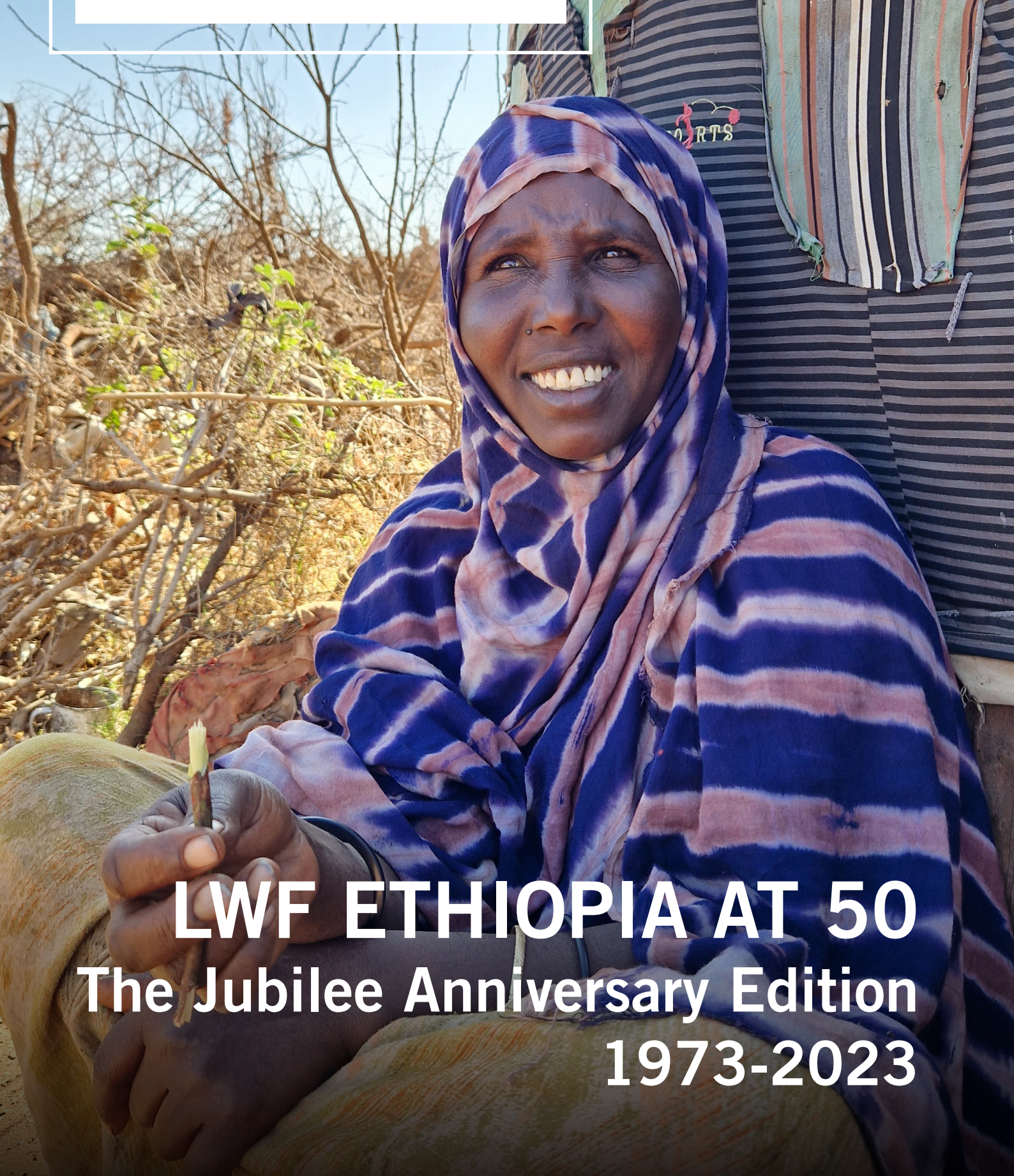


50
YEARS
IN ETHIOPIA



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION



LWF ETHIOPIA AT 50

The Jubilee Anniversary Edition

1973-2023



Photo: © LWF

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Message from the Country Representative



Sophie Gebreyes

A missive signed by his Eminence Dr Emmanuel Abraham, President of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) was the catalyst to propel LWF World Service (LWS) into action in April 1973. At the time, a severe famine was prevailing in the then Wollo, Gojam and Tigray provinces that the Church took it upon herself to raise the alarm and invite the then LWS to respond and to establish a permanent presence in Ethiopia. The Year 2023 marks the 50th Anniversary of that vision. From 1971 to 1972, at the request of EECMY, LWS had already provided emergency relief to drought affected communities in Bichena province Gojam Region.

During the course of the 50-year period, Ethiopia's history was dynamic and tumultuous, shifting from man-made and natural disasters, refugee influxes, internal displacement, coups, conflicts necessitating immense adaptive capacity to effectively respond to the expressed needs in rapidly changing contexts.

Fifty years on, in 2023, Ethiopia is still grappling with multiple complex crises, eerie echoes of conflicts past, resulting in massive deaths and displacement.

As we pause to look back and celebrate what were five remarkable decades providing live-saving and long-term development assistance to millions of Ethiopians, refugees and asylum seekers, we thank all of those who came before us to forge such a great legacy. We stand on their shoulders and solid foundation to devise and implement effective, accountable humanitarian and development responses. We also look to the present as well as the future by continuing to address today's crises and challenges building on the past achievements for a bright, peaceful and reconciled Ethiopia.

I invite you to this 50th Anniversary Edition starting with the foreword by the LWS Director, Mr. Brian Neldner who started it all in 1973, a message from the current President of EECMY, Rev Dr Yonas Yigezu Dibisa followed by a proverbial walk down memory lane, culminating in the 2023 achievements.

LWF Ethiopia is deeply grateful for all your support, partnership and accompaniment during the past 50 years. እናመሰግናለን

In partnership,

Message from the President of EECMY



Rev. Dr. Yonas Yigezu, President of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane-Yesus and LWF Vice President for Africa.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us (Heb 12:1)

First of all, congratulations to the Lutheran World Federation, Ethiopia Program, for the grace to commemorate its 50th anniversary of service in Ethiopia.

On this momentous occasion of the 50th anniversary of LWF Service in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) recalls with deep sorrow the devastating humanitarian suffering of the early 1970s, a period during which the LWF World Service was invited to address a critical situation. While the memories of those tragic times still resonate, we are profoundly grateful for the transformative joint engagement by the LWF and EECMY, which has turned despair into hope and suffering into a promising future.

As we celebrate this anniversary, the EECMY acknowledges and deeply expresses its appreciation for the positive response from the LWF to the invitation extended to it by our leadership at the time, particularly His Excellency Dr. Emmanuel Abraham, the then-president of the EECMY. The diaconal commitment exerted jointly by the LWF and the Church remains indelible and continues to be a story of redemption told by the communities whose lives were spared through the services provided in mitigating that drastic situation.

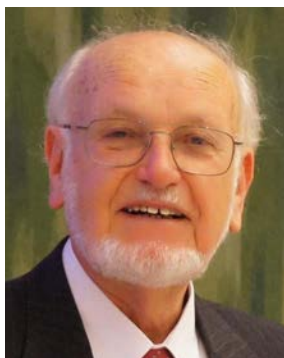
The collaboration initiated five decades ago has indeed been a profoundly impactful journey. Although the initial cooperation focused exclusively on pressing urgencies, the Program has never confined its efforts to immediate emergency interventions alone but has also taken seriously rehabilitation and development needs in a sustainably impactful manner—engaging in services encompassing community development and addressing the multifaceted needs of the people. At this point, it is fitting to acknowledge that the LWF-EECMY relationship has been one of mutual empowerment. We deeply appreciate that this enduring relationship has significantly enhanced the Diaconal service of the EECMY, enabling us to be agents of life-changing support and compassion.

While honouring the past, we must also review and evaluate how the journey has been travelled. Inevitably, there have been setbacks and limitations which may have had both vertical and horizontal implication. Hence, the lessons learned from our shared history will undoubtedly guide us in overcoming any challenges and enhancing our future common endeavours. The EECMY eagerly anticipates even more concerted cooperation in the years ahead, with renewed commitment and dedication to not only our common mission but also the common identity that we cherish.

Together, let us look forward to continuing this impactful journey, bringing hope and positive change to the communities we serve.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Foreword



Brian W Neldner
LWS Staff member 1955-1995
12 January, 2024. Australia

I greet you in your jubilee year with the message of Matthew 25: 40 "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me".

A cable from the President of the ECMY, His Excellency Ato Emmanuel Abraham to the Director of the Lutheran World Service (LWS) in Geneva on 25th April 1973 alerted LWS to the emerging severe drought situation on the eastern escarpment of the main highland plateau of Ethiopia, effectively launched the LWF/LWS programme in Ethiopia. LWS immediately made available modest funds to support food aid being provided through local churches and missionary posts, but indications were emerging that much more would be needed. Hence, LWS agreed to participate in the forthcoming survey of drought affected area. The undersigned was in Bangladesh on a field at the time and was instructed to divert to Ethiopia to join the ecumenical group being assembled to survey the affected areas of the Wollo and Tigre provinces in the last week of May.

Students of University of Addis Ababa were raising the alarm and raising money through their student body, but the government had not yet recognised a drought situation. The provincial governor had received no response to his appeal for assistance and local civil servants were sacrificing part of their salaries to purchase food locally to feed the hungry crowds milling around the provincial offices, which the survey team would confirm during their assessment. I was to proceed directly to Germany after the completion of the survey to brief our related agencies on needs once we had confirmed the seriousness of the situation of which they were already aware of. Apart from food aid, securing village water supply, and strengthening medical services, the all-important need was to replace the lost oxen, especially with the prospect of good rains ahead. I had visited Ethiopia in February to facilitate the wind-up of the Gojjam project which had delivered 1500 oxen to that drought affected area, as foreseen, when there were already indications of impending food shortages in Wollo. The EECMY clearly indicated that we should proceed as planned and if there were further needs they would advise LWS. Hence the significance of the cable from the President EECMY.

It can be said the rest is history. LWF WS is now are in the jubilee year in the biblical sense, to reflect on the partnership of the LWS with its member church in providing aid to those in need in the spirit of the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which is the rock on which LWS is built on to provide a witness through service to those in need. May the Lord of the Church bless the work of all those who carry this service forward. As the intervening years have shown, the Horn of Africa is a drought-prone area and has faced many human-made crises, thus it is prudent that the worldwide communion of churches in the LWF retains a presence in the area. It is pleasing to note, from my time and distance from this work, that the programme is now well into its second decade of vastly local leadership, and that today, seldom are international staff required. And a lasting legacy is the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP) which provided a unique service at a time of crisis, ecumenically, by the three major churches in Ethiopia.



LWF in Ethiopia

Highlights of 50 years of Service

1973 - 1983

Wello and Tigray

1973-77

- First 10 years was a time of emergency relief operations to respond to Tigray & Wollo severe drought and famine.

First 5 years (1973-1976) – period of drought relief.

