



**MWA Sustainable WASH Project in Amhara National Regional State  
WASH Focus in Three Woredas: Dera, Farta and North Mecha**

**Annual Progress Report  
(April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022)**



**Submitted to: Amhara National Regional State:**

**Bureau of Finance**

**Bureau of Water and Energy**

**Bureau of Women and Social Affairs**

**Bureau of Education**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ANRS	Amhara National Regional State
BBA	Building Blocks Analysis
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CCM	Clean Clinic Model
CEM	Community Education Meeting
CPT	Core Program Team
DSW	Dispensers for Safe Water
HCF	Health Care Facility
IEC	Information and Education Communication
LSM	Local Stakeholders Meeting
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
RPT	Regional Program Team
SC	Steering Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSA	Self-Supply Acceleration
VCS	Village Community Sensitization
WASHCO	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee
WUA	Water User Association
WWT	Woreda WASH Team

## 1. Project Profile

<b>Project title</b>	Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Project in Amhara National Regional State: Dera, Farta and North Mecha Woredas
<b>Lead organization</b>	Millennium Water Alliance (MWA)
<b>Implementing organizations</b>	CARE, Catholic Relief Services, FH Ethiopia, IRC WASH, WaterAid and World Vision
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The goal of this project is to contribute to Ethiopia’s nationwide achievement of safe, affordable and sustainable water services to all by 2030.</p> <p>The five-year project is set to attain five key objectives:</p> <p><b>Objective 1:</b> Strengthen key aspects of the water service delivery system including planning, partnerships, resources and institutional capacity by 2024</p> <p><b>Objective 2:</b> Increase access to safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation services in public schools, through the use of new and proven models, to reach over 45,000 students by 2024</p> <p><b>Objective 3:</b> Increase access to safe and sustainable water and hygiene services at healthcare facilities, through the use of new and proven models, to reach 505,000 people by 2024</p> <p><b>Objective 4:</b> Increase the proportion of people served with basic access by 8% and reduce non-functionality by 6% through testing and implementing new and proven models and strengthening government-led monitoring systems by 2024</p> <p><b>Objective 5:</b> Increase access to safe water for over 200,000 people through the deployment of new and proven service modalities and technologies by 2024.</p>
<b>Project duration</b>	April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2024
<b>Project location</b>	Amhara Region- North Mecha Woreda, in West Gojjam Zone; Dera and Farta Woreda, in South Gondar Zone.
<b>Project beneficiaries</b>	<p>Male= 390,915; Female=375,585 Total=766,500</p> <p>86,750 people to be benefitted from water supply access</p> <p>216,000 people to be benefitted from improved water quality</p> <p>45,000 people to be benefitted in 40 schools</p> <p>505,500 people to be benefitted in 40 healthcare facilities</p>
<b>Donor agency</b>	Conrad N. Hilton Foundation with Matching Funds from MWA Members
<b>Grant from CNHF</b>	ETB 175,672,901
<b>Match Fund</b>	ETB 81,866,097
<b>Overall budget</b>	ETB 257,538,998

## 2. Introduction

Millennium Water Alliance (MWA) is a permanent coalition of leading humanitarian and private organizations that convenes, integrates, and influences critical players in the business, technology, government, and NGO sectors to supply safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to millions of the poorest people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. MWA works with governments, corporations, foundations and other NGOs to advance best practices, share knowledge, build collaboration and advocate for greater commitment to achieve sustainable WASH services.

Currently, MWA in collaboration with partners implements a five-year ‘Sustainable WASH Project’ in three woredas of Amhara Region. As the project is a collaborative engagement, while different members and some strategic partners focus on specific components of the project, the results are presented collectively as the work of MWA. In this regard, in the descriptions where “MWA” is indicated are meant to be inclusive of the program partners though the extent of engagement varies depending on project components as per the roles and responsibilities included in the memorandum of understanding signed between MWA and program partners. This annual progress report provides summary of project achievements during the year 3 project period (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022).

## 3. Background Information

Millennium Water Alliance (MWA) is a permanent coalition of leading humanitarian and private organizations that convenes, integrates, and influences critical players in the business, technology, government and NGO sectors to supply safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services to millions of the world's poorest people in Africa and Latin America. MWA tests, innovates and scales effective and sustainable solutions to address WASH needs

MWA focuses on key areas and a unique convening ability to support members and the broader WASH sector to bring collective impact in the WASH sector. MWA has been increasingly effective in engaging local, regional and national governments in creating an enabling environment to extend WASH services to reach out unserved populations. MWA’s main WASH programs to date have been in Ethiopia, Kenya, and few countries in Latin America. MWA started its operations in Ethiopia in 2004 and has provided access to improved WASH services for over 2 million rural people.

## 4. Summary of Achievements

This brief report summarizes the year 3 of the SWP progress. The project achievements include: the regional learning/reflection and system strengthening workshop convened involving program partners and government other key stakeholders; the woreda level building block scoring & analysis endeavor to measure progress on key aspects of the water sector; joint visits and learning workshop conducted with partners & stakeholders; WASH infrastructure development works for schools, health facilities & the community; different virtual and in-person meetings conducted to assess progress; several trainings & capacity building activities performed; and some progress updates and reports shared with government stakeholders. In addition, program partners have managed lots of activities that include: WASH infrastructure development works; training and technical support provided for WASHCOs and WUAs for sustainable management of water supply systems; frequent

follow-up to SSA and DSW sites; facilitating SC and WWT meetings at woreda level; as well as other system strengthening and partnership enhancement related activities.

