

This provides an update on World Vision water efforts to address the global water crisis.

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World Vision Water Update: January 2017



"He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs" - Psalm 107:35 NIV

Reaching 1 Million People with Clean Water in Ethiopia

We're celebrating more than one million people reached with clean water in 2016 in Ethiopia!

At the beginning of our 2016 fiscal year, we were facing some tough headwinds for our Ethiopia Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program. Our business plan called for us to reach 200,000 people with a sustained clean water source, but Ethiopia has political instability limiting our movement in parts of the country. The country is facing one of the most extreme droughts in decades, and then to add to our difficulties, our current WASH director

resigned. In order to stay on track in providing everyone with clean water everywhere we work by 2030, Ethiopia is critical to our plans because it's our biggest water program. Based on my experience with our amazing field staff, I'm not surprised our team got the job done, but I consider it another miracle and good solid business practice that we can reapply.

As background, Ethiopia is a country of nearly 100 million people with about 40 million who lack a clean water source and an estimated 70 million without adequate sanitation. The impact of this unsafe water and hygiene is tragic - killing an estimated 9,000 Ethiopian children every year. Because most rural Ethiopians make their living through farming, water is also key to economic survival.

Here's how we surpassed our goal. Because of our existing WASH team, drilling rigs, and business plans where we had mapped the need for water in areas where we work, we were able to approach donors responding to the famine and explain our capability to provide sustained water sources in the areas that were facing drought. This is appealing because instead of providing expensive emergency water sources, such as through tanker trucking, we could quickly provide sustained water sources that will be a long-term cost savings. In total, we received about \$18 million in funding for our water projects from UNICEF, USAID, and UN OCHA. We also benefited from the depth and breadth of our WASH team and reassigned Abraham Asmare as our Ethiopian WASH Director. Based on these actions, we were able to move up our existing business plan and **achieve two years of impact in a single year.**

By the end of the year, to reach 1,051,662 people with clean water, we provided 2,241 new or rehabilitated water points, created more than 1,000 water committees, and provided water at 72 health facilities. In the areas of sanitation and hygiene, we reached 522,250 people with improved sanitation and 439,223 people with improved hygiene. Going forward, we have plans in place to strengthen our delivery of improved sanitation, including scale-up of a successful pilot in sanitation marketing that was funded by UNICEF.

Our efforts have been closely coordinated with the Ethiopian government, who considers us a critical partner in their "Ethiopia One WASH Plan" that seeks to provide clean water and sanitation to all Ethiopians consistent with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6, which calls for an end to the global water crisis by 2030. His Excellency Motuma Mekassa, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, called World Vision an "excellent partner to our government through its multifaceted development interventions and emergency responses. Particularly, the scale of intervention in the WASH sector in alignment with the strategy of the government and its convening role are well recognized."

Thank you to our donors and partners for helping us turn a tough situation into a positive life-transforming experience for a million people.



You have persistently challenged us to improve our WASH programming. And we are stretching ourselves to raise the bar every year. Your generous gifts and commitment inspire us to think outside the box and press our efforts to reach more children.”

—Abraham Asmare, Ethiopia WASH director

UNC Partnership

We're launching a new video to talk about our six-year collaboration with the Water Institute at the University of North Carolina. As reviewed in a previous newsletter ([LINK](#)) and described in this video, this unique partnership allows us to learn and improve at an unprecedented rate broadly across our water, sanitation, and hygiene programs.



Please click the icons below to share this newsletter with others you know who believe that **every child deserves clean water.**

Dr. Greg Allgood

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worldvision.org/our-impact/clean-water

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