



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

**SWP Year III- Quarter III Progress Report
(October 1, 2021 –December 31, 2021)**

Submitted to: Amhara National Regional State
Bureau of Finance
Bureau of Water and Energy
Bureau of Women, Children and Social Affairs
Bureau of Education
Bureau of Health

February 2022

Addis Ababa

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Acronyms

CCM	Clean Clinic Model
CLTSH	Community Led Total Sanitation
DSW	Dispensers For Safe Water
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
NWI	National WASH Inventory
ODF	Open Defecation Free
SWP	Sustainable WASH Project
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSA	Self-Supply Acceleration
WASHCO	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee
WUA	Water User Association

1. 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 and sanitation (WASH) to millions of the world's poorest people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The on-going Sustainable WASH Project is the collaborative efforts of MWA and program partners that include: CARE, Catholic Relief Services, FH Ethiopia, IRCWASH, WaterAid and World Vision. Sustainable WASH Project (SWP) is set to:

- Strengthen key aspects of the service delivery system including planning, partnerships, resources and institutional capacity by 2024.
- Increase access to safe water and improved hygiene and sanitation services in public schools, through the use of new and proven models, to reach over 45,000 students by 2024.
- 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.
- Increase the population 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.
- Increase access to safe water for over 200,000 people through the deployment of new and proven service modalities and technologies by 2024

2. Background Information

SWP is a five-year project that has been implemented in three woredas since 2019 to bring collective impact operationalizing water supply, sanitation and hygiene improvement activities at school, in HCFs and in the community. MWA has continued its hub-role to coordinate partners' activities which have paved the way to reach the target beneficiaries in three woredas. MWA has worked seriously to put in place a strong partnership at region and woreda levels to coordinate efforts of government and program partners.

3. Summary of Project Achievements

This brief report summarizes the third quarter progress of SWP during October 1, 2021 –December 31, 2021). Some of the accomplishments include: the regional system strengthening workshop conducted involving program partners and other key stakeholders; the mid-term assessment by government organizations regional building block analysis made to measure progress on key aspects of the water sector; water and sanitation facility development work in three woredas; different virtual and in-person meetings conducted to assess progress; local capacity building activities performed; and some progress updates and reports shared with government stakeholders. In addition, program partners have managed several tasks at woreda level. These 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.

4. Partnership development and system strengthening

MWA has been working in collaboration with partners and government stakeholders at different levels. The hub, woreda-lead and thematic lead roles have been functioning well with clear duties and responsibilities as indicated in the memorandum of understanding signed before the beginning of the project intervention. MWA and partners conducted meetings with government stakeholders at different levels. For instance, there was mid-term review of the project involving government experts from regional, zonal and woreda level line offices and program partners. Similarly, program partners facilitated woreda level steering and technical committee meetings to assess progress and accelerate collaborative efforts to meet deliverables.

5. Community water supply

Development of new water points: the water infrastructure development work in targeted communities has continued to be a success story in our collaborative project-SWP.

In this quarter, five (5) water points were constructed and the construction work of 50m³ concrete reservoir is under-way as part of Gena-Mechaweche water supply system in Farta Woreda aimed at creating access to safe water for 4000 people living in Gena Mechaweche kebele. This rural piped-system with multiple water points is expected to serve the community and Gena Mechaweche Health Center. To ensure water quality at source, we intend to pilot In-line chlorination method at this water supply system.

Water point rehabilitation works: FHE in collaboration with woreda water office have accomplished preparatory activities necessary for water work rehabilitation in Dera Woreda. The main activities done include site selection, assessment and feasibility checks, community consultation meetings, local resource mobilization and procurement of industrial materials. Accordingly, a total of 15 non-functional water points were identified as per the request from the woreda water office for the rehabilitation of community water points that require major maintenance. FHE in coordination with Dera Water Office has started the rehabilitation activities as planned to make 15 community water schemes give service through the re-construction of head work, full or partial replacement of pipes and pumps with all accessories. Here, the woreda water office has identified 15 water sources and requested FHE for the rehabilitation. Following the request from the government office, FHE has conducted site visits to investigate the extent of damages in water points and verified the need. At this time, FH has supplied all the required industrial construction materials and assigned Masons for each water source rehabilitation site. The user communities have also contributed in availing local construction materials.