Distribution of oxen to targeted farmers, institutional WASH and medicals service to people returning to their homes from camps along the main north-south road between Mekelle, the capital of Tigray, and Dessie, the capital of Wollo. In 1975, improvements were made to the water supply and hospital in Weldiya town. 2,500 people in the town were provided with running water for the first time. Today Weldiya is a booming town of approx. 200,000.



Photo: © LWF



Photo: © LWF



Medical assistance, was extended to six other areas of Kambatta as well. By 1977, the project had already made a significant contribution to Kambatta's development, especially in terms of medical services, agricultural extension and, through FFW, a system of feeder roads. In mid-1976 during separate consultations with EECMY and the government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission(RRC), LWS was urged to consider helping to resettle people from highly populated parts of Kambatta, eventually led to the Botor Tole project.

Kambatta

1974-78

The Botor Tole Resettlement Project 1977-80

In 1977 LWS constructed a three pier 84-metre long and 5-metre wide bridge over the major Gibe River. The river forms the boundary between Shoa and Keffa regions. In the rains it literally used to cut off a swathe of Keffa from basic services available on the Shoan side (e.g. maternity facilities) and from supplies and assistance from Addis Ababa. Also some new settlers from Kambatta, Hadiya, Wollo and Tigray were put off by such isolation, but came on their own initiative once the bridge was finished. On 21 July 1979 the completed work was handed over to the government: A 27-kilometre gravel road, plus 13 culverts three small bridge, as well as the large Gibe Bridge.

Konso-Sidamo 1978-80

Other assistance in 1978 included a rehabilitation and reforestation project in the Konso area of Sidamo Region. During 1979-80, the construction of a bridge over the Dabena river saved 30,000 people in Wollega from being regularly cut off for half the year.



Photo: © LWF

In 1976, by air and sea, some relief commodities were provided to the population in and around Asmara. In 1978 an airlift of food from Assab to Asmara, which was also closely coordinated with a parallel air shuttle established by the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (ECS). The airlift stopped in November 1978 with the re-opening of the Massawa-Asmararoad.

Asmara 1976-79

Genale province is in the north-west of Bale region in southern Ethiopia. The invasion of Ethiopia by Somalia in 1977 caused widespread displacement of populations in southern and eastern Ethiopia. After providing some emergency aid, LWS began in March 1980 and integrated response included agriculture, water development, village facilities, road development, health services, education and community activities, plough oxen on credit, seeds and fertilizer, afforestation, beekeeping and poultry, cooperative shops and cottage industries, but also items very closely connected with agriculture such as grain stores and grinding mills.

Genale Rehabilitation Project 1980-84

1980 - 1992

Addis Ababa Rehabilitation Project 1980-84

The basic infrastructure of the capital city has long been increasingly overloaded. The drought of the 1970s meant that many destitute people migrated to Addis Ababa, but a high proportion of these lived in appalling conditions. The project helped such people through skills training and the establishment of small-scale industries, as well as assisting others in vegetable production for sale in city markets.



Rehabilitation of fishermen – Massaswa-Dahlak Islands 1983-90



From 1978 to 1979, there had been fighting in and around Massawa Port on the Red Sea coast. One result was the destruction of the infrastructure of the local fishing industry on which 4,000 families depended in the Massawa area and on the nearby Dahlak Islands. By the end of 1984, five large boats were in operation and a ferro-cement boat was nearly complete. The Massawa fishermen formed themselves into the Semhar Fishing Cooperative, to which the project handed over 18 fiber-glass boats. By the end of 1985 fifty Massawa fishermen had been enabled to return to their way of life on a productive basis. A main component of Phase Two was the construction Later, a jetty/wave breaker on Dahlak Island, and the continuation of the boat building and fisherman training activities. A fourth ferro-cement boat was launched in 1987, a fifth in 1988 and a sixth and final one in 1989. By the end of 1987 the jetty was 150 meters long. On 8 February 1990 government forces lost control of Massawa, and the project was forced to close two weeks before the planned hand-over date of 23 February. But the jetty had been completed; it had reached 187 meters, not counting the 40 meter 'T' section. That section left a twenty-meter passage between it and a coral reef through which boats pass into the production of the jetty's lee.



Photo: © LWF

Like the Genale project, this project related to the aftermath of the 1977 invasion by Somalia and to drought. But in this case, the displaced people had been returning from Somalia to their home area in the Ogaden Desert - The project assisted 1,386 returnee families to become self-sufficient. However, in practice many other returnee families benefited in the project area - a 35 kilometers stretch of a major river, the Wabe Behe between Kelafo and Mustahil town. the unofficial practice of sharing plots, actual direct beneficiaries were approximately 3,500 families (about 20,000 people) out of about 4,700 families in the project area. The scheme included pumped irrigation from the river, and by 1985 the harvest had significantly reduced the need for relief supplies. By the end of that year, 1, 460 hectares were under irrigated cultivation, and divided into family plots Work directly related to the objective of food self-sufficiency included 200 kms of farm roads, 30 kms of access roads, 350 kms of irrigations canals, 175 kms of drainage canals, 6 kms of main canals, 10 kms of secondary canals, 20 division boxes, 30 culverts and 3 observation wells. In addition, health posts were established in all nine villages, and a clinic was built, equipped and, in 1986, handed over to the Ministry of Health.

Kelafo/Mustahil Rehabilitation Project 1983-89



Photo: © LWF

Medical Assistance to Returnees, Hararghe 1984-92

The project dealt with the effects on local people of the 1977 invasion of Ethiopia by Somalia. Large numbers had fled from Hararghe to Somalia and Djibouti. By the end of 1984, 350,000 had returned. The principal focus of the project has been mother and child health care (MCH), including the immunization. It has also been active in health education, sanitation, distribution of essential medicines, training of community health agents and traditional birth attendants, and the construction and equipping of health posts and clinics. In 1984, on top of MCH, nutritional surveillance, registering children for vaccination, training, and helping HOH clinics, the project used three mobile teams to make an extensive survey of the Ogaden at over 100 sample points. From 1984 to 1986 the project continued to be wide-ranging. Thus, it assisted the medical sectors of LWF/WS 's Genale and Kelafo projects. It also provided relief assistance to 35,000 beneficiaries in Dire Dawa Province. By 1987, the project was concentrating on its established work in the north of Hararghe Region, especially on 16 focal points, 3 in Chercher Province and 13 in Dire Dawa Province, though it was still active in Kelafo Province, far to the south. In 1988, two mobile teams continued to work out of the Dire Dawa project office to serve 150,000 beneficiaries at the focal points (by then 15), and the third mobile team was continuing to help 30,000 beneficiaries in Kelafo. By 1990, the benefits of the project were becoming clear; immunization had vastly reduced childhood diseases, and there was less demand for diarrhea medicine.



During 1984, fighting in southern Sudan forced more than 65,000 refugees into Gambela Province in Ilubabor Region, western Ethiopia. From the end of 1983 to the end of 1985 about 90,000 Sudanese, mainly pastoralists, had reached Itang on the important Baro River, along which there live settled agriculturalists. By the end of 1986 there were 125,000 refugees, of whom 85% were single young men. From September to December 1985 work began on settling 400 families. These cleared plots and built houses themselves. In 1986 they ploughed over 600 hectares, and more than 3,000 quintals were ready for harvesting when refugees from the nearby camp took most of the crop. Another 600 refugee families, and to reduce plots from 1.5 hectares to 0.5 hectares. These additional families were settled by June 1987, bringing the total settler population to over 7,600 of 450 hectares planted in 1987, 239 hectares fared well despite a lack of rain in June and July. 85% of 150,000 young trees which were planted out survived. In 1986, 920 sheep and goats were provided to the original 400 families; in 1987 1,480 more were distributed to the 600 families. A new school and a new clinic were built, and the local water supply was improved.

Itang/Gambella Refugee Settlement Project 1985-88



24 stone-faced earth dams were constructed

North Shewa Integrated Rural Development project

14 micro dams. 9 spring development, 2 river diversions, water supply for 15,000 people and 110 km of roads

Eritrea 1985-92

1985 - 2003

The Joint Relief partnership (JRP) and the LWS-EECMY Soil and Water Conservation projects (SWCP) were the two flagship programs that lifted millions out of poverty and a state of high vulnerability through famine relief and the promotion of irrigated agriculture through the construction river diversions, earth and stone dams. We invite you to travel down the proverbial memory lane to revisit SWCP and JRP's achievements at the height of the famine.

The SWCP has had a considerable impact on local food security, as well as on grain and vegetable markets, and on the incomes of the direct beneficiaries. From 1985 to 2003, LWF constructed a total over 118 river diversions, over 50 micro dams and developed 15 springs including in today's Eritrea that are capable to irrigate hundred of thousands of hectares and benefit hundreds of thousands of households. The very tangible achievements are striking evidence that, even during a period of war, development carried out with local communities can be achieved.

Sample SWCP irrigation schemes constructed between 1985 - 2003:

RIVER DIVERSIONS

1. Erer Gota river diversion, Shinille
2. Gota river diversion, Hararghe
3. Dimtu river diversion, Hararghe
4. Billa river diversion, Hararghe
5. Serkama river diversion, East Ethiopia
6. Melka Jebdu I river diversion, East Ethiopia
7. Melka Jebdu II river diversion, East Ethiopia
8. Germam river diversion, East Ethiopia
9. Wahile river diversion, East Ethiopia
10. Belewa I river diversion, East Ethiopia
11. Belewa II river diversion, East Ethiopia
12. Belewa III river diversion, East Ethiopia
13. Berake Weref river diversion, East Ethiopia
14. Berka Korfu river diversions, East Ethiopia

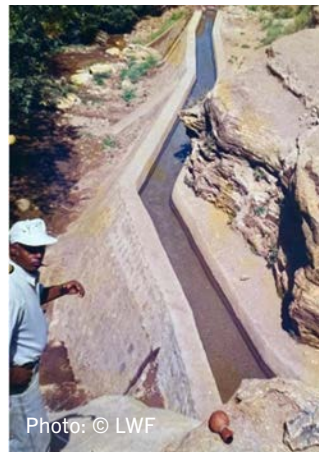


15. Denbel Jilbo river diversion, East Ethiopia
16. Serkama Weref river diversion, East Ethiopia
17. Hula Hulul river diversion, East Ethiopia
18. Bio Karaba river diversion, East Ethiopia
19. Aseliso river diversion, East Ethiopia
20. Billa Bishan Behe river diversion, East Ethiopia
21. Geni river diversion, Geno Dale, Wellega
22. Suchi river diversion, Dale Lalo, Wellega



23. Gato River diversion, North Omo
24. Masta River diversion, North Omo
25. Beto river diversion, Southern Ethiopia
26. Arbe Gona river diversion, Southern Ethiopia
27. Delbena river diversion, North Omo
28. Kake/Bururi river diversion, Wellega
29. Lalokile Giggo river diversion, Wellega
30. Kombolcha river diversion, Wellega
31. Belew, river diversion, Mi'esso, Eastern Ethiopia
32. Afdem river diversion, Erer Gode, East Ethiopia
33. Kulayo river diversion, Dire Dawe, Eastern Ethiopia
34. Hermata river diversion, North Wollo
35. Beka, river diversion, Chiro, West Hararghe
36. Biyyo Keraba river diversion, Dobba, Hararghe
37. Gorogutui-Gelana-Sadi river diversion, Deder, Hararghe
38. Hargiti-Lega-Arba river diversion, Chiro, Hararghe
39. Midigun river diversion, Shinille
40. Adigela Qelqelo river diversion, Shinille

