



Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia

Project title: Expanding WASH to Health Care Facilities in Itang
Woreda, Gambella Regional State, Ethiopia

Report to: Amref Flying Doctors in Austria



1. Background/Introduction

WASH services are fundamental to providing quality care. Without WASH services, health goals, especially those for reducing maternal and neonatal mortality, reducing the spread of antimicrobial resistance, preventing, and containing disease outbreaks will be not met. Services such as functional and accessible toilets with menstrual hygiene facilities and safe drinking-water support patient and staff dignity and fulfil basic human rights.

This project (WASH in Health Care Facility) being implemented in Itang Special district specific to Baziel and Elia health Centres aiming to improve WASH situation in the HFs by providing complete WASH services –water, sanitation, hygiene, health care waste management and capacity building.

Therefore, the project intended to comprehensively work on provision of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) which is vital for human life to protect themselves from communicable or non-communicable diseases. It is working to improve WASH services through developing, expanding and renovating water systems in health care facilities. Also, train and capacitate health care facilities workers, clients and cleaners to ensuring effective infection prevention and control in both Health care facilities.

Finally, the project will ultimately benefit **55,574** people directly and indirectly.

2. Summary of key accomplishments

Project start-up: The project staff has been hired and on boarded in October 2021. The project fully registered and got recognition by the regional Charity and Society agency in November 2021.

Immediately after registration, the project conducted preliminary assessment to distinguish the detail works required for water supply and sanitation facility constructions. Then, the project started its construction after compulsory contractual agreements made with contractors. Now, the construction of toilets, water elevated tankers, Inclinator and placenta pits are in good progress. The project is customizing and adapting from Federal ