water. Community water points were few and far in between, leading many community members to travel long distances or water or use water from unclean and unsafe contaminated sources like the polluted Akaki river. This led to severe yet easily preventable diseases in the community, inevitably causing low productivity and absenteeism from school and work.

In target schools like Kality Primary School, the school's director testifies that many students often spent the entire school day without drinking water because there weren't enough water points to serve the student body. After the construction of water points in schools and communities, beneficiaries gained better access to clean water in their schools and communities. In effect, this lowered the risk of water-borne diseases and promoted better health and hygiene through practices like proper hydration and hand-washing.

In regards to sanitation, many people openly relieved themselves in fields or on the street due to the general lack of public toilets in target communities. However, women often refrained from relieving themselves until early in the morning or late at night since it is considered shameful for them to openly relieve themselves.

In order to address open defecation, Emmanuel Development Association constructed improved latrines with the financial support of WaterAid Ethiopia and educated the community about the health and environmental benefits of proper latrine use.

In educating the community on personal hygiene and sanitation, Emmanuel Development Association employed hygiene promoters to visit households door-to-door. The organization also helped to establish WaSH education clubs in twenty-three schools by providing training and material support for club leaders, who in turn educated their peers on good sanitation and hygiene practices like proper latrine use and hand washing. Kality Primary School's director testifies that WaSH clubs have been a success, effectively spreading awareness about hygiene and sanitation through peer education.



WaSH club members perform educational drama

Zenebech Molla is the chairwoman of the committee that received the financial support of WaterAid Ethiopia, the water Association in 2013, and serves sixty-seven households. The structure has not only increased the practices of community members, but also improved the water quality. Zenebech's community is situated in the Kality area of the Kality district, which is one of the poorest districts in Ethiopia. The water supply is a major challenge for the community. The





As a result of WaterAid Ethiopia and Emmanuel Development Association’s intervention, community members have improved their livelihoods by engaging in cooperatives dedicated to waste collection, composting, and management of communal WaSH centers. In collaboration with the government, WaterAid Ethiopia and Emmanuel Development Association has built the capacity of cooperative members with the provision of facilities, equipment, loans, and business and sanitation management training.

Communal WaSH centers, which are managed by women’s cooperatives, are complete with latrine and shower facilities and community cafes. Customers of these WaSH centres can eat freshly made food and use the latrine and shower facilities for a reasonable price. The waste from the latrines is recycled, along with animal waste and other organic materials, into biogas—an alternative form of energy that’s safe and dependable enough to fuel the cafeteria kitchen.

In some cases, cooperative and community members contributed their own resources towards the construction and maintenance of WaSH facilities and equipment, as in the case of dry waste collectors who contributed funds towards the purchase of new waste collector carts. Communities also provide materials

and labour by building fences and roads around their newly built water points, aimed at securing and preserving their new facilities. This promotes a sense of ownership among cooperative and community members, and cultivates their sense of responsibility for the sustainability of the project.

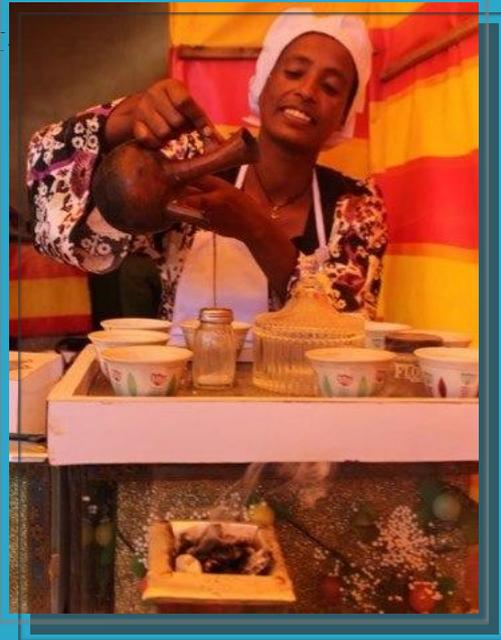
Through the experience they’ve gained, cooperative members have learned that they must take their businesses into their own hands and work hard in order to generate income and grow their enterprises. Following the handover of cooperative businesses to community members, the income generated is used to pay back loans and maintain the WaSH facilities so that they don’t fall into disrepair.