CRS has conducted discussions with government offices at different levels, made an in-depth assessment and problem identification to fix the challenges at Amarit water supply system in North Mecha woreda and procurement of the necessary equipment for replacing the diesel pump generator with solar-powered pumping technology. The solar power installation work initiated for Amarit water supply system is a multiple water point rural piped system that will enable rural & peri-urban communities to access safe water when it gets completed.

Water governance and capacity building

Program partners have supported Water Offices to establish and strengthen the capacity of WASHCOs and WUAs to enable them sustainably manage water supply systems. In this regard, there has been an on-going effort to strengthen WASHCOs providing the necessary trainings; strong efforts exerted to legalize WASHCOs towards water users' association, provision of materials required to make these governance structure properly function.

For instance, WaterAid has supported the establishment and strengthening of the rural utility management model for Ambo-mesk water supply system. WaterAid has proven approaches in organizing capacity building trainings, material supply and equipment support for the utility management model at all stages (to get registered, have license from a designated government entity, establish an institutional set-up, hiring full time manager, plumbers, and water sales.

World Vision has also supported the establishment of WUAs maintaining the processes and procedures of legalizing WASHCO. As a follow-up procedure, training was provided for 108 members of WASHCOs. The Water Users Association (WUA) was established with 17 members to lead the WUA and the legalization process is under way. Similarly, FHE has identified 11 water schemes with WASHCOs who were interested to form WUA for better water schemes operation and management. After need identification and checking willingness of these WASHCOs, the necessary training was delivered by experts from Water Office with facilitation and logistical support of FH Ethiopia.

Adequate attention was given to training and empowerment of water user association to develop a business model to ensure sustainability of the water service delivery making a strong water governance platform that can manage the water points and handle communication with woreda water offices. As part of system strengthening and a means for ensuring sustainability, has conducted training for WUAs on business model development for their respective water schemes' management. A total of 60 community members have attended trainings. Those community representatives were 41 males and 19 females.

6. School WASH

In this reporting period, a total of four (4) primary schools were identified for water source development, rehabilitation and expansion; for construction of gender disaggregated improved toilets and installing hand washing facilities and training of the school community to sustainably manage WASH services. In this regard, three (3) water schemes were identified for rehabilitation and the remaining one (1) for upgrading and expansion work. Partners have accomplished several activities for school WASH improvement that included feasibility assessment, the preparation of detail engineering design and bill of quantity, detail specification and bid document preparation and handling the bid process and contract administration works. As key step of the process, the preparation of detail engineering design for facilities, bill of quantity (BoQ), detail specification and bid process for the construction of one gender segregated Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines (VIPL), water points with 14 faucets and elevated tanker with 5,000L capacity in Wotet Abay elementary school was done. Now, the bid process, agreement signing, and site handover was done. The construction is in good progress and will be completed before March 31, 2022. When the construction work gets completed, the facilities

will provide access to safe water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services for 1,500 students and teachers.

On top of the facility development works at schools, training was provided for school principals, teachers and club coordinators on safe water supply, water treatment & safe storage, good hygiene practice and the use of chlorine dispensers in improving water quality. Working in collaboration with Dera Woreda Education Office, FHE has facilitated a training where a total of 25 teachers (male-22, female 3) have participated. The main themes covered by the training include: WASH service improvement, water treatment, water & sanitation facility management at schools, the need for budget consideration for operation, maintenance and the need to collaborate between sectors (education, water & health) to maintain school-based WASH services.

FHE in collaboration with the Education Office has celebrated the Global Hand Washing Day at schools conveying key messages on the need for hand washing at critical times. During 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, 2021 and the partner has used the event as an opportunity to promote WASH at schools providing soap and T-shirt printed with key messages about the hand washing and prevention of COVID 19.