This report summarizes progress from Year 3 of the project duration (April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022). It is recalled that MWA has signed a five-year project agreement with the Amhara Region on behalf of all sub-granted program partners. SWP is a five-year collaborative project being implemented in three woredas to bring collective impact implementing integrated water supply, sanitation and hygiene improvement activities at school, in healthcare facilities and in the community. MWA has continued to coordinate members' activities which have provided a critical path to reach the target beneficiaries in the three woredas. In effect, a strong partnership put in place at regional and woreda levels to coordinate efforts of actors and leverage resources for WASH infrastructure development.

#### **4.1 Partnership Development**

MWA has put in place a strong partnership system both at national, regional and woreda levels. The hub, woreda-lead and thematic lead roles have been functioning well with clear duties and responsibilities well-factored in the memorandum of understanding signed before the onset of the project. MWA and program partners conducted meetings with government stakeholders at different levels. For instance, there was a regional WASH systems strengthening workshop conducted involving participants from regional, zonal and woreda level government offices and program partners. Similarly, program partners facilitated Woreda level steering and technical committee meetings conducted to assess progress and accelerate collective action to move the SWP forward addressing challenges and limitations. In this regard, the following is just to mention the main convening happened during the reporting period:

- MWA and members have convened four (4) partnership development meetings with project stakeholders, government partners, other NGOs and the private sector to strengthen partnership and collaborative engagement
- MWA has facilitated 6 Core Program Team meetings virtually
- MWA's regional office conducted 6 in-person Regional Program Team meetings
- 4 national level meetings convened for WASH sector advocacy and influencing
- Partners facilitated 6 woreda-level cross-sector meetings (2 per woreda) for planning, coordination and progress review.
- Four joint monitoring and supportive supervision visits were paid to SWP woredas involving key stakeholders
- Annual project review, reflection and learning workshop was conducted engaging partners, government stakeholders and other WASH actors
- Woreda-level annual planning and progress review workshops were conducted involving pertinent stakeholder.

#### **4.2 System Strengthening**

Improving the government-led WASH sector monitoring system has been a core component of SWP. In this regard, consecutive meetings were convened with regional, zonal and woreda water offices to develop a monitoring system that helps to share monitoring information and learnings multi-directionally between woredas, zones and the region.

Supports provided for improving WASH service monitoring in the three woredas in collaboration with government WASH sector offices and implementing partners. The notable outputs where IRC WASH collaborated with MWA included:

- Support systems strengthening using building blocks and QIS ladder, inculcate 'systems approach' in all aspects of program activities, share monitoring information and learnings multi-directionally between woreda, zone, and region, conduct annual budget and expenditure tracking, assist woreda governments and partnership teams in each woreda to review data, analyze progress and report annually against long-term strategic plans, provide annual support to program partners and woreda government to reflect, revise and plan based on the long-term strategic plans and provide learning support reflecting on plans and progress and produce communications piece and in-depth learning documents
- Engage in identifying advocacy agendas that are supported with evidence from target woredas and coordinate with the lead and program partners to take influencing agendas to national and regional high-level decision makers and influencers
- Successive regional data triangulation and planning workshops were conducted involving pertinent stakeholders at region, zone and woreda levels. The workshops were intended to assess and analyze WASH performance data at all levels and devise mechanisms that address the existing data/information discrepancies. As a follow-up step, a detailed plan of action was developed for strengthening government monitoring system. Some progress monitoring was performed in some aspects of SWP. Assessment was done on use of long-term WASH SDG plan at district level and WASH budget tracking exercise was made at program partner and district water office levels to review progress in annual budget allocation for the WASH sector.
- Localized WASH database was created to guide the government-led monitoring, water point data collection and documentation system at woreda and region levels.
- As SWP focuses on a systems-wide approach looking at aspects of the water system such as regulation and guidelines, functionality of institutions (service providers and authorities), long-term strategic planning, finance, learning and adaptation; we use tenets of collective impact design, deploying a facilitation approach to working with government and partners to promote long-term ownership and sustainability of WASH services. The key targets in the monitoring system include: water supply in communities, schools and health care facilities; improvements to operations and maintenance systems for improved functionality rates; increasing access to high quality water through improved governance; advocacy and influencing for increased funding and attention to water needs; budgeting for life-cycle costs; continuous learning and sharing of successful methods and approaches across government and NGOs for replication.
- There was regional system strengthening and influencing workshop, woreda-based project review meeting conducted involving zone and woreda WASH technical team members at which a joint monitoring visit was paid to observe the status of community WASH activities, school WASH activities, CCM implementation at selected health centers and community water supply facilities. Partners facilitated a quarterly WWT meeting to review project progress, conduct join visits to project sites and provide technical backstopping. They have also conducted successive discussions at woreda level to identify felt needs and support the government efforts in the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19. Several activities were done related to the prevention and control of the pandemic integrating the prevention activities to the on-going SWP development interventions.
- There have been other systems strengthening works where MWA and partners have continued to engage with the government at different levels to improve efforts for achieving SDG targets. Efforts were exerted

to strengthen the MWA consortium internally as well as support structures and processes of government partners at different levels.