Cooperative members in WaSH center cafe

“Shitaye, Tigist & Friends” is a cooperative women from poor communities in the Akaki area

Established by the Environmental Development Association and WaterAid, Ethiopia, the cooperative was set up in 2005. It is the site of a community WASH centre that offers community latrines, showers, and a





## Equity, Inclusion, and Innovation

Biogas burners used for cooking

Over the course of their partnership, WaterAid Ethiopia and Emmanuel Development Association have provided services that are fully accessible for marginalized groups. By building facilities with wheelchair ramps and raised toilet seats, for example, people with disabilities are able to freely use the facilities. The partners also ensure that facilities are accessible for women and girls by building separate male and female latrines and providing female students with extra water for menstrual hygiene management.

Furthermore, the inclusion of marginalized groups is mandated in project planning and implementation. Women like Zenebech and Tigist are involved in the management of community water points and WaSH centres; whereas students are given responsibility over school WaSH facilities. Through their stewardship and involvement in the decision-making surrounding those services, marginalized groups develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for WaSH services and facilities.

During project planning and implementation, Emmanuel Development Association also worked closely with stakeholders like the government and larger community. Working with the community enabled the partners to identify challenges, risks, and opportunities prior to and during project implement-

ation. On the other hand, working with the government enabled the partners to identify gaps in the WaSH sector, and areas in which to provide support. In the process, community members and government officials benefitted from capacity building trainings with the aim of cultivating better management, monitoring, and evaluation of WaSH projects.

Emmanuel Development Association has shown its value for innovation in its approach to waste disposal and management. In the absence of a proper sewage system in Akaki-Kality, the organization has provided new pit-emptying vehicles to suction and dispose of waste from pit latrines. These vehicles are smaller than the average pit-emptying vehicle, and are better able to maneuver the sub-city's congested neighbourhoods.

As for waste management, Emmanuel Development Association has implemented solutions like the biogas energy system to extract natural gas from human and animal waste for use in cooking in WaSH centre cafes. Composting is another solution which, although underutilized in the sector, has become more feasible with the provision of technical training for cooperatives involved in dry waste collection. These contributions to the WaSH sector show the organization's value for innovation.



## Strengths, Limitations and Lessons Learned

Emmanuel Development Association has cultivated many strong points in the process of implementing WaSH projects. The organization has cultivated good relationships with government sector offices, such as Water Works; Waste Management; Women, Children, and Youth Affairs; and Small and Micro Enterprises. More importantly, the collaboration of different sectors has promoted better integration and implementation of WaSH projects.

With WaterAid's support, Emmanuel Development Association has pin-pointed and directly addressed the community's needs by promoting the health and livelihoods of beneficiaries. Furthermore, through the training of school and community leaders—and the cascading of training to fellow school and community members—the partners have made great impact with hygiene and sanitation education.

An important lesson learned from Emmanuel Development Association's experience is that there is no "quick fix" in the WaSH sector—change is a long and difficult process. To make greater impact, WaSH projects need a substantial amount of time for implementation. Similarly, another lesson learned is that the construction of facilities does not solve every WaSH problem. A combination of education and livelihood development is absolutely necessary to inspire sustainable behavioural change in community members.

The major limitations facing the community and partner organizations can be summed up by the shortage of natural and financial resources. Due to population growth and poor infrastructure, there is a severe water shortage in Addis Ababa, especially in poor communities. There is also a shortage of financial resources in relation to the great need of these communities. These gaps can be addressed by development actors like the government, NGOs, and even the community itself, whose contributions can help alleviate the lack of resources being poured into the sector.