



# CRS Ethiopia

## *Water and Sanitation Programming*

### Overview

About 85 percent of Ethiopians live in rural areas. Of these, less than 20 percent have access to safe water and less than 12 percent have access to adequate sanitation facilities. These low access rates contribute to high rates of water-borne and fecal-borne disease, with diarrhea being the second leading cause of death for Ethiopian children under five.

To help improve this situation, CRS Ethiopia includes water and sanitation activities in all of its projects. Over the years, the program has constructed more than 655 water sources that provide almost 2 million people with access to clean water for multiple uses, including drinking, cooking, washing and livestock watering. CRS Ethiopia has also helped build more than 20,000 household pit latrines since October 2000.

By providing a holistic set of services centered around water, CRS is helping Ethiopian communities build a stronger foundation for improving their food production, overall health and economic standing.



Photo by Debbie Dalcoe/CRS

*Easy access to safe, clean water lets Ethiopians spend more time on productive activities such as tending crops.*

*“Previously I traveled a long distance for nine hours to fetch water. Now water is at our doorstep, letting me watch after my children properly.”*

**Nuriya Umere, Mother of Four  
Beneficiary of CRS-Supported  
Water Source in Ajo, Dire Dawa**

*“We used to use water that was dirty, with cattle going into the pond and children washing there. Now that we have this water for household use we have started washing clothes and keep our children clean.”*

**Lone Ifa, Mother of Four  
Beneficiary of CRS-Supported  
Water Source in Alem Tena, Meki**

### Fiscal Year 2007 Sector Details

**Total Budget:** \$2,938,450

**Number of Supported Projects:** 12

**Number of Direct Beneficiaries:** 200,167

**Number of Indirect Beneficiaries:** 60,050

### Primary Funding Sources:



United States Agency for International Development



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Activities



CRS private funds

**Giving Hope to a World of Need**

## CRS Ethiopia Water and Sanitation Interventions

*Water access is critical for communities to improve overall health, food production, livestock management, and income generation. People require safe water for cooking and drinking, bathing and washing, watering crops and livestock, and supporting income-generating activities such as brick-building. CRS Ethiopia's integrated approach helps communities maximize water resources to enhance quality of life on multiple levels.*

### ❖ **Water Source Development for Multiple Uses of Water**

CRS Ethiopia constructs water sources that support multiple uses of water, providing taps for drinking and cooking, basins and showers for washing, and troughs for livestock watering. Water source development and rehabilitation includes springs, hand-dug wells, shallow wells, boreholes and more. CRS also supplies pumps and generators as well as drip irrigation kits and sprinklers for small-scale irrigation as appropriate. All water sources are quality tested to ensure their suitability for domestic and productive uses, with unsafe sources treated accordingly. In addition, CRS introduces natural resource management techniques through other activities to protect watersheds and increase available water.

### ❖ **Integrated Watershed Management**

CRS Ethiopia is implementing five privately-funded projects that provide integrated services within a watershed area to improve management of natural resources in a sustainable manner, consequently improving food security. Activities include soil and water conservation, improved livestock management, water source construction, sanitation coverage, health education, income generation support, and agriculture and home garden support. CRS Ethiopia also uses this integrated watershed management approach in implementing its other projects.

Photo by Bekele Abaie/CRS

### ❖ **Sanitation and Hygiene**

Better sanitation is essential to reduce diarrheal disease and improve family health. CRS Ethiopia works with its partners to achieve 100 percent sanitation coverage in project areas by supporting construction of household latrines, including use of the innovative Arbor Loo that provides both health and agricultural benefits. Health education at both the household and community level also helps to change household behaviors and attitudes — such as building separate living areas outside for animals — resulting in improved health.



*Innovative Arbor Loos are shallow pit latrines almost anyone can dig that provide sanitation and agricultural benefits. When a pit fills, users simply dig a new one. They can also plant a fruit tree on top of the old pit's highly fertile soil.*

### ❖ **Community Involvement**

CRS and its partners use the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation for Transformation (PHAST) methodology to help communities identify problems and plan their own solutions. CRS Ethiopia also builds community capacity for managing and operating water supply systems by establishing and training water committees, encouraging collection of user fees to ensure sustainability, and providing tools and spare parts as appropriate.

### **About CRS**

Catholic Relief Services is the official international relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community. Founded in 1943, CRS' mission is to help the poor and vulnerable overseas without regard to race, religion or nationality. CRS works in nearly 100 countries and territories around the world, touching the lives of 80 million people.



### **Catholic Relief Services, Ethiopia Country Program**

P.O. Box 6592, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: (251)-11-465-3590 • Fax: (251)-11-465-4450

[www.crs.org/ethiopia](http://www.crs.org/ethiopia)