#### 4.3 Promotion and use of Woreda-wide, long-term WASH Strategic Plan

MWA supported three woredas to prepare and guide their endeavor of WASH service improvement for 12-years. Regional and woreda level meetings were conducted to create common understanding on the long-term WASH plan prepared for three woredas and to support woreda-level government offices in searching for more resources necessary to fully implement the long-term WASH plans in three intervention woredas. These plans help to show how government, MWA and other potential financiers can collaboratively work to meet full-coverage. As attaining full-coverage requires strong commitment from all WASH actors, influencing activities were conducted and we will keep the advocacy/influencing activities forward over the project period to address the resource gaps to achieve SDG 6.1 and 6.2 targets.

#### 4.4 Assessment, Design and Specification for WASH Infrastructure Development

MWA, members and government partners conducted a series of field visits to identify project sites, collect basic data and make decisions with regards to determining project sites, prioritize technology options, work on costing/pricing, bill of quantity and specification preparation for the construction of water sources, sanitation facilities and hand washing stations for schools, health centers and in the community. The WASH infrastructure development works of the project were designed as per the long-term WASH strategic plans that were prepared for the respective woredas considering local contexts. Adequate emphasis was given to maintain national standards of community and institutional WASH services. Thematic leads provided technical supports in preparing a detailed project implementation plan, including pilots, for each partner across woredas to ensure a harmonized approach through best practices implementation and cross-woreda learnings and they have also facilitated trainings/workshops for a shared understanding of the national and local priorities, guidelines, and standards of WASH facilities at schools, in healthcare facilities and in the community.

#### 4.5 Community Water Supply

**Development of new water schemes:** In this reporting period MWA in collaboration with program partners have developed new water points for targeted communities. Below, you may see achievements by woreda:

**a. Dera Woreda:**

- Two (2) community shallow wells were drilled and super-structures constructed benefitting 775 people;
- One (1) multi-village rural piped water supply system was constructed in Korata Kebele to benefit 4,000 community members, on top of school and health center.
- Four (4) community shallow-wells were upgraded installing solar-powered lifting devices that benefitted 1,956 people;
- 18 non-functional community water points were rehabilitated and made functional by the project;
- 60 households have constructed/upgraded their family wells after intensive trainings and sensitization work

**b. Farta Woreda:**

- 12 new water schemes (11 hand dug wells fitted with hand-pumps and 1 solar-powered multi-village rural piped system) were constructed, benefitting 5,484 people. Gena-mechawecha rural piped water

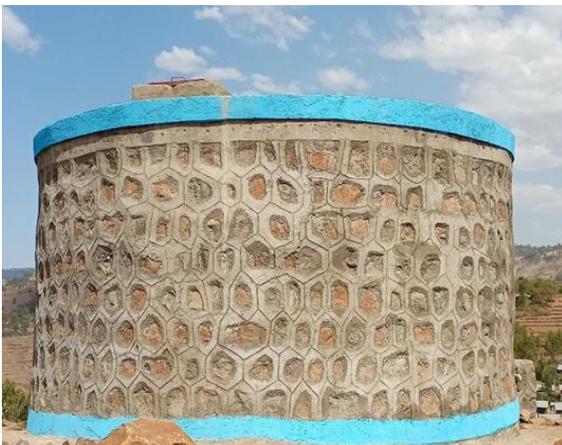
supply system includes multiple structure such as: the construction includes a 1.3 km mainline. 4.5km distribution line and 5 water points with 5 faucets each.

- 160 households constructed new self-supply wells in their compound and 20 households upgraded their family wells to improve the water ladder.

**c. North Mecha Woreda:**

- One (1) rural piped water supply system with multiple water points was constructed in Amarit kebele. This multi-village water supply scheme serves a total of 1,630 people in the community and the nearby health center.
- 139 households have upgraded their self-supply wells to improve the status of water quality;

**Rehabilitation of non-functional water schemes:** the project has rehabilitated 30 community water points that enabled 3,959 people re-access safe water from the protected water sources. In this regard, 18 non-functional water points were rehabilitated in Dera Woreda serving 2, 700 people; similarly, 12 non-functional water schemes were rehabilitated and made functional in Farta and a total of 1,259 people have re-accessed water.