Partners have also supported the establishment of WASH-clubs to accelerate efforts of sanitation and hygiene promotion activities at schools and in the surrounding communities. In addition, training was provided for club members, club coordinators, school directors and education supervisors. The purpose of the training was to support sanitation and hygiene promotion, equip students with the necessary hygiene behaviors and practices; promote the safe water collection, storage and treatment options.

As collaborative effort of MWA and Splash, six (6) primary schools were identified in three (3) woredas to implement the Behavior Change Model pioneered by Splash International and training was given for government staff drawn from zone and woreda education, water and health offices. The training has been cascaded to the school level involving the school community: teachers, students and admin staffs) and as well the woreda education office.

Based on the awareness creation on standard school WASH implementation for the ToT focused on Splash's approach as a model, training has been facilitated for 11 [M:7, F:3] schoolteachers from two schools namely Hamusite and Weharase primary school. The training was mainly focused on water treatment, improved sanitation, and proper hygienic practice including menstrual hygiene management. The trainee also visited Tewdros Primary School found in Debre tabor that implemented standard school WASH, taking splash's approach as a model. These trained participants are anticipated to train school WASH clubs' members and implement them in their respective schools. At this time, FH is facilitating and communicating with Splash International for the supply of five drinking and handwashing stations to install in tarted schools



Picture 1: Hand washing day celebration in Dera (Left); WASH club members attending training (Right)

7. WASH in Health Care Facilities

During the reporting period, WaterAid has completed the preparation of detail engineering design, BOQ, specification and bid process for the construction of two gender segregated VIPLs and elevated tanker with 5,000L capacity in Buro health center. Following the required procedures, WAE has managed bid process, agreement signing, and project site handover in time. The construction work was in a good progress and it was supposed to get completed in the 4th quarter of year 3. When completed, the facility will provide access to safe sanitation and hygiene service for 25,000 people residing in the catchment and health care providers.

A rural piped water supply system with multiple water points has been constructed by the collaborative efforts of WaterAid and CARE to serve both the health center and the surrounding communities of Gene-Mechawecha kebele. Water shortage was a critical problem facing the community since there was only one (1) water source developed by COWASH. To address the needs of both the community and the health facility, CARE and WaterAid agreed to jointly develop the water supply system by sharing costs and expertise to abide by the shared roles and responsibilities outlined in memorandum of understanding. The roles and responsibility of WaterAid is to design and develop detail specification of electromechanical and pressure line of the water supply systems at reasonable location of reservoir, to allocate budget for the construction of civil works like purchasing and installation of pipes pressure line and procurement and installation of electromechanical systems (submersible pumps, solar panels/power sources). On the other hand, CARE was tasked to install distribution line/s and construction of water points (including all required fittings as per the design), fencing of water points as per the engineering design documents, construction/ Installation of water storage reservoir with a capacity range of 25-50m³, ensure the quality of the construction works, and establish, legalize and train WASHCOs at scheme level.

In this regard, WaterAid has completed the installation of the submersible pump, solar powers, guard house, fencing and all the respective accessories. In addition, WAE has installed the 1.1km OD110mm PN16 HDPE pressure mainline. But, the water supply system was not functional during this reporting period since the reservoir construction work was not completed.



Picture 2: Solar panels installed at Gena-Mechawechea by WAE (Left); Hand washing facility constructed in Korata HC (Right)

Program partners have been implementing CCM at health centers, which resulted in considerable changes in WASH service improvement. As thematic lead, CRS has facilitated training and technical support for the implementation of CCM and partners have performed sets of activities in three woredas. These activities implemented during the reporting period includes:

- Training was provided on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) where 26 HC directors, WASH-IPC focal persons and partners staff from WVE & CRS. The training was provided by senior experts from Amhara Region Health Bureau. In addition, the IPC committee in North Mecha has conducted monthly monitoring visit to HCs implementing CCM. Similarly, supportive supervision was conducted at Dewel and Korata health centers by Dera Woreda CCM committee. The committee has assessed the status of these health centers in view of the facility management, water supply, sanitation and hygiene services.
- A handwashing station with 10 faucets was constructed at Korata health center. This facility is expected to serve more than 17, 972 people.
- Planning and review sessions were conducted involving key actors. Targeted health facilities have prepared their annual plan, conducted discussion with woreda and HC IPC committees to bring consistent and satisfactory standards of cleanliness at health centers; agreed on the ways to monitor their performance; discussed as to how to promote CCM at woreda level and influence other HCFs to start implementing CCM; sort action points to work in a harmonized approach and mobilize local resources for the implementation of activities as planned and design a recognition system and incentivize high performing teams and HCFs.

