



Ethiopia: Mainstreaming Blue Schools in the Oromia Region, Guji and Bale Zones

Project Duration

01.03.2020 – 31.07.2022

Budget

CHF 501'941

Intervention Country and Zone

Ethiopia: Oromia Region, Guji and Bale Zones

Main Topics

WASH in Schools, Blue Schools

Key Partners and Stakeholders

This project is implemented directly by Caritas Switzerland. Key stakeholders are government line offices at Woreda, zonal, regional and federal level, other NGOs, as well as head teachers, teachers, parent committees, and health clubs, among others.

Co-Funded by



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and Cooperation SDC

Context and Problem Analysis

With over 100 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is one of the most populous countries in Africa. Despite strong economic growth in recent years, more than a third of the population still lives below the poverty line of 2 US\$ / day. In addition to poverty, the area in the south of Ethiopia is highly affected by violent ethnic and political conflicts. The conflicts lead to large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are dependent on humanitarian aid, livelihood support and food aid.

In addition to food shortages – due to recurrent droughts and ongoing conflicts – lack of access to water and sanitation is a major and persistent problem in the region. Nearly 7 million people in Ethiopia live without access to adequate water and sanitation services (UNICEF, 2018). The pressure on scarce resources is further exacerbated by high and rapidly changing numbers of IDPs. Local authorities are facing major challenges in maintaining, improving or expanding Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. As a result, sanitary facilities in institutions, such as schools, are often inexistant, dysfunctional or operate very poorly, especially in rural areas.

Women and girls are particularly affected by poor access to water; for instance, as they have to walk long distances to fetch water. Since girls are traditionally strongly involved in household chores, adequate WASH services are a crucial factor in the decision whether a girl can permanently attend school or not. As a result of their absence from school, girls are subsequently also put at greater risk of child marriages and early pregnancies.

Mainstreaming Blue Schools in the Oromia Region, Southern Ethiopia

Project Objectives and Intervention Strategy

The objective of the project is to improve livelihoods by investing in the next generation, because children are key change agents in their communities. In total, the project focuses on ten schools. Works on infrastructure improvement and capacity building activities are undertaken in a complementary manner. The applied and proven Blue Schools approach enables learning through hands-on practice and allows further dissemination of knowledge by the students to the communities. Additionally, the innovative "Goats for Girls" (G4G) approach is implemented to focus on a higher and persisting girl's school attendance rate through economical support and livestock training.



Image 1: Member of the school's parent committee in front of the school garden.




Image 2: A student explaining a hygiene issue to her peers.

Caritas Switzerland in Ethiopia

Since its foundation in 1901, Caritas Switzerland has been working worldwide to help people in need. The goal is to end poverty – everywhere and for everyone. In Ethiopia, Caritas Switzerland has been conducting long-term development projects and actively providing emergency aid in various regions for 46 years. Highly committed local staff and strong partnerships with

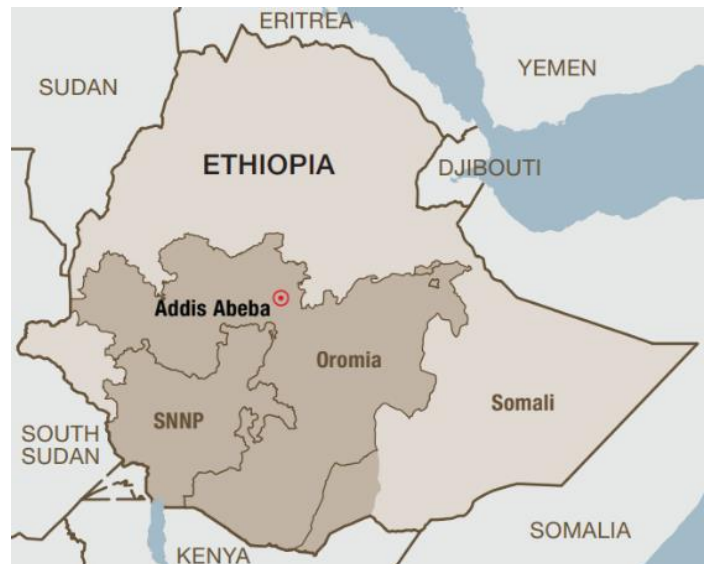
Target Groups: Beneficiaries & Institutions

10 
Schools

6'647 
Students

Key Outcome Targets:

- **Basic drinking water service:** Number of students for which drinking water from an improved source is available at the school: 689 boys / 722 girls.
- **Basic hygiene service:** Number of students for whom handwashing facilities with water and soap are available in their school: 689 boys / 722 girls.
- **WASH infrastructure:** Number of students with access to improved sanitation facilities: 534 boys / 616 girls.



various local stakeholders are among the programme's core strengths. In terms of geographical focus, Caritas Switzerland is currently present with interventions in Oromia, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR).

Contact Caritas Switzerland

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Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium (SWSC)

The SWSC is a consortium of eight Swiss NGOs who pool their resources and know-how to increase access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and improved hygiene. In its third phase (2020-2023), the SWSC features 16 projects in 12 countries in East and West Africa as well as in Asia.

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