Picture 1: Water reservoir for Gena-mechawecha RPS (Left) Community water point in Korata Kebele (Right)

**Water governance and capacity building:** MWA and partners have supported service authorities and service providers' to ensure sustainability of water supply systems in three woredas. In this regard, the project has supported Water Offices to establish and strengthen the capacity of WASHCOs and WUAs to enable them sustainably manage water schemes. Partners facilitated several trainings/capacity building sessions in their respective areas of operation. The following is to mention some of the key achievements:

**Dera Woreda:**

- Four rounds of performance review meetings and joint monitoring visits were conducted involving WASH Steering and Technical Committees;
- 169 service providers (WASHCOs and UAs) members were trained on water point management, tariff setting and fee collection to improve the functionality of water services;
- 104 WASHCO members were also trained on water scheme governance and management, operation and maintenance as well as tariff setting and water fee collection;
- Seven water experts have attended technical training on water supply detail design, construction and management including GIS and water CAD;
- 66 participants from district and community level government offices attended a workshop on WASH sector planning, implementation, reporting and information sharing;

**Farta Woreda:**

- 346 WASHCO members from 52 water schemes attended refresher training for proper management of their respective water points through regular fee collection, fencing, operation and maintenance system in place;
- Regular WASH Steering and Technical Committee meetings were conducted to plan, monitor and evaluate the progress of the project.

**North Mecha Woreda:**

- Four WASH Technical Team meetings were conducted to plan, implement, and evaluate the performance of WASH sector in the district;
- Mid-term project review workshop was conducted involving pertinent stakeholders;
- One water users association was established to manage the Ambo Mesk water supply system;



**Picture 2:** WWT site visit in Maynet Kebele, Farta (Left) Government stakeholders field visit in Dera (Right)

**4.6 School WASH Services**

Different WASH service improvement and capacity building activities were carried out at schools during the reporting period. In effect, a total of six (6) schools have accessed safe water from different water sources including: newly constructed, upgraded/expanded and rehabilitated water schemes. In addition, gender-segregated and inclusive ventilated-improved pit latrines (VIPLs) with hand washing facilities were constructed at 5 schools. A total of 72 students have been actively engaged in school WASH club activities- sanitation and hygiene promotion works. Associated to this, different sanitation promotion and hygiene education sessions were provided for 110 students and teachers. In addition, 15 school WASH clubs were established and members trained on WASH services.

Program partners in collaboration with Woreda Education Offices celebrated the Global Hand Washing Day (GHWD) in different schools conveying key messages on the need for safe water improved sanitation and hand washing at critical times. For the event, students and teachers have demonstrated hand washing practice and created awareness about the importance of good hand hygiene for school community. This global event was celebrated on October 15, 2020 and partners used the event as an opportunity to promote WASH at schools providing soap and T-shirt with printed key messages about the hand washing and prevention of COVID 19. New school WASH clubs were established and the existing ones were revitalized to intensify the sanitation and

hygiene promotion activities at schools and in the surrounding communities. In addition, trainings were provided for club coordinators, members, school principals and education supervisors.

19 government and partners' staff attended training of trainers organized on the Splash behavior change model which is being implemented at targeted schools in three Woredas. In addition, 49 teachers, supervisors and school principals participated the woreda-level training conducted to cascade the behavior-change model at schools. The following is just to mention some of the major achievements by woreda:

**Dera Woreda:**

- Non-functional water points were rehabilitated at two primary schools serving 998 students;
- Ventilated improved toilets and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) room was constructed at a school benefitting 391 adolescent students and 23 female teachers
- 25 science teachers drawn from 5 schools were trained on water treatment and safe storage, WASH infrastructure management, operation and maintenance and the need for integrating WASH service improvement with other school activities and integration with school WASH activities;
- 49 people from education and health offices have participated in school-based behavior change model.
- School WASH clubs were established at 5 schools and 55 members were trained, and 10 WASH ambassadors were nominated.
- 11 teachers from 2 primary schools attended training on the Splash-behavior change model and items such as sanitary pad, soap, T-shirt and training manuals were provided for school targeted for the pilot.

**Farta Woreda:**

- Gender-segregated VIPLs with handwashing stations were constructed at two schools.

**North Mecha Woreda:**

- The construction of water points with 14 faucets and elevated tanker with 5,000 L capacity was completed at Bachima School, providing access to safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene services for 1,589 students and teachers;
- School WASH-club established at Bachima school and coordinators and teachers trained



**Picture 3:** Menstrual Hygiene Management Room at Anbesame School, in Dera

#### 4.7 WASH in Healthcare Facilities

The project has resulted in major changes in WASH service improvement in health centers through developing water points, construction of improved toilets, installing hand washing stations, and piloting the Clean Clinic Model in selected health centers. There have been participatory assessments, planning, implementation trainings of health personnel and technical supports provided for the implementation of CCM as per the procedures and protocols. A total of 13 health centers have accessed WASH services and health workers and supervisors attended trainings organized on different thematic areas. Below, kindly see some achievements of WASH in health facilities by woreda:

##### **Dera Woreda:**

- The Clean Clinic Model has been implemented in 6 health care facilities benefitting about 196,845 people.
- Seven healthcare personnel were trained on water supply, sanitation and hygiene improvement and management.
- Six health centers have shown improvement in cleanliness, disinfection and other IPC services implemented after the CCM training.
- Technical training was provided for 12 cleaners and 30 healthcare workers on IPC and WASH facility management;
- Three health centers have accessed safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene services;
- One block of building with 5 rooms was newly constructed at a health center for maternity service, which is expected to benefit about 9,227 pregnant mothers.