41. Denbel-Dhega Chebsi river diversion, Shinille
42. Abba Dale river diversion, Nejo, Wellega
43. Dabena Chara river diversion, Bedele
44. Lower Bilate river diversion, Damot, North Omo
45. Megenagna river diversion North Wollo
46. Debeley river diversion, Dire Dawa
47. Horuwa river diversion, Misha, Hadiya
48. Melka Jebdu river diversion, Ankober, Northern Shewa
49. Mihagdu river diversion, Habru, North Wollo
50. Wa'ama/Tamaroibano river diversion, Chifra, Afar
51. Dawe Iresso river diversion, Chinaksen, Jijiga
52. Lomate river diversion in Uba Debre Tsehay, Gamo Gofa
53. Upper Bilate river diversion in Damot Weyide, SNNPR



54. Wama Hagelo river diversion, Wellega
55. Wondinak river diversion, Danno, West Shewa
56. Negesso Leka Dulecha, river diversion, Wellega
57. Semekab-Harmukla river diversion, Shinille
58. Kokono Akoba, river diversion, Habru, North Wollo
59. Biyo Medicho river diversion, East Ethiopia
60. Combolcha Beke Hallo river diversion, Wollo
61. Goha river diversion, Kemba, North Omo
62. Sille river diversion, North Omo
63. Cherity river diversion, Habru, North Wollo
64. Dino river diversion, Kobo, North Wollo
65. Ha'a river diversion, Gibe River, Hadiya
66. Lega Harre river diversion, Sasiga, Wellega
67. Gursum Gobebe, East Ethiopia
68. Yebelu Fedis river diversion, East Ethiopia
69. Leku river diversion, Western Ethiopia
70. Ehud Gebeya river diversion, Western Ethiopia
71. Hulul Mojo river diversion, Dire Dawa
72. Harmukale river diversion, East Ethiopia
73. Chifra river diversion, Doba, Hararghe
74. Nedi river diversion Tiro Afeta, Jimma
75. Tole Beyem river diversion, Omo Nada, Jimma
76. Nacha Qulit river diversion, Gorro, Gurage, SNNPR
77. Melka Kero river diversion, Dire Dawa

78. Jeldessa river diversion, Dire Dawa
79. Burtalle river diversion, Mille, Zone One, Afar
80. Barresa river diversion, Northern Shewa Beto river diversion, Wellega
81. Baso-Shafe River diversion, North Omo
82. Otor Hare river diversion, North Om



83. Aroresa river diversion, Sidamo
84. Ganga Gidabo river diversion, Sidamo
85. Belina Chiro river diversion, Northern Shewa
86. Wayo Gelana river diversion, Southern Ethiopia
87. Dale Worka river diversion, Southern Ethiopia
88. Gedeb Gelana river diversion, Southern Ethiopia
89. Furuna river diversion, Southern Ethiopia
90. Hurso Wahile river diversion, East Ethiopia

MICRO DAMS

1. Borta micro earth dam, Wellega
2. Gome micro earth dam, Wellega
3. Aseliso - Bishan Behe earth dam, East Ethiopia
4. Garikimtano dam, Boset, East Shewa
5. Genasi-Ka-Algela earth dam, Dire, Borena
6. Borta micro earth dam, Wellega
7. Gome micro earth dam, Wellega
8. Garikimtano dam, Boset, East Shewa
9. Genasi-Ka-Algela earth dam, Dire, Borena
10. Awale masonry dam, East Ethiopia
11. Ada masonry dam, East Ethiopia
12. Bekehallo-Tujujma masonry dam
13. Borena dam, Borena
14. Gombissa dam, Southern Ethiopia
15. Horrat micro earth dam, Kobo Asebot, Mi'esso, Hararghe
16. Senbete micro earth dam, Moyale, Borena
17. Sorgia earth dam, Wellega
18. Ento earth dam, Western Ethiopia
19. Lega Surre Wurwita earth dam, Borena
20. Kancharo-Shoriako earth dam, Borena



21. Haro Abas micro earth dam, Hagera Mariam, Borena
22. Bulbul earth dam, Limu Kosa, Jimma
23. Yachi Tollay earth dam, Limu Kosa, Jimma
24. Lega Boji earth dam, M'Joyale, Liben
25. Kokaye Sama, earth dam, Dire, Borena
26. Haicho micro dam, Erer, Dire Dawa
27. Adada masonry dam, Dire Dawa
28. Shimanigus earth dam, Eritrea
29. Liban earth dam Eritrea
30. Keren Ira earth dam, Eritrea
31. Embadoro earth dam, Eritrea
32. Benjuk earth dam, Eritrea
33. Adi Giorghis earth dam, Eritrea
34. Sheyib Seleba masonry dam, Eritrea
35. Liban earth dam, Eritrea
36. Adi Kubullo earth dam, Eritrea
37. Zaul earth dam, Eritrea

38. Dogali Masonry dam, Eritrea
39. Chaffa earth dam, Eritrea
40. Taarishi earth dam, Eritrea
41. Korbaria dam, Akale Guzai, Eritrea
42. Zeazega dam, Hamassen, Eritrea
43. Igremekel dam, Seraye, Eritrea
44. Adi Teklezan dam, Hamassen, Eritrea
45. Ghinda dam, Red Sea, Eritrea
46. Merhano dam, Eritrea
47. Shitaf dam, Keren, Eritrea
48. Adi Abahi micro dam, Senafe, Eritrea
49. Adi Bahro dam, Seraye, Eritrea
50. Adi Hawisha earth dam, Eritrea
51. Hawsatzu micro dam, Eritrea



SPRING DEVELOPMENTS

1. Gorogutui-Gelana spring development, Deder, Hararghe
2. Midigun spring development, Shinille
3. Awalle/Goro Arba spring development, Dire Dawa
4. Semekab-Harmukla spring development, Shinille
5. Hullul Modjo spring development, Dire Dawa
6. Irrie Tokuma spring development, Meta, E Hararghe
7. Aware Berkele spring development, Anchar. W Hararghe
8. Jarso Anenno spring development, East Hararghe
9. Biyo Awale spring development, East Ethiopia
10. Welenso Bishan Behe river diversion, Shinille
11. Chefe Temmam spring development, Chinaksen, Somali
12. Haicho spring development, Erer, Dire Dawa
13. Adada spring development, Dire Dawa



1984 - 1992

Joint Relief partnership (JRP) - An exemplary ecumenical response to famine in Ethiopia (Excerpts from 'The Lutheran World Federation in Ethiopia. Peter W. Esmonde. 1993).

In 1979, there were over 600,00 people affected by the severe drought in 1979. Ethiopia's harvests in 1980, 1981 and 1982 were poor, especially in northern regions. By April 1982, LWS and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), which were also well established in Ethiopia, realized that they could be much more effective working more in partnership than in isolation. Along with their indigenous church partners, EECMY and the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (ECS), they formed, by November 1985, the Church Drought Action Africa CDAA/E. In November 1985, the name CDAA/E was changed to the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP), partly to avoid confusion with CDAA in Switzerland and partly to emphasize that it was only a partnership of independent agencies, not a separate agency in itself.

After a formal invitation from JRP in 1986, the Development and Inter-Church-Aid Department (DICAD) of the Ethiopian Orthodox church (EOC) became a full member of JRP on 3rd March 1987.

As with the other original members of JRP, LWS carried out some of its relief work independently and some jointly but all of it in coordination with its partners. At the height of the relief work in 1984-86, LWS expanded its relief work into the Wollo, Shoa, Sidamo, Illubabor, and Wellega provinces.

International response to the famine was crucially augmented due to the coverage in the world's media in October 1984. The drought continued to affect millions in 1985, and by the close of that year LWS/EECMY and ECE were distributing relief to over one million people.

Before the main rains, LWS provided seeds to over 30,000 families in Wollo, Tigray, Shoa, and Wellega.

Transport became a very critical issue for LWS in 1985 how to move huge quantities of food, and how to do so over some of the most difficult terrain in the world. Local trucks were hired by LWS other JRP members, and NGOs involved in distribution in local areas, about 30 of which had supply arrangements with the JRP partners during 1985/86. However, the pool of trucks available in the nations was only 4000

and maintenance was not always good. Excellent maintenance in Ethiopia is particularly indispensable because of the often-exceptional road conditions. LWS leased 150 trucks and also contracted air Botswana from September to December to move 5,530 MT of goods to difficult or inaccessible parts of Tigray.

By the close of 1985, LWS/EECMY had built up a fleet of its own twenty-two heavy trucks with trailers and 17 light trucks the latter with their smaller sizes and four-wheel drive were ideal to reach local distribution points. LWS/EECMY in December 1985 run warehouses in Addis Ababa, Dessie, Nazareth and Debre Birhane. Relief items that were channeled through LWS/EECMY in 1985 were valued at USD 17,756,235 excluding related costs such as transportation.

Relief continued on a large scale in 1986. During the main rains and before the harvest, LWS/EECMY were providing food to nearly 850,000 people but was fairly good harvest and by December the figure had dropped to 267,000 people. However, in Western Wellega, there was an increase in the number of people suffering from severe food shortages. In 1986, LWS/EECMY received relief items worth USD 13,628,187 from overseas and USD 18,851,480 from agencies within the country. LWS/EECMY were much less dependent on hiring trucks of the 79,605 MT were moved by means of their own fleet of 40 trucks and LWS/EECMY's smaller vehicles in Dire Dawa small work shop was set up to support the Hararghe Medical Project.

During 1985/86, members of JRP aided on average about 1.8 million people mainly through the provision of relief through EECMY synods and partly through other NGOs.

The worsening of the food situation in Wellega, Kaffa and Western Shoa areas (except Kaffa), LWS/EECMY's responsibility under the JRP arrangements meant that in 1987, especially in the first half of the year, LWS/EECMY had to concentrate its relief work mainly in western areas of the country some assistance continued to Wollo. Altogether LWS/EECMY



LWF plane moving relief goods to Mekelle, 1985



distributed 12,608 MT Of relief food mostly as FFW in Illubabor, Kaffa, Shoa, Wellega (4,916MT) and Wellega (4,270MT) at the end of 1987 ,4,824 MT was also in storage in these regions donations from the European economic community (EEC) in particular (35,307MT of wheat 500MT of edible oil and 500 MT of milk powder including some food carried over from over 1987 and some carried forward to 1989), enabled LWS/EECMY to provide considerable level of relief continued during 1988 JRP provided emergency food assistance to approximately 1.5 million people the situation had improved by the end of the year thanks to the good harvest in many areas. LWS/EECMY concentrated their emergency relief activities on Shoa (19,473MT), Sidamo (4,001MT) and Wollo (9228MT) as in previous years. LWF/WS linked relief closely to supply and agricultural tools, and medical supplies were also provided for emergency medical needs LWS with its experience of working in Hararghe operated as relief implementing agency there for CRS distributing 3,521 MT to an average of 25,800 people between April and December.



