

### Overview

Water is critical for improving quality of life in Ethiopian communities. Sufficient, accessible water enables families to meet daily drinking needs and improve their health while increasing food and income generation through crop and livestock watering. To help communities gain these benefits, CRS Ethiopia undertakes an integrated watershed management approach in its programming.

CRS Ethiopia's innovative watershed implementations focus on providing community access to clean water and helping neighboring communities to conserve natural resources. Activities such as hillside terracing and sustainable land use planning, including controlled livestock grazing, help to naturally replenish exhausted water supplies. Communities gain access to more water, enabling them to increase crop production and productivity, expand income-generating activities and improve overall health.

CRS Ethiopia currently supports five privately funded integrated watershed management projects in targeted areas. Due to the success of these programs, CRS Ethiopia also implements integrated watershed management practices in other programming whenever possible.

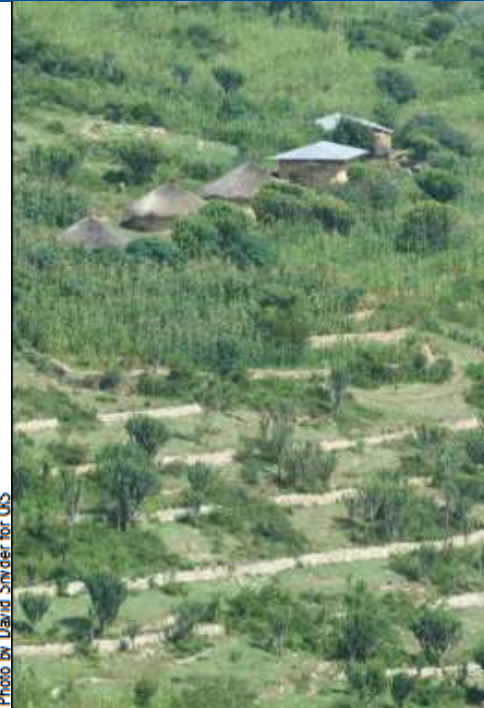


Photo by David Snyder for CRS

*Tiers of stone terraces help prevent soil erosion and retain water on hillsides, helping to replenish water sources.*

*“About 85 percent of Ethiopians live in rural areas, and of these, less than 15 percent have access to safe water. 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.”*

**Bekele Abaire, CRS Program Manager for Water-Sanitation**



*Integrated watershed management initiatives significantly transform communities, as depicted in these before and after pictures from the Addis Alem project in the Amhara region.*

### Integrated Watershed Management Locations

- Addis Alem, Amhara Region
- Adidearo, Tigray Region
- Leku, Amhara Region
- Rubeacha, Tigray Region
- Rift Valley, Oromia Region

### Primary Project Activities

- Water system development
- Natural resource management
- Agriculture improvement and market linkages
- Health education
- Sanitation coverage
- Income diversification