##### **Farta Woreda:**

- Three healthcare facilities have accessed WASH service and they have been implementing the Clean Clinic Model (CCM) which resulted in improvement in WASH services, IPC, facility management as well as liquid and solid waste management practices.
- 90 color coded waste bins and 6 wheelbarrows were purchased and distributed for 3 health centres for the purpose of enhancing safe waste disposal and waste segregation practice in HCFs.
- Three health centers have been implementing CCM that resulted in considerable improvement in WASH services, IPC, facility management as well as liquid and solid waste management practices.
- Gena Mechawecha health center has accessed safe water through the construction of two gender segregated improved toilets, elevated tanker with 5,000L capacity and water points providing access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services for 25,000 people and health care providers.

##### **North Mecha:**

- Four health centers were supported with safe water supply and improved hygiene facilities along with implementing the clean clinic model to improve WASH and IPC services;
- The upgrading, expansion and rehabilitation of water supply systems and waste management facilities were completed at four health facilities;
- CCM plan review and revision session was conducted focusing on the presentations on progress, sorting achievements and discussion with woreda and HCF CCM committees to address challenges facing the CCM initiative.



**Picture 4:** Hand wash facility constructed at Korata HC (Left); Shallow wells with hand-pump at Meha 7 Kulala HC (Right)

#### 4.8 Dispensers for Safe Water (DSW)

MWA, in collaboration with members and government partners, has been implementing Dispensers for Safe Water (DSW) since 2017 to mitigate issues of water quality at the source and at the point-of-use by making use of a liquid chlorine residual. This chlorine residual protects water from recontamination during transport and household storage for up to 72 hours. The SWP project has expanded this initiative and practically demonstrated this technology in three woredas by installing dispensers at selected community water sources. In this reporting period a total of 345 chlorine dispensers were installed at community water points implementing all the DSW roll-out steps

A total of 345 chlorine dispensers were purchased and installed; necessary trainings and community sensitizations have been offered; community water points were selected with government offices by using a set of criteria for success; all the necessary construction materials and liquid chlorine were made available; and the implementation process has moved as planned with some sort of delays. Looking at the achievements of the previous phases, MWA and program partners increased the efforts in DSW implementation by extending the scope into more kebeles. The main activities accomplished in connection to the DSW in this reporting period include:

- More than 42 government and partners staff attended a training of trainers conducted on DSW
- Stakeholder meetings conducted with government people at Zone, Woreda and Kebele levels
- Water point verification surveys conducted at 345 community water sources
- Village-level community sensitization sessions were conducted to sensitize and train users on the use of chlorine dispensers.
- Installation processes for 345 dispensers was completed with all the necessary sensitization sessions to empower water users
- The dispenser installation and the necessary 6 surveys were facilitated by trained government people and community promotors in targeted communities.

The procurement of the 345 chlorine dispensers was carried out and dispenser installation work was completed. To engage in successful sensitization, site selection and installation, a series of awareness raising meetings and consultations were conducted in the communities selected by government and partners for the implementation of the 345 dispensers. Woreda government experts and officials, WASHCO representatives and MWA collaborated through these processes, and Evidence Action provided ongoing technical and

monitoring support. Due to ongoing challenges with obtaining chlorine, discussion has been re under way with government organizations at national, regional and woreda levels. The availability of local production and supply would alleviate the cost and supply chain challenges with chlorine refills. However, quality control is an important consideration which is still being reviewed.

Table 1: Number of chlorine dispensers installed by Woreda

Woreda	Number of DSW Installed	Implementing Partner
<b>North Mecha</b>	115	CRS
<b>Dera</b>	115	FHE
<b>Farta</b>	115	CARE
Total	<b>345</b>	

On top of installing new chlorine dispensers, MWA and program partners have implemented sets of activities to ensure the sustainability of chlorine dispensers installed during the previous phases in each of the water point. Different consultative and awareness creation sessions conducted at woreda and community levels to improve DSW uptake level. MWA has facilitated a regional influencing and learning workshop involving pertinent stakeholders at all levels. Implementing partners (CARE, CRS & FHE) conducted a consultative meeting with Woreda Water and Health Offices following the joint water point’s inventory work and hold intensive discussions with government and community structures to address issues facing DSW in their areas of operation. In addition, they have managed some activities that include:

- The use of sticker note that depicts the steps for proper utilization of chlorine dispensers
- Induction/orientation session was conducted for HEWs and they were assigned by the Woreda Health Office to support 4-6 water points in collaboration with the promoters and WASHCo members.
- Training regarding installation, operation and maintenance of chlorine dispenser was given to artisans, volunteer promoters and WASHCO members.
- The procurement and provision of liquid chlorine to all WASHCOs through health facilities.
- As part of promoting community awareness and establishing a sense of ownership for the sustainable use of chlorine dispensers at the community level, partners have considered students in the sensitization process Moreover, there was participation of science teachers based on their willingness to support the extension work at school and in the community.



Picture 5: People attending DSW sensitization sessions (Left & middle); A woman dosing chlorine during water collection (Right)

#### 4.9 Self-Supply Acceleration (SSA)

MWA has been supporting & promoting the uptake of household level investment to improve water access for rural and scattered settlements that are hard-to-reach by conventional water supply approaches. We took the initiative to test this approach in the previous projects and found it as doable service delivery approach. But, creating an enabling environment and providing support to create buy-in among government and other WASH actors has taken considerable time and effort. For this, program partners have been working with woreda government to determine ideal kebeles for self-supply; they also facilitated community sensitization and demand creation sessions using participatory approaches.