JRP joint coordinating office which had opened in January 1985, was phased out at the end of June 1988.

However, the JRP itself remained very much active and the coordinators committees (at both member and joint levels) as well as the executive committee continued to meet.

LWS was able to reduce considerably its relief work and concentrate on rehabilitation and development however there some food deficit areas LWS continued providing FFW in Wellega, Shoa, and Gamo Gofa distribution totaled 5,950 MT of wheat, dried milk

butter oil and vegetable oil there were a very serious meningitis epidemic in Ethiopia in early 1989 and LWS along with other agencies assisted MoH in quite successful campaigns.

Towards the end of 1989, it became clear that in northern areas there was widespread harvest failure putting six million lives were in danger mostly in rebel-held areas. This led the JRP to reestablish a JRP office in 1989. The JRP Secretariat has ever since been accommodated in the LWS head office, and plans were made in late 1989 and early 1990 to provide relief by Northern Line Operation through Massawa Port on to Asmara and south to Adigrat in northern Tigray, however the fall of Massawa in February 1990 meant the plans had to be changed to a southern line operation ie a route of over 1000 kilometers from Asseb port through Dessie and all the way to Zalambessa in northern Tigray.

After assurances form the government and rebels southern line operation (SLO) commenced on 20 March 1990 LWS assigned 19–22-ton trucks with trailers to the operation and the mobile workshop become based in Dessie. In 1990, despite a slow start more than 100,000 MT of relief food was moved by truck as well as 36,000 MT by air to Asmara) reaching over one million beneficiaries by December. Massawa was re-opened for emergency relief food. During 1990, LWS received massive 68,750 MT food from EEC with the value of USD 22,826,600 EEC also supplied 15 storage tents each with room for 500 MT of relief supplies.

JRP and SLO distributed nearly 150,000 MT of food to 1.5 million people during 1991 EEC provided LWSE with 60,100MT worth USD 18,861 the cost of 18,861,800.

Meanwhile regions further south where LWS and EECMY had ongoing responsibilities were some what neglected during 1990 due to the northern emergency and in 1991 due to the insecurity which excluded some areas from access for substantial periods all this time needs in the southern regions were increasing. In 1991, relief was distributed to 294,423 people there but lack of international food donations meant that requirements could be only very partially met LWS/EECMY assisted on a more regular basis 15,000 displaced people who arrived in Addis Ababa. This assistance included food tents, clothing, and medicine. LWS/EECMY also assisted families made homeless by the massive explosion at an ammunition dump in Addis Ababa.

In 1991, LWS/EECMY received a large donation of medicines from DanChurchAid which was distributed to many clinics from North Wollo to southern areas. A joint medical team from LWS/EECMY and GOAL did much work assisting ex-soldiers who were existing in appalling conditions in Tatek military camp near Addis Ababa.

Relief during 1992 continued to be plagued by delays in assistance from donors. Food pledges by delays in assistance from donors' food pledges for 1992 were very slow in arriving only starting to reach Ethiopia in June, and mainly coming after August. LWS/EECMY had estimated that 1,233,000 peoples in their regions needed 159,000 MT of food assistance but it was possible to distribute only 70,461MT worth USD 16,567 were provided by EEC to cope with an emergency in Borena in Southern Sidamo where conflict displaced many people and caused severe malnutrition among children. LWS/EECMY had to carry out an intensive wet feeding program. Also, in 1992, through budget of USD 2 Million provided by CSA, LWS /EECMY started assisting 6,500 ex-soldiers to return to their farms supplying them with plough oxen, seeds, tools, household utensils and some veterinary drugs.

The year 1991 saw the loss of almost all physical aspect of the projects at Massawa Kelafo and Itang. The cause at Massawa was bombing and rocket fire the boat yard and installations at Massawa were wrecked and up to four of the six ferro cement boats were destroyed (one

was sunk) the jetty was not affected and was perhaps the greatest contribution the project made any way, given Dahlak islanders very long-standing commitment to fishery activities refugees movement and insecurity at Itang and Kelafo have left virtually nothing of the visible aspects of the projects.

The SWC project has been remarkably successful at most of its many sites, and shows every sign of providing an immensely valuable services to local communities similarly the Northern Shoa Rural Development Project. The Hararghe Medical Project even if its lasting results are more difficult to quantify, has benefited many families.

LWS and EECMY's relief work has not only saved very many lives but has also precluded excessive displacement and dependency by using the family take-home system by a timely emphasis on FFW/ rehabilitation including replenishment of family seed stocks, tools and livestock. All these effort by families and aid workers has helped towards transforming disasters into process of recovery. With good rain fall, security and relative lack of locusts and other major pests that process as yet very patchy and uncertain could led to genuine community-based development meanwhile LWS' environmental, human rights, peace, disaster prevention and related activities can contribute to promoting the necessary global, regional and local context.



Mr Niels Nikolaisen, LWF Ethiopia Resident Representative from 1979-87 overseeing relief air drop to Asmara
Photo: © LWF

2000 - 2023

Relief 2000-04

The year 2000, another year of drought in Southern Tigray, North and South Wollo, Waghemra, North and South Gondar, Northern Shewa, East and West Hararghe, Borena, Bale, North and South Shewa, Somali an SNNPR. A total 38,004 MT was distributed benefitting more than half a million people.

In 2023 and 2004, emergency relief food was distributed in Dehana, Waghembra in Amhara, Chifra and Mille in Afar, Seweyna, Beltu, Rayitu, Meda Welabu in Oromia and in Amaro, Aleta Wondo, an dale in Sidama, SNNPR. A total of 77,408 MT was distributed to 806,946 households.



Integrated Community Development Projects (ICDP) 2009-10

ICDP: With SWCP and IRDP projects phasing out, the new focus was on community development which were implemented in Jijiga (Somali) , Chifra (Afar) Chinaksen (East Hararghe) and Goro (Bale). The projects focus on agriculture, and water development, natural resource management, girls education, HIV & AIDS awareness, training of TBAs, and the construction of schools, health posts and other infrastructure.

Relief: Relief activities were also conducted in Abaya, Dawe Kachen , Jijiga and Mekit.

SWCP: The Kechine Ababa small scale irrigation scheme constructed in North Wollo was constructed.



The IRDP projects combined several sectors to provide hundreds of thousands of project participants a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation assistance through:

- Agricultural extension
- Natural Resource Conservation and management
- SWCP
- Livestock development
- Credit and Savings
- Water development
- Health and Education
- Capacity Building
- Water supply and Construction of feeder roads

Relief and Rehabilitation:

A total of 447,223MT of food was distributed to a total of 594,784 people in Gubalafto, Habru, Kobo, Dehana, Ankober, Rayitu, Ghinir, Sewena, Beltu, Meda wellabu, Hagere mariam, Haromaya, Soro, Kacha Bira, Hamer Bena, Burji, Dale, Shebedino and Filtu.



Photo: © LWF

Ziquala and Ghinir/Rayitu and Integrated Rural development Projects 2001-09

Refugee response 2007-24

2007-2024 - Somali Refugees: After the Itang Refugee Resettlement Project in 1985, LWF did engage in refugee response until 2007 during the large influx of Somali refugees into the Fafan zone of Somali Regional State. LWF responded in Aw-barre, Kebribeyah and Sheder refugee camps implementing WASH, livelihoods and food security projects.

2011-2015 - Somali Refugees: In 2011, another large influx of refugees fleeing the Horn of Africa drought for 2011-2012 arrived in the Dollo Ado, Somali region. After an initial emergency intervention in Hilaweyn and Bokolomayo camps, LWF implemented, WASH, livelihoods and food security projects in Buramino refugee camp.

2011/12-2016 - Sudanese Refugees: In 2011-12, a large influx of Sudanese from the Blue Nile State started arriving in Ethiopia and were hosted in Benishangul Gumuz regional State. After an initial intervention in Sherkole and Tongo, LWF implemented WASH, livelihoods, CBPS, environmental protection, energy projects in Bambasi and in Gure Shembola.

2014-2024 - South Sudanese Refugees: Following the conflict in South Sudan in December 2014, a large influx of South Sudanese refugees of started arriving in Pagak

and Akobo Tergol entry points in Gambella. LWF started operating in the Leitchour Refugee Camp with water supply, hygiene and sanitation, unconditional cash, and NFIs. A year later, the camp was flooded and refugees moved to Jewi Refugee Camp where LWF is still assisting the refugees relocated from Leitchour and host communities.

2023-2024 - Sudanese refugees - A little more than ten years later, a new wave of Sudanese refugees started arriving in Metemma entry point on the border with the Amhara Region and the Kurmuk entry point on the border with Benishangul-Gumuz Region, fleeing conflict inside Sudan. LWF immediately started responding in Kumer, the first refugee camp opened to host the refugees both from Sudan and Eritreans intervening in WASH and in cash.



Photo: © LWF



Photo: © LWF



In 2016 and 2017 a major drought, induced by the El Niño weather phenomenon hit Ethiopia with devastating effects. LWF responded in one of hardest hit region, Amhara, in North Wollo Zone, Lasta woreda benefitting thousands of drought-affected people in Erffa, Gelesot, and Maure kebeles.



Photo: © LWF

Starting from December 2016, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) eclipsed the number of refugees and asylum seekers in the country due to an unprecedented rise in inter-communal conflicts since between Oromo/Somali, followed by the conflicts between Guji/Gedeo and Amhara and Oromo communities.



This was later compounded by the Tigray conflict between the Federal Government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and spill-over into Afar and Amhara region in 2020-2022 displacing millions. LWF responded to the conflict-induced displacement in East Hararghe East Bale in Oromia, as well as in Mekelle, Central, Eastern and Southern Tigray, and Northern Shewa in Amhara.

