Working Toward Full Water & Sanitation Coverage by 2030

The Millennium Water Alliance works with local communities, the Government of Ethiopia and diverse local and international partners to support better access to safely-managed drinking water, water for agricultural uses, and improved sanitation and hygiene in rural Ethiopia.
From 2004 through 2017, the Millennium Water Alliance (MWA) and its members invested more than US$45.6 million in MWA WASH programs to improve delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to more than 1.3 million people in Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray.

The first phase of MWA-Ethiopia Program (MWA-EP) in 2004-2011 received major funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation (CNHF), and The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF; with the Global Environmental & Technology Foundation, GETF), and reached more than 700,000 beneficiaries. MWA work in Ethiopia continued in 2012-2013 under two subsequent major grants from CNHF and TCCAF, with matching funds from MWA members.

The 2014-2017 phase of MWA-EP:

- Is funded by a major grant from The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation (CNHF) for water services and matching funds from implementing partners for sanitation and hygiene.
- Works in 23 woredas in four regions: Amhara, Beneshangul-Gumuz, Oromia and SNNPR.
- Improves access to WASH services at scale for 300,000 people in rural communities and access to WASH in institutions such as schools and health care facilities, for more than 48,000 people.
- Strengthens the capacity of national and local government, community-based organizations and the private sector to provide continuous water service delivery of rural water schemes.

The MWA - Ethiopia Program incorporates a common monitoring and evaluation system, applied research in collaboration with universities, and innovations such as self-supply, water quality monitoring and appropriate technologies.

Examples of research facilitated by MWA - EP include:

- water scheme sustainability and functionality,
- stress on women and water insecurity,
- fluoride mitigation and de-fluoridation of community water schemes,
- low-cost ecological sanitation options,
- water equity,
- household water treatment and safe storage.

MWA-EP also acts as a unified voice on behalf of its members, working with the Government of Ethiopia on the National WASH Inventory and the National Self-Supply Task Force. MWA seeks to generate evidence and sector learning focused on NGO engagement in the Government’s ONE WASH National Program.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

In the arid lands of Ethiopia, good planning for the management of water is especially critical. MWA applies knowledge gained by its members working toward effective IWRM practices. For example, in several woredas, CARE distributed and planted 3,700 fruit seedlings, (1,850 avocado, 1,850 mango) in seven intervention schools.

Chlorine Dispenser Pilot for Water Quality

Research in collaboration with the UNC Water Institute found that water quality at both the source and point of use (in the household) was an issue across MWA project areas. MWA-EP began a partnership with Evidence Action to pilot the use of chlorine water dispensers and water safety plans.

Self-Supply Acceleration

MWA-EP focuses on the most challenging aspects of self-supply, the household-level investment.

Try and Buy Supply Chain Creation

This program links the private sector with end users, reducing private sector risk with a guarantee program. Households use a water filter for a trial period, and then can purchase or return at no cost.