In this reporting period, continuous demand creation/awareness raising campaigns were conducted to wider community through kebele leaders at community and village level for the development of new and upgrading of household wells. Those community members including kebele leaders, artisans, and woreda water experts participated in the awareness creation sessions conducted in targeted kebeles. During the sensitization sessions, woreda and community level potential assessments and gap identifications were undertaken with the involvement of WWTs, WASHCOs, local artisans and community representatives

Self-supply acceleration trainings were cascaded down to kebele and village levels to support government and community structures create demand for self-supply and help them with the implementation process. Local officials, health extension workers, development agents, artisans, teachers and community members were in attendance at these discussions and sensitizations After intensive awareness creation and sensitization works, 338 households have constructed and upgraded self-supply wells in their compounds.



**Picture 6:** Upgraded family well-self-supply (Left); People attending the SSA sensitization sessions (Right)

#### 4.10 Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL)

MWA has strengthened joint monitoring and learning through convening meetings, organizing learning events and facilitating experience sharing events within the SWP woredas and in other adjacent woredas, in Amhara Region. There are active platforms that facilitated the planning, implementation, monitoring and learning activities of the project. These structures include: core program team, MEL TWG, regional program team and other thematic platforms at national, regional and woreda levels. MWA has continued to coordinate joint monitoring and supportive supervisions to project sites involving partners and government stakeholders utilizing a common planning, monitoring and reporting systems. In connection to this, we have been able to convene partners both in-person and virtually taking all the required precautions against COVID-19.

The other notable activity executed during the reporting period was that SWP mid-term evaluation was conducted by an evaluation team organized by Amhara BoF. The team comprised of senior experts from signatories at region, zone and woreda levels. There were series of activities carried out in connection to the mid-term evaluation that include: half-day performance review in a workshop setting, 3-day field visit to project sites and half-day debriefing session involving pertinent stakeholders at region/zone/woreda levels. The recognition given for WASH facility development works in three woredas, capacity building activities conducted by the project and the emphasis given to strengthening government-led monitoring system were found commendable. There were also some limitations identified by the evaluation team and MWA has taken note of these and has been closely working with program partners to address these gaps. A total of 52 individuals from regional/zonal/woreda level government partners, MWA and implementing partners have participated during the mid-term project evaluation workshop.

The government-led monitoring system strengthening activities and the WASH building blocks analysis made to measure progress over time could be mentioned as the notable achievements pertaining MEL. The other achievement include the successive support and capacity building trainings provided to regional and woreda water offices to own a comprehensive asset management system supported with mWater platform. There have been several woreda level dataset review and reflection meetings conducted to maintain the validity and reliability of the water sector performance data across pertinent government offices at regional, zone and woreda levels.

Several in-person and virtual meetings were conducted for planning, monitoring and review of project progresses. This internet assisted meetings helped to review activity progress, create common understanding on situations, identify roadblocks and take remedies on critical issues. Joint supportive supervisions were conducted to SWP Woredas involving program partners and government stakeholders to observe the status of WASH facilities and provide technical supports for field level practitioners. Woreda level debriefing sessions were held to discuss and agree on next key steps. In this reporting period, progress updates, annual reports and meeting notes were compiled/consolidated and shared with target audiences.

Woreda-level project review workshops were conducted to assess progress and discuss and agree on the strategies/approaches to achieve the targets set in long-term SDG plans. The workshops were organized in collaboration with Woreda Finance Offices. Several planning, consensus building, monitoring and review meetings were held during the reporting period. Two rounds of monitoring visits were conducted involving partners and government stakeholders at local and regional levels. These trips included visits to the three target woredas to engage in both monitoring, technical support and learning activities. Two regional workshops on government led-monitoring and WASH data triangulation/analysis were conducted to share monitoring assessment findings, discuss on current issues and gain a better understanding of what government partners would find helpful in a WASH monitoring system.

Some achievements to mention:

- Sustainable WASH Project (SWP) mid-term evaluation conducted by the regional signatories
- Regional and national level influencing and learning workshops were conducted in collaboration with program partners.
- Six (6) Woreda level cross-sector meetings conducted by partners (2 per Woreda)
- WASH building block analysis workshop was conducted to review annual progress involving 48 participants

- Two rounds of joint monitoring visits and field level technical supports were provided to implementing partners.
- Annual review and planning workshop was conducted engaging about 54 participants from different stakeholders
- Thirty three people from regional/zonal/woreda level government partners and members have participated in the learning and experience sharing visit conducted to Bure and North Mecha Woredas.
- MWA has facilitated 6 Core Program Team Meetings and another 6 Regional Program Team Meetings



**Picture 7:** People attending learning and reflection workshop (Left); Gov't experts attending mWater training (Right)

#### **4.11 Local Capacity Building, Training and Community Empowerment**

MWA and partners facilitated intensive training capacity building workshops for WWASH systems strengthening and to ensure sustainability of WASH services. For this, various trainings were provided to government staff, partner experts, and community representatives. Different WASHCOs and WUAs established and members trained, several awareness raising and sensitization activities conducted to speed up the WASH promotion activities at schools, healthcare facilities and in the communities to improve service delivery and bring behavior change in water treatment, safe storage, utilization of improved toilets and good hygiene practice. Below, are some of the main achievements: in