El Niño-induced Drought response 2016-17

IDP response 2016-24



2023 Annual report

Photo: © LWF

Operational map

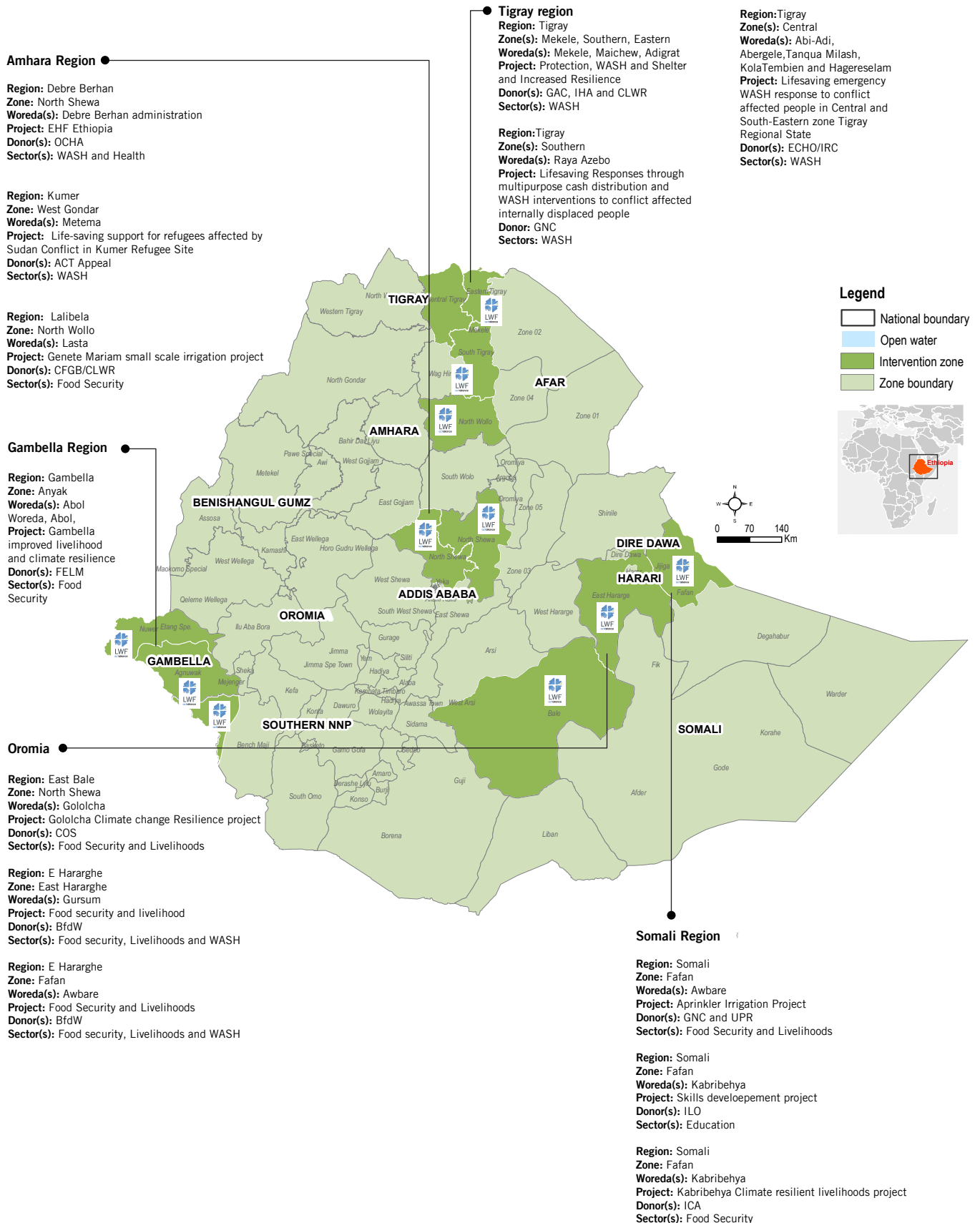
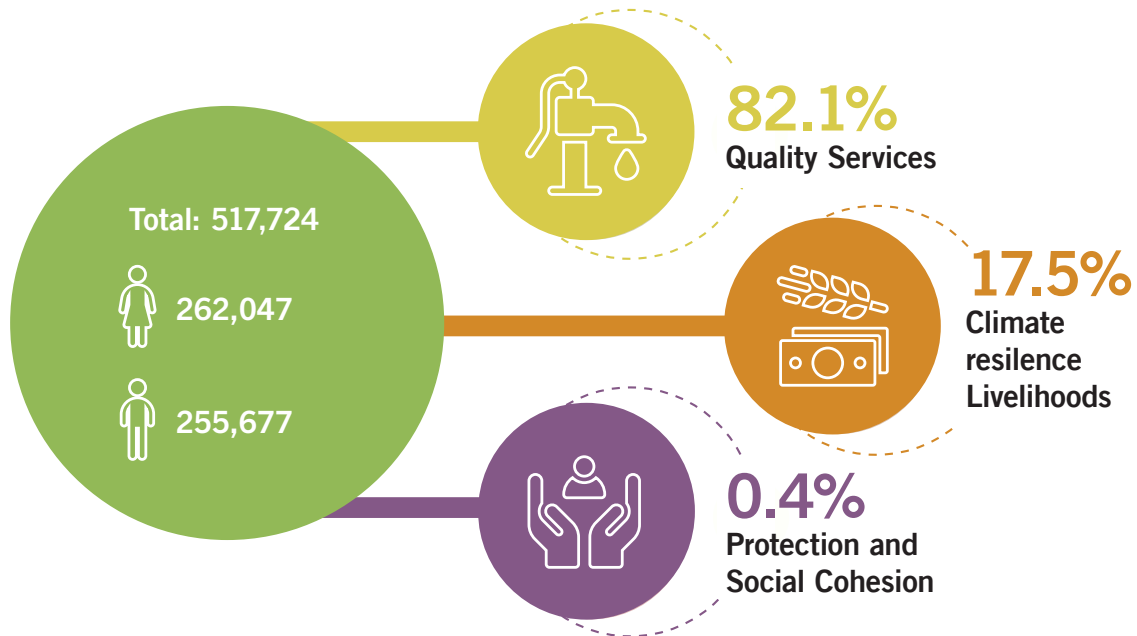




Photo: © Thorkell Thorkelsson

LWF Reach in 2023

The total number of people reached in 2023 through the various interventions in the humanitarian and development program is 517,724 (262,047 female, 255,677 male). The total number of reach in 2023 is higher by 43% compared to the level in 2022 which is attributed mainly to increased response capacity of LWF in 2023 both to the conflict and drought affected communities.

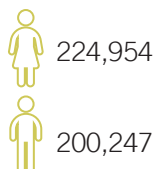


Reach by Programmatic Area and Gender

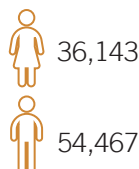
Quality service which mainly refers to lifesaving and recovery type of humanitarian response was LWF's strategic focus in 2023 that contributed to 82.1% of the total number of reach in 2023 which obviously was the reflection of the change in context due to the critical humanitarian crisis including conflict and drought. Considering the multiple humanitarian crises the country was facing since 2022, one would easily conclude that the country program has been efficient in terms of adjusting itself to the changing context and to the prevailing needs to contribute to reduction of human sufferings in its operation areas. Although the share of protection and social cohesion looks small compared to the other two programmatic areas, the figure indicates only the focused protection interventions in the form of child friendly space, women and girls' safe space and intervention in refugees' rights such as mobile court services. However, general protection has been part and parcel of interventions in the quality service programmatic area.



Total: 425,201



Total: 90,610



Total: 1,913

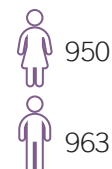




Photo: © LWF

Program summary by program priority



In 2023, LWF Ethiopia country program overwhelmingly focused on humanitarian response due mainly to the impact of the war in the northern parts of the country. Of the total expenditure of Euro 6.83M in 2023, Euro 4.79M (70%) was allocated to humanitarian response.

In the aftermath of the war in the north, LWF has continued responding to the huge humanitarian needs in the Tigray and Amhara regions targeting the most vulnerable groups such as IDPs, host community members impacted by the war, people living with disabilities, women and children at risk. In addition, the drought that affected the East and Horn of Africa has also required humanitarian response that contributed to the larger share of the expenditure. The response in 2023 focused in three programmatic areas, namely livelihoods, quality services and protection & social cohesion using an integrated response approach. Of the total expenditure of 6.83 million Euro in 2023, 68.9% is allocated for projects of quality service focusing on lifesaving interventions followed by livelihoods (30.3%) and protection & social cohesion including advocacy (0.8%).



Photo: © LWF

Protection and Social Cohesion



1,913

people were reached
(950 female, 963 male).

Recognizing that people have the right to live a safe, dignified, and empowered lives free from all forms of discrimination, abuse, and exploitation, LWF protection and social cohesion have been integral part of all of LWF's interventions in the year 2023. In all of its projects, LWF worked with local communities, refugees, IDPs and hosting communities in the areas of child protection, gender-based violence (GBV), psychosocial support, peaceful coexistence and right to access basic services. Advocacy on the rights of displaced people particularly refugees has also been one of the key aspects of LWF's protection work. Using its child friendly space and women/girls' safe space in the Tigray region and the various interventions with the Somali refugees in the Somali region, LWF was able to directly reach a total of 1,913 people (950 female, 963 male).



The support we receive is our lifeline amidst turmoil. It whispers hope, reassuring us that we are not alone in this tempest.” (weyzero Tideg Belay)



“Amongst life’s trials, a simple act of kindness feels like a sunbeam piercing through the storm. It reminds us that care exists, even in chaos.” (Child In Maiweyni)



568 children (271 female, 297 male) were provided with feeding service and they are able to spend their times in a protected and safe space.

LWF has been actively engaged in protection in the Tigray region both during and after the war. The country program aims to expand and strengthen its programming in protection and social cohesion particularly in gender-based violence and child protection. There are ongoing protection projects in the Tigray region albeit at lower scale. LWF runs child friendly space and women/girls’ safe space in Mekele where most of the conflict displaced IDPs are sheltered. In the child friendly space, there are 568 children (271 female, 297 male) provided with feeding service and they are able to spend their times in a protected and safe space.

“As mothers, we weave threads of love and courage into our family’s fabric. With each dawn, we rise stronger, together with architects of resilience.” (weyzero Izneshe Kiros)

Beyond protection service, through its various activities such as sports, songs, games, educational films, and other group exercises, it promotes children’s psychosocial wellbeing and resilience and positive coping strategies. In addition, the women and girls safe space provides service to 814 vulnerable women and girls who receive life skill training, psychosocial support and they are engaged in practicing various handicraft activities.



“In our laughter, resilience echoes. Through play, our spirits reveal their strength. We remain children of hope, regardless of our circumstances.” (Children in Maiweyni IDP SITE)



Photo: © LWF



Photo: © LWF



Photo: © LWF



18 mobile court sessions were held, six in each refugee camp, in two-month intervals.

As part of the Nexus project funded by CLWR/GAC in the Tigray region, LWF implemented livelihood activities to support agricultural producers to recover their livelihoods and increase food availability at the time of critical humanitarian crisis. The project distributed 557 quintals of teff, wheat and chickpea seeds to a total of 3,904 household heads (46% female headed). The crop varieties are ecologically adaptable, high yielding and



Access to Justice and Mobile Court service. Mobile court services were carried out in three refugee camps, Aw-Barre and Kebribeyah Woreda, which enabled refugees and members of the host community to attend court sessions and serve justice in the most convenient place. In 2023, eighteen mobile court sessions were held, six in each refugee camp, at two-month intervals. In addition to court hearings, the mobile court offers case referrals to legal aid providers, legal advice, and financial assistance based on the nature of the cases. In this regard, court service assisted 910 individuals. Refugees 624 (M 342 and F217) and host communities 286(M 133 and F138).