8. Dispensers for Safe Water

MWA, in collaboration with government partners, have 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. For this initiative, 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 officials 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 necessary6 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
North Mecha	115	CRS
Dera	115	FHE
Farta	115	CARE
Total	345	

MWA and program partners have implemented sets of activities to ensure the sustainability of chlorine dispensers in each of the water point. They have provided the necessary supports for the sustainable use of chlorine dispensers installed at community water points. Different consultative and awareness creation sessions conducted at woreda and community levels to improve DSW uptake level. For instance, both 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

- ✓ HEWs are oriented and assigned in consultation with the woreda health office to take care of 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 was made available by CRS only in North Mecha woreda, but CARE and FHE have been in the process to receive it from manufacturers. 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 4: People attending DSW sensitization /awareness creation sessions in Dera Woreda

9. Self-Supply Acceleration (SSA)

MWA has been 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 model. But, creating an enabling environment and providing support to create buy-in among government and other WASH actors has been a challenge. Program partners have been working with woreda government to determine ideal kebeles for self-supply; they have facilitated community sensitization sessions using participatory approaches; IEC/Behavior change materials were prepared and used for trainings, and relevant information was shared with households on the self-supply ladders and associated costs to get there.

During the 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 five (5) kebeles at which 65 households expressed interest to invest on their family wells. Accordingly, 29 households started upgrading their water source to improve the water quality.



Picture 5: Community members attending the self-supply awareness creation/sensitization sessions

10. Community level Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

There was no community level sanitation and hygiene promotion activities conducted in three woredas during the reporting period. This was happened since the local government offices and community structures were over-burdened with activities related to peace and security as well crop-harvesting. In effect, MWA and program partners working in collaboration with government stakeholders will implement lots of activities in in the remaining quarter to meet deliverables set for SWP-Year 3.

11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

MWA has continued to promote joint monitoring and learning through convening meetings and organizing learning events which included core program team meetings, regional program team meetings and thematic learning events at national and regional levels. In addition, 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 WASH Offices at region, zone and woreda levels. There were series of activities carried out in connection to the mid-term evaluation which included: 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.

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.

The national Water Inventory II (NWI-2) data of SWP woredas obtained from Amhara Region Bureau of Water, Irrigation and Energy regional to support WASH MIS development specific and a three-month action plan was developed to harmonize woreda datasets with NWI2 data for MIS development and finalize system design as soon as possible. The draft survey tools and data visualization dashboard at mWater developed and reviewed by consortium members and government stakeholders at different 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 meetings 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 and Economic Cooperation Offices

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

- System strengthening activities-WASH building blocks analysis over time, government-led monitoring system strengthening
- Improvement in WASH services was observed in health centers implementing the Clean Clinic Model.
- DSW roll-out activities were conducted and 345 chlorine dispensers were installed at community water points.

12. Finance-Budget and Expenditure Summary

MWA would like to kindly remind you that we will include the detailed financial report in the annual report that will be submitted to your esteemed office in May 2022.

Cost item	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Personnel			
Non-personnel			
Other costs			
Total direct cost			
Indirect cost			
Total cost			

13. Challenges and Resolutions

- 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.
- The lengthy process of accreditation and standardization for liquid chlorine production in-country, i.e. concentration required for DSW.
- 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.

The following resolutions were taken to address the challenges:

- Program partners give emphasis to WASH facility development and construction works in three woredas.
- MWA has exerted tremendous efforts to secure national standard for liquid chlorine with concentration level 0.8-1.25% from the Ethiopian Standard Agency, but it is still pending issue.
- 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.