##### **I. National/Regional level trainings and capacity building opportunities:**

- 19 people attended training of trainers organized on the 'Splash Behavior Change Model' which is intended to implement at school to bring behavior change among students on WASH services.
- 52 people drawn from regional/zone/woreda government stakeholders, implementing partners and other WASH actors have participated in SWP mid-term evaluation workshop.
- 54 participants from government stakeholders, implementing partners, education & research institutions and the private sector attended the annual learning and reflection workshop.
- 33 technical staff from water, health and education sectors participated in the learning and experience sharing visit paid to North Mecha and Bure Woredas of Amhara Region.
- 47 professions from the health sector working at region, zone & woreda levels have attended a regional training organized on Disaster Risk Reeducation and Management.
- 50 people drawn from region/zone/woreda level government offices, implementing partners, community representatives and local entrepreneurs' have participated the regional influencing and learning workshop organized on Self-Supply Acceleration (SSA) and Dispensers for Safe Water (DSW) initiatives.

- 39 technical staff from program partners (CARE, CRS &FHE), 3 intervention woreda (Dera, Farta & North Mecha), 2 zones(West Gojjam & South Gondar), and the regional water & health bureaus have participated in the Dispensers for Safe Water (DSW) adoption monitoring survey tools, protocols & procedures. The training was facilitated by senior experts from Evidence Action, Strategic Partner for MWA.
- 15 water engineers and experts attended a training on Water Point Data Exchange (WPDx)-an interactive online platform to share and analyze water sector performance data.
- Four water experts attended a standardized training on water supply designs and standards, water safety planning, construction supervision, water facility management, water quality monitoring, repair and maintenance to improve water service delivery. The training was offered at Ethiopian Water Technology Institute.
- 12 people from regional and woreda level stakeholders participated in the Clean Clinic Model progress review and planning workshop.

## **II. In Dera Woreda:**

- Four rounds of performance review meetings and joint monitoring visits were conducted involving WASH Steering and Technical Committees;
- Seven healthcare personnel were trained on water supply, sanitation and hygiene improvement and management;
- 169 service providers (WASHCOs and UAs) members were trained on water point management, tariff setting and fee collection to improve the functionality of water services;
- 104 WASHCO members were also trained on water scheme governance and management, operation and maintenance as well as tariff setting and water fee collection;
- Seven water experts have attended technical training on water supply detail design, construction and management including GIS and water CAD;
- 66 participants from woreda and community level government offices attended a workshop on WASH sector planning, implementation, reporting and information sharing;
- 125 members of the water user associations received training on the WASH business models to ensure sustainability of water schemes, water fee collection, operation and maintenance of water points;
- 25 science teachers at 5 schools were trained on water treatment and safe storage, WASH infrastructure management, operation and maintenance and the need for integrating WASH service improvement with other school activities and integration with school WASH activities;
- 49 people from education and health offices have participated in school-based behavior chain
- Five school WASH clubs were established and 55 members from 5 schools were trained and 10 WASH ambassadors were nominated;
- 11 teachers from 2 primary schools attended the Splash-behaviour change model and items such as sanitary pad, soap, T-shirt and training manuals were provided for school-based activities;

## **III. In Farta Woreda:**

- Eight (8) steering and technical committees meetings were conducted to plan, review and revise WASH plans in the district;
- 346 WASHCO members from 52 water schemes attended refresher training for proper management of their respective water points through regular fee collection, fencing, operation and maintenance system in place;

#### **IV. In North Mecha Woreda:**

- Four WASH Technical Team meetings were conducted to plan, implement, and evaluate the performance of WASH sector in the district;
- Mid-term project review workshop was conducted involving pertinent stakeholders;
- A water users association was established to manage the Ambo Mesk water supply system;

#### **4.12 COVID 19 Prevention, Mitigation and Emergency Response Activities**

MWA has contributed the COVID 19 prevention and mitigation endeavors securing considerable amount of funding from Hilton Foundation. Participatory assessment and gap analysis was done with regard to WASH facilities at schools and HCFs in SWP woredas to align the emergency response activities with that of the SWP development interventions. In this case, potentials health centers, hospitals and schools were identified for the supplementary funding interventions. Following this, refresh trainings were provided to health center managers, health supervisors, health extension workers, hospital directors and some clinical staff participating in IPC teams. Adequate emphasis was given to integrate the emergency response activities with the on-going SWP project interventions at schools and in health care facilities.

MWA and partners accomplished sets activities in response to the prevention and control of COVID-19, which included: training of health workers, community level sensitization, purchase and delivery of hand washing facilities, essential personal protective equipment such as: face mask, eye goggles, heavy duty gloves, and sanitizers, WASH service assessment at quarantine/isolation centers, supply of water containers, detergents and handwashing facilities.