Livelihood Support refugees and host to Exercise Economic Rights. The LWF organized nine groups in the Aw-Barra, Sheder, and Kebribeyah camps to support refugees in engaging in business and access work permits to conduct business outside of the refugee camp to exercise their economic rights. Following that, capacity-building training was given on business plans, income generation, saving, the market chain, and startup capital (69000 ETB) for every group. In November 2022, all groups were registered as cooperative groups at the Aw-Barra and Kebribeyah woreda cooperative offices. After a year, in December 2023, the groups received the certificate and business license that support refugees in engaging in and running businesses outside of the refugee camps like any other Ethiopian citizen does.



Capacity Building and Awareness Raising. LWF, in coordination with UNHCR, ReDess, and the Regional Court consultation workshops, capacity-building training, and awareness-raising was conducted on child protection and gender-based violence, juvenile case handling, durable solution options, legal protection, and gender issues that targeted various duty-bearers and right holders in the Aw-Barre, Kebribeyah woreda, and the three refugee camps. Through capacity building they have reached total 194 (F95, m99). Refugee 109 (F52 M57) and Host 82 (M32 and F47) and community awareness and advocacy information and awareness raising.



Regional level. LWF supported national human rights CSOs (CEHRO and EHRCO) to participate in the 77th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) and the preceding NGO forum that was held from October 20–November 9 and October 16–18, respectively. CEHRO and EHRCO use an NGO forum to advocate for the protection and advancement of human rights issues in Ethiopia. Further LWF also organized a side event on the GBV—with theme of “silent pandemic among refugees and IDPs in Horn and East Africa”. On event, CEHRO was one of the panelists who reflects the concern of GBV acts and advocates of the protection and promotion of women and girls rights in conflict context in IDPs and refugees situations.

Environment, disability and diversity inclusion

Gender, environment and disabilities were the major aspects of cross cutting issues that LWF Ethiopia has been intentionally mainstreaming in its works. LWF made sure that new projects have no negative impact on the environment by carrying out environmental screening depending on the type of interventions. Environmental screening was done for two projects implemented in the Tigray and one project each in the Amhara and Oromia regional states. Women, people with disabilities (PWD), and the elderly were included in the process of selecting safe distribution points and establishing appropriate distribution schedules to ensure that NFI distributions do not contribute to but rather prevent GBV, and that no delays in service provision could cause security threats to women and children. Disability was also considered in the construction of sanitation services where ramps were constructed in communal latrines constructed for people affected by Cholera outbreak. Women have proportionate representation in the various committees. In the course of implementation of projects, women and girls were consulted in decisions that affect them. Example, they were consulted in selection of distribution site and times. Women and girls were purposely nominated in leadership of the various committees so that the project promotes their participation in the decision-making process of the planning and distribution of assistances. Additionally, monitoring, assessment and performance reports were disaggregated by sex, age and disability to analyze the unique impact humanitarian crises on girls, women and disabilities.





Photo: © LWF

Quality Services



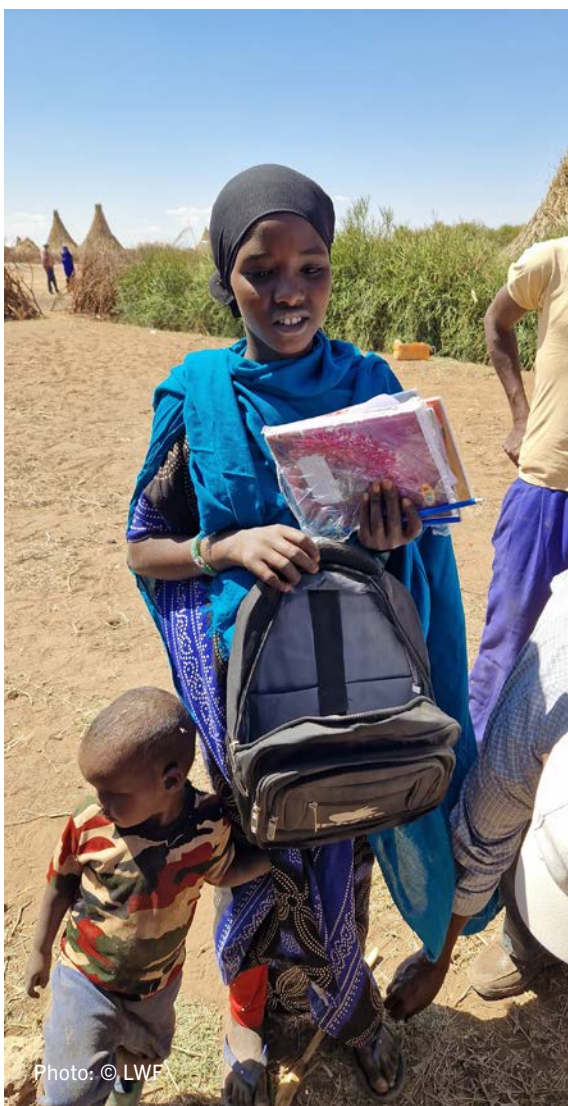
425,201

**people were reached
(224,954 female and
200,247 male).**

LWF's humanitarian response mainly targeting IDPs, refugees and nationals or communities affected by drought and conflict, were aligned to the quality service priority area of the country strategy as these interventions focused on supporting people to have access to life saving and recovery assistances. Improving access to potable water, hygiene and sanitation promotion and services, provision of NFIs and shelter items, cash transfer, nutrition, camp management and camp coordination and education in emergencies are among the key interventions accomplished under the quality service programmatic area. There was a total of 19 emergency response projects implemented in 2023. These include projects that targeted drought, conflict, desert locust and cholera affected communities in the Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, Somali and Gambella regional states.

The total number of beneficiaries reached under this programmatic area is 425,201 people (224,954 female and 200,247 male).

The number of beneficiaries per programmatic area is consistent with the expenditure per programmatic area in 2023 meaning that the lion's share of the budget and the highest number of people reached in 2023 belong to the quality service programmatic area which is a reflection of the size of humanitarian crisis in the country. LWF's strategic focus and magnitude of response in 2023, therefore, was focused on lifesaving interventions that enabled the country program to achieve commendable results in terms of response capacity and number of people reached.



In the aftermath of the war in the northern parts of the country, LWF provided humanitarian assistance to IDPs and nationals affected by the war in the Tigray and the Amhara regional states. In Tigray, LWF reached a total of 56,094 (54.4% female) IDPs and locals through a nexus project.



18,090 beneficiaries were directly reached (out of these 16,322 are students, 684 educators, 387 system actors, 130 care givers and 567 community members).

LWF was able to respond to the needs of children in emergencies through a project of education in emergency. funded by Lego Foundation called PlayMatters through the International Rescue Committee (IRC supported pre and primary school age children affected by the war in the norther parts of the country with an integrated interventions in WASH, education, nutrition, psycho-social support and some aspects of protection. The project directly reached a total of 18,090 beneficiaries, out of these 16,322 are students, 684 educators, 387 system actors, 130 care givers and 567 community members, in 23 schools of three woredas and one city administration in the North Shewa Zone of the Amhara region.



The other notable project implemented in 2023 is the integrated multi-sector assistance to conflict-affected IDPs in Debre Birhane town of the Amhara Region in partnership with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church-Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC). The project main target were the IDPs displaced from the western part of the Oromia regional state due to conflict and with its interventions in WASH, health, nutrition, education and camp coordination and camp management, LWF and EOC-DICAC were able to reach a total of 21,968 IDPs (11.132 female, 10,836 male) with 26% of them being host community members.

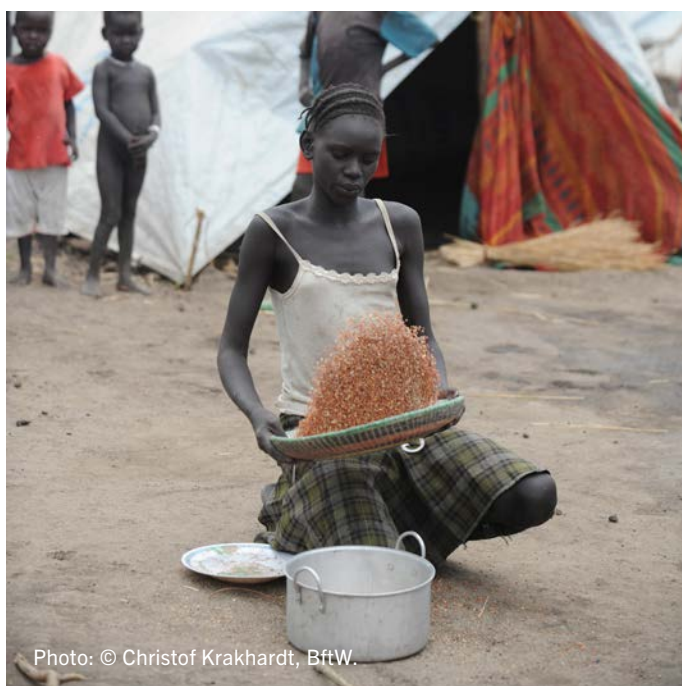


50,200 people (22,812 female, 27,388 male) were reached by livelihoods, cash transfer and WASH components. drought affected people in the Oromia and Somali regional states.



Through the ACT alliance, LWF responded to the emergency humanitarian, lifesaving, recovery, livelihood and resilient needs of the communities affected by drought in Ethiopia through the regional appeal HEA 221, entitled 'Horn and Eastern Africa Emergency response, early recovery and resilience building for drought-affected populations. The project had livelihoods, cash transfer and WASH components and LWF reached a total of 50,200 (22,812 female, 27,388 male) drought affected people in the Oromia and Somali regional states.

Refugee support has been one of the key focus areas of LWF's programming in 2023. Livelihoods and protection have been the thematic focus of LWF's interventions in the refugee camps. LWF has been operating in the Somali, Amhara and Gambella regions working with refugees displaced from Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan respectively and with the local communities in all locations.



The sprinkler irrigation project supports 50 locals and 50 Somali refugees (37% women) hosted in the Awbarre refugee camp in the Fafan zone of the Somali region who are engaged in the production different vegetables both for own consumption and for the market. The sprinkler irrigation system beneficiaries were able to produce vegetables in three cycles in 2023 making an average of EUR 300 to EUR 415 income per year from sale of the vegetables per beneficiary. Similarly, In the Jewi refugee camp in the Gambella region, LWF is implementing a livelihoods and climate resilience project supporting 268 South Sudanese refugees and host community members (167 female, 101 male) to engage in various livelihoods activities including farming and income generating activities of small business such as goat rearing, preparing and selling coffee, cart transportation service. According to the assessment result of December 2023, the businesses generated income to the beneficiaries ranging from 1000 EUR to 1600 EUR per year per beneficiary. Of the total number of beneficiaries, 105 are host community members. These two projects, apart from the economic benefits, they have continued to contribute to peaceful coexistence and social cohesion among the refugees and locals by creating opportunity for collaboration and joint productive work.



Photo: © LWF

Livelihoods



90,610

people were reached
(36,143 female and
54,467 male)

In 2023, LWF Ethiopia implemented a total of 8 Food Security, Climate Resilience and Livelihood projects reaching a total of 90,610 nationals (36,143 female and 54,467 male) in the Amhara, Oromia and Somali Regional States. The interventions aimed at supporting people and communities to become more resilient and economically self-reliant through increasing and protecting assets, building capacities, and promoting productive capacities to sustain their basic needs and diversify their incomes.