Technical support was provided to the woreda taskforces in coordination and message dissemination efforts using the existing community systems such as health extension workers and other community volunteers through community segmentation by forming small groups of households and home-to-home visits. Technical training was also given on how to address water shortages through rapid rehabilitation of non-functional water sources and availing water at water storages especially for vulnerable community and healthcare facilities.

#### **4.13 Community Level Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion**

Program partners have carried out several sanitation and hygiene promotion activities in the community involving health extension workers, health supervisors and volunteer promoters. Efforts were exerted to make the promotion and sensitization approaches a bit participatory and context-specific in terms of targeting and messaging to reach the public. In this reporting period, CLTSH training provided for health supervisors, health extension workers and community representatives in three woredas. Following CLTSH training given for woreda and kebele level CLTSH committees, partners have conducted continuous follow-up to the communities and provided technical supports on site selection, triggering activities and community action planning endeavors aimed at reaching ODF status.

After intensive awareness creation and sensitization work by CARE, a total of 6,888 households in five kebeles of Farta Woreda have constructed/rehabilitated their improved latrines. In effect, about 30, 400 people have accessed improved sanitation and hygiene facilities in Farta Woreda. Similarly, FHE has used local artists for sanitation and hygiene promotion in the community during holidays and public gathering events. The main

thematic areas for promotion include: create demand for latrine, safe excreta disposal, water treatment & safe storage, personnel hygiene, and water quality protection at school in the community.

Before perusing mass-sensitization using drama, FHE has organized training for amateur artists to help members of the club to understand how to perform a participatory theater/drama using the Theater for Development (TFD) approaches. In addition, local artists were equipped with key messages of safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene services. After the training, FHE in collaboration with the Dera Woreda Culture and Tourism Office facilitated sanitation & hygiene promotion events at 4 targeted schools: Hamusite, Afrewanat, Cheba, and Wuharas public schools. The messages were on building and utilization of improved latrine & safe excreta disposal, safe drinking water storage and water treatment, personnel hygiene, handwashing at a critical time and water quality protection at school using musical and theatrical methods and about 5,622 school communities attended from targeted schools.

In addition, FHE in collaboration with Dera Woreda Health Office conducted training on the CLTSH approach (community-led total sanitation and hygiene) for the CLTS committee from 2 kebeles namely shime and Meha with the aim of creating ODF (open defecation free communities) through an understanding of the health benefits of improving access to sanitation and hygienic services. A total of 28 (M:22, F:6) participants were trained and the training covers 4 days. Those trained individuals have cascaded the training at community level involving community leaders, village elders, religious leaders, and community representatives. Community actions plans prepared and there have been on-going community level sanitation & hygiene promotion activities aimed at reaching open-defecation free community in two kebeles.

**Success and contributing factors:** The following are some of the successes observed from SWP:

- Progress in the WASH system strengthening endeavors was assessed annually using the building blocks analysis tool and QIS ladders at woreda and region levels. The analysis results have shown improvements in some building blocks.
- The long-term WASH strategic plan implementation and budget/expenditure tracking were conducted in three woredas
- Different virtual and in-person meetings were conducted for planning, monitoring and review of project progresses, create common understanding on situations, identify roadblocks and take remedies on critical issues
- The government-led monitoring system strengthening activities and the WASH building blocks analysis made to measure progress over time.
- Successive support and capacity building trainings were provided to regional and woreda water offices to own a comprehensive asset management system supported with mWater platform.
- Woreda level dataset review and reflection meetings were conducted to maintain the validity and reliability of the water sector performance data across pertinent government offices at regional, zone and woreda levels.
- Results from SWP implementation were presented at national and global WASH events:

- Sector support activities: The National WASH in HCFs guideline preparation; and printing; Engagement in the National Self-Supply Task Force; the National WASH in HCFs Training Manual Preparation Working Group, etc.
- WASH infrastructure development at schools, HCFs and in the community have been promising.
- Improvement in WASH services in healthcare facilities implementing the Clean Clinic Model.
- DSW roll-out activities were conducted and 345 chlorine dispensers were installed at community water points.

## 5. Challenges and Resolutions

MWA and program partners have faced some challenges during this reporting period. As part of the partnership efforts, these challenges were shared with members and strategic partners of project so that they could support in mitigating the challenges and continuing to move the project forward.

### 1. Challenges:

- The challenging peace and security situation in the region has negatively affected activities that require active engagement of local government offices and the targeted communities.
- Lack of a fully functional liquid chlorine supply chain system at regional and districts level
- Inconsistent WASH performance data from government stakeholders at different levels
- The outbreak of COVID-19 has negatively affected the pace of project implementation as planned.
- Price escalation on construction materials and constraint of some items (cement) in local markets resulted in delay.

### 2. Resolutions: The following resolutions were taken to address the challenges:

- Program partners give emphasis to WASH facility development and construction works in three woredas during the COVID-19 outbreak that resulted in restrictions of public gathering..
- Successive support and capacity building trainings were provided to regional and woreda water offices to own a comprehensive asset management system supported with mWater platform. There have been woreda level dataset review and reflection meetings to maintain validity and reliability of the water sector performance data.
- MWA and program partners have implemented different activities maintaining the COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures.
- Close follow-up of the market price and necessary budget adjustments were made among program partners considering additional resources from their sources as matching fund.