LWF also works with both rights-holders and duty-bearers to ensure that the institutional environment enables resilient and sustainable livelihoods.



750 households or 3,750 individuals (1,800 female, 1,950 male). were benefited by small-scale irrigation projects.

The development projects were aimed at ensuring self-reliance, resilience and empowerment. Most notable achievements in the development program included successful construction of 3 small scale irrigation projects in Gursum woreda of Oromia region (two) and one scheme nearing completion in the Lasta woreda of the Amhara region. The small-scale irrigation projects benefit a total of 750 households or 3,750 individuals (1,800 female, 1,950 male).



Photo: © LWF

LWF introduced micro climate insurance for 400 small holder vulnerable farmers to whom LWF facilitated payout from the insurance company after confirmed loss of harvest in 2022 due to drought. In fact, the farmers because they faced the impact of the drought in 2022, they were able to get compensation payment from the insurance company. The insurance scheme offered guarantee to the farmers at the time of drought and crop loss and cognizant of this, in 2023, the farmers who received payout continued to pay the premium by themselves. 60 farmers covered 100% of the premium from their own incomes whereas 96 of the farmers paid half 50% of the payment.



Photo: © LWF



3,904 household heads (46% female headed) received 557 quintals of teff, wheat and chickpea seeds

As part of the Nexus project funded by CLWR/GAC in the Tigray region, LWF implemented livelihood activities to support agricultural producers to recover their livelihoods and increase food availability at the time of critical humanitarian crisis. The project distributed 557 quintals of teff, wheat and chickpea seeds to a total of 3,904 household heads (46% female headed). The crop varieties are ecologically adaptable, high yielding and

socially acceptable that contributed to fulfilling the beneficiaries' food needs and income from the surplus yields. The seeds support helped the targeted households who were highly affected by the impact of conflict to overcome the critical food shortage to their households and were able to sell the surplus production to earn cash income.



350,000 trees in degraded and communal lands were planted as part of soil and water conservation activities.

In addition, the development projects were able to organize and support 22 different income generating groups in Gursum, Gololcha and Kebribeyah woredas each consisting of an average of 15 members and a total of 330 household heads. More than 80% of the income generating group members are female. In addition, through the projects in the livelihoods programmatic area, LWF Ethiopia carried out a number of soil and water conservation activities and planted over 350,000 trees in degraded and communal lands with a 75% survival rate.



Photo: © LWF

Interventions in the livelihoods sectors benefited a total of 90,610 local community members.

Feature

Nexus Programming – A Case Study



Despite the challenges posed by the conflict and drought in the region, the monitoring results indicate positive outcomes that validate the contribution of the nexus programming towards sustainable development.

The Protection, WASH and Shelter and Increased Resilience for IDPs, Returnees, and host community members in Tigray, Ethiopia funded by CLWR and Global Affairs Canada in the wake of the Tigray was designed to respond to the impacts of the Tigray conflict erupted early November 2020. The project was designed to include both immediate humanitarian assistance in WASH, ES/NFIS, and protection coupled with longer term development supports of livelihoods and climate actions under the banner of double nexus approach. The humanitarian assistance was provided in Mekelle City, Adigrat and Maichew towns. The development component of the project have been implemented in Endamohni, Raya Azebo, Kilte Awlaelo and Ganta Afeshum woreda while the full nexus has been implemented Enderta woreda. The

IHA/GAC project in the Tigray region has played a significant role in advancing humanitarian-development-nexus programming since March 2022. Despite the challenges posed by the conflict and drought in the region, the monitoring results indicate positive outcomes that validate the contribution of the nexus programming towards sustainable development. The project was designed to reach 55,189 (29,664F/25,525M), so far the project have reached 55630(28889F/26741M) that surpass by 0.8% from the target. The assessment findings have been categorized into humanitarian, development, and nexus project implementation districts to showcase the progress of the project.



Photo: © LWF

Key Findings



The contribution of water rehabilitation services in terms of time saved was acknowledged in all surveyed districts.

The findings suggest that efforts to improve efficiency, hygiene, and healthcare affordability through water rehabilitation services have been effective and well-received by the respondents across the districts. In the Nexus district, the majority of respondents (50%) agreed or strongly agreed that time was saved as water rehabilitation services were conducted by IHA/GAC project. In the Development district, a moderate percentage (33.33%) agreed with this statement, while in the Humanitarian district, a higher percentage (75%) of respondents strongly agreed that time was saved.

In terms of the impact water rehabilitation services on health, respondents from the Nexus district (37.50%), the Development district (20%), and the Humanitarian district (75%) agreed or strongly agreed that diarrhea had decreased after the rehabilitation of water points. Similarly, respondents in these districts also reported that health expenses had reduced, with 37.50% agreeing in the Nexus district, 20% in the Development district, and 50% in the Humanitarian district. Overall, the contribution of water rehabilitation services in terms of time saved was acknowledged in all surveyed districts.



Photo: © LWF



ES/NFIs were reported to have made a significant contribution to decreased housing costs.

Similarly, ES/NFIs were reported to have made a significant contribution to decreased housing costs, though access to non-food items varied among the districts. For example, in the Development district, it was not applicable. In the Nexus district, 30.1% of respondents strongly agreed with this contribution, while in the Humanitarian district, a higher percentage of respondents (88.89%) strongly agreed that non-food items have helped decrease housing costs.

Furthermore, the survey result implies Water User training have a positive impact on increasing WASH awareness and reducing the incidence of diarrhea, particularly in the Nexus district where 77% of households had accessed such training. In the Development district and the Humanitarian district, only a small percentage of respondents reported having access to water user training, while the majority did not.



Photo: © LWF



The impact of the campaign on awareness was highest in the Nexus district, with 58.33% strongly agreeing

The data shows that in the Nexus District, a significant portion (79.32%) of respondents agree or strongly agree that WASH awareness has increased, while a smaller percentage (15.79%) strongly disagree.

Additionally, a considerable percentage (42.11%) strongly agrees that the incidence of diarrhea has decreased in this district, with a smaller portion (15.79%) strongly disagreeing. This suggests that there is a positive perception of the impact of water user training on WASH awareness and the reduction of diarrhea incidence in the Nexus District. In the Humanitarian District, respondents were divided, with 50% feeling as usual and 50% agreeing that the incidence of diarrhea has decreased. Therefore, efforts to increase access to water user training should be prioritized in order to empower communities and

As expected, the data indicates that a WASH campaign was conducted in the Humanitarian and Nexus districts, with a more positive response in the Humanitarian district compared to the Nexus district. The Development district did not have the campaign. The impact of the campaign on awareness was highest in the Nexus district, with 58.33% strongly agreeing and a total of 83.33% agreeing or strongly agreeing. In the Humanitarian district, 70% of respondents agreed and 10% strongly agreed with the campaign. In terms of the incidence of diarrhea, the Nexus district had a significant level of agreement, with 45.83% strongly agreeing and a total of 79.16% agreeing or strongly agreeing. However, open defecation remains a challenge, particularly in the Nexus district, where 25% strongly disagreed and a total of 54.17% disagreed or strongly disagreed. Hence, targeted efforts are needed to address the issue of open defecation, especially in the Nexus district.

In addition, the data shows that all districts have acknowledged the ongoing protection interventions. In the Nexus district, a significant percentage of respondents (45.83%) agree and 29.17% strongly agree that awareness on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention has increased. However, a small portion (8.33%) strongly disagrees or considers the situation as usual.

In the Development district, 25% of respondents agree, and a majority (75%) strongly agree that awareness on GBV prevention has increased. Similarly, in the Humanitarian district, a majority (60%) strongly agrees that awareness on GBV prevention has improved.

Regarding household resource decision making, in the Nexus district, 50% of respondents agree and 29.17% strongly agree that it has increased. In the Development district, equal proportions (50%) agree and strongly agree that household resource decision making has improved. In the Humanitarian district, 20% agree, while a significant majority (80%) strongly agrees that household resource decision making has increased. In terms of GBV reduction, in the Nexus district, the majority (62.50%) of respondents agree and 12.50% strongly agree that GBV has decreased. In the Development district, 25% of respondents strongly agree that GBV has decreased. In the Humanitarian district, 60% agree that GBV has decreased, with no respondents strongly agreeing. Overall, the data suggests that there have been positive improvements in awareness of GBV prevention, household resource decision making, and a reduction in GBV in all districts.



The multipurpose cash (MPC) transfer made significant contributions towards various expenses in different districts in 2022 and 2023.

The multipurpose cash (MPC) transfer made significant contributions towards various expenses in different districts in 2022 and 2023. For health expenses, the program provided 1250 ETB for the Nexus district and 500 ETB for the Humanitarian district in 2022. In 2023, the health contribution increased substantially to 4000 ETB for the Nexus district and 330 ETB for the Humanitarian district. Education expenses were specifically supported with a contribution of 500 ETB in the Humanitarian district. In terms of food consumption, the MPC allocated 2333.3 ETB for the Nexus district and 2000 ETB for the Humanitarian district in 2022.

The food contribution grew in 2023, with 4000 ETB allocated for the Nexus district, 3052.5 ETB for the Humanitarian district, and a total of 3458.6 ETB overall. The possible reason could be due to crop failure and prohibition of food assistance in the region. Furthermore, the MPC supported income-generating and livelihood activities with 1750 ETB for the Nexus district and 1000 ETB for the Humanitarian district. It is evident that the MPC program played a crucial role in providing financial support for health, education, food, and livelihood activities in the Nexus and Humanitarian districts.



Photo: © LWF



In the nexus district, the percentage of cereal seeds provided by project increased significantly from 20.8% in 2022 to 61% in 2023.

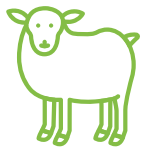
In this regard, the multipurpose cash beneficiaries are able to minimize negative coping mechanisms buying food for their children, getting medical treatments and even initiating small business such as small-scale poultry that contribute towards sustaining livelihoods. This implies that the implementation of humanitarian activities created conduciveness for the nexus target communities (10.7% decreased) to enhance their resilience to negative coping mechanisms serving as a stepping-stone for the development activities. Thus, the complementary outcome of humanitarian and development interventions in the nexus intervention target area resulted in minimized negative coping mechanism of communities.

In the nexus district, the percentage of cereal seeds provided by project increased significantly from 20.8% in 2022 to 61% in 2023. In the development district, the percentage of seeds provided remained consistent from 2022 to 2023. However, there was a decrease in the yield of crops in 2023 compared to 2022 due to drought occurrence. The availability of food was higher in the Nexus district, with an average of approximately 5.59 months compared to 4.17 months in the Development district. Yet, it should be noted that in the humanitarian district this aspect was not applicable.



Photo: © LWF

Among the respondents, in the Nexus district, support in the form of small remnants was provided by LWF to 12.3% of households, indicating the organization's contribution to small remnant ownership in the district. In contrast, a larger proportion (53.9%) of small remnants in the Development district were received from LWF, emphasizing the significant role of the organization in supporting small remnant ownership in that area. The perception of households regarding the contribution of small remnants to improving diet diversity and food performance varies among respondents. In the Nexus district, 26.3% agree and 36.8% strongly agree, while in the Development district, 59.3% agree and 17.7% strongly agree.



The majority of respondents also acknowledged the significance of livelihood training. In the Nexus district, 30.4% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that livelihood training contributes to the improvement of livestock rearing farms

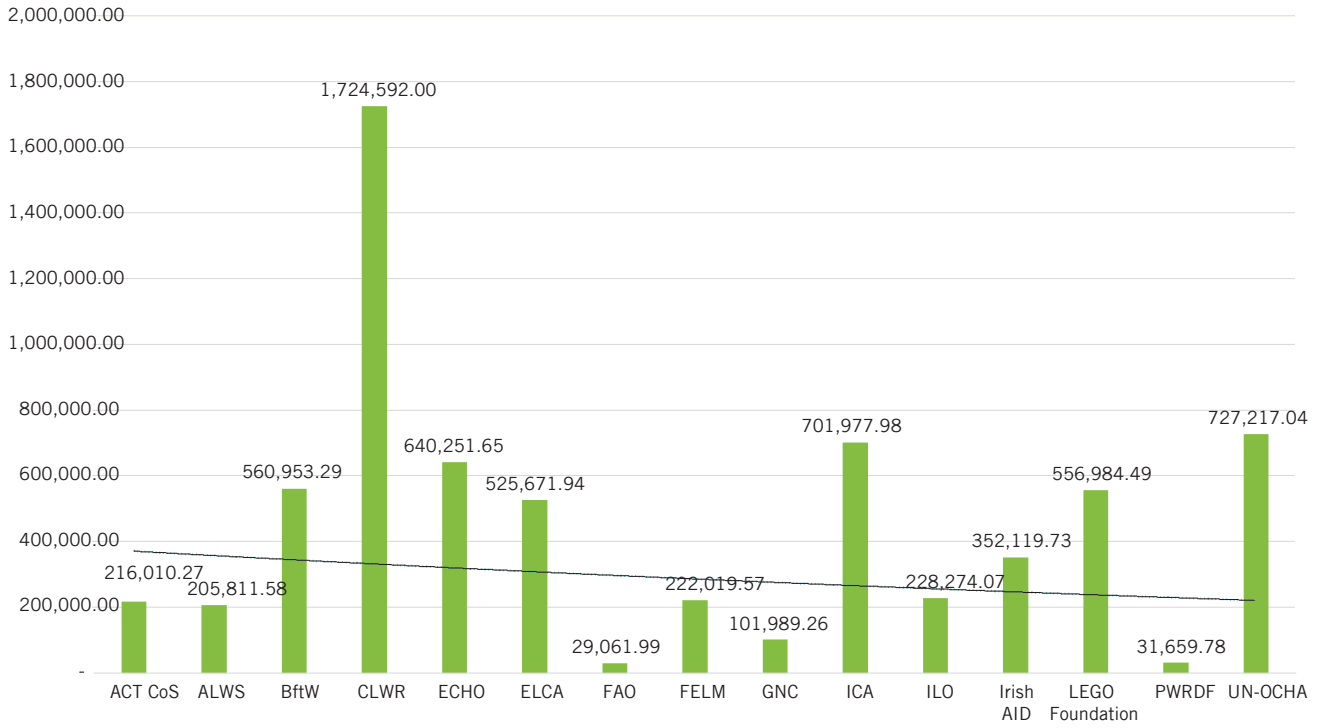
When it comes to the improvement of social status, there is a relatively high level of agreement among households in both development and nexus districts. In the Nexus district, 26.3% agree and 27% strongly agree, while in the Development district, 35.3% agree and 17.7% strongly agree. It can be inferred that households believe utilizing small remnants can have positive social implications, such as improved recognition or respect within the community.

In relation to the trees and fruit seedlings provision, the data suggests that there is a positive perception among respondents in both the Nexus and Development districts regarding the contributions of trees and fruit seedlings to aspirations and climate conditions. In the Nexus district, a majority of respondents (43.5%) reported that trees and fruit seedlings contribute to improved aspirations. In the Development district, an even higher percentage of respondents (52.6%) agreed or strongly agreed that trees and seedlings contribute to improved aspirations. Again, it should be noted that in the humanitarian district this aspect was not applicable. In the Nexus district, a majority of respondents (56%) reported that trees and fruit seedlings contribute to climate conditions. In the Development district, an even higher percentage of respondents (68%) agreed or strongly agreed that trees and seedlings contribute to climate conditions.

The majority of respondents also acknowledged the significance of livelihood training. In the Nexus district, 30.4% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that livelihood training contributes to the improvement of livestock rearing farms, while in the Development district, a significantly higher percentage (75%) agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. Regarding awareness of climate issues, 51.2% of respondents in the Nexus district agreed or strongly agreed, compared to 72% of respondents in the Development district who strongly agreed on the importance of climate awareness. Overall, the data reflects positive perceptions among respondents in both the Nexus and Development districts regarding the improvement of livestock rearing farms, awareness of climate issues, and aspirations. It is important to note that in the humanitarian district, these specific perceptions were not applicable, since they are in IDP centers.

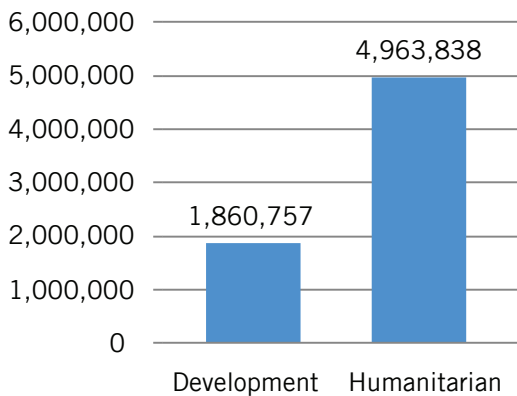
Financial Performance

Income by donor

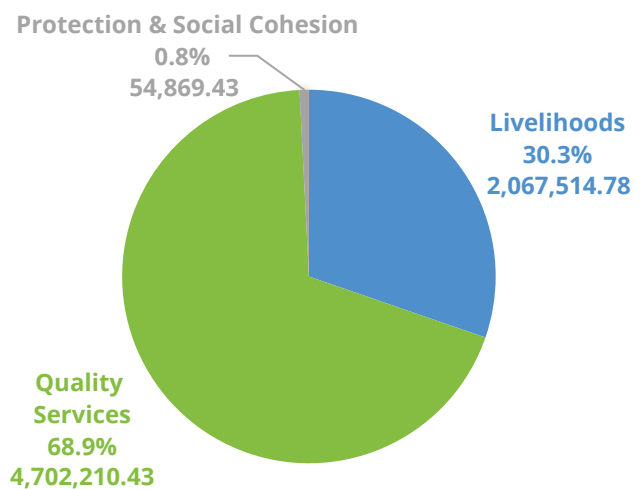


Income by program

Income Development vs. Humanitarian



Expenditure by sector



Partnership



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Government of the Netherlands




People and Culture

A total of 182 (140 male and 42 female) people contributed to the vision and mission of LWF Ethiopia, 24 (% 18) in the country office but the majority (155, 33 of whom are women) were frontline staff in the five operational regions of LWF, some in the most remote and insecure like Amhara, Gambella and Tigray regions.

No of Staff in LWF Ethiopia	Total	Female	Male	% Female	% Male
Total staff	179	39	140	22%	78%
Total staffs at the Country Office (CO) level	24	6	18	25%	75%
Total management staff at the Country Office (CO) level	12	3	9	25%	75%
Total staff at the Field offices	155	33	122	21%	79%
Total management staff at the field level	50	5	45	10%	90%
Intern	3	3	0	100%	0%
Total staff	182	42	140		

 **140**
males

 **42**
females

TOTAL
182
staff

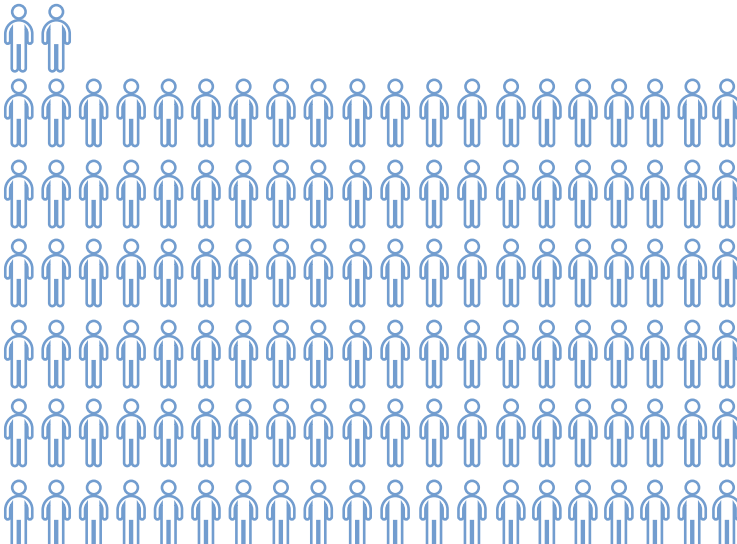
Country and Field Office staff breakdown


Country Office Staff

18
males 

6
females 

Field Staff

122
males 

33
females 

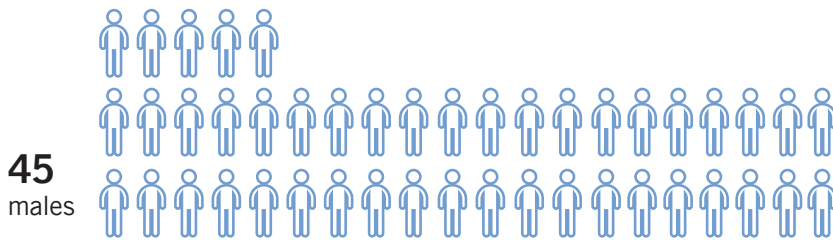
In terms of management, the year 2023 did not improve on the male/female ratio of the past years, especially in the field leadership positions. To try and address this challenge LWF is implementing an internship program for female graduates only. In 2023, a total of three interns were given an opportunity to work in LWF, in the HR department, each serving 6 months to one year, maximum.

Country and Field Management staff breakdown

Country Office Management Staff



Field Office Management Staff



Recognition – Best LWF Ethiopia Team

All the achievements were made possible vastly due to the commitment and hard work of LWF staff, some of whom worked in very difficult operating environment such as Amhara, Gambella and Tigray, which makes this all the more remarkable. At a staff retreat in April 2023, LWF recognized three teams that have performed well during the year, the Tigray, Northern Shewa and Bale team respectively. LWF Tigray Team was ranked first for its exceptional commitment, drive, unreserved service to their community during the *de facto* blockade that lasted from more than two years. Despite the unprecedented challenges the team was confronted with, the projects were implemented through the upholding of the highest standards of quality and accountability firmly grounded in the four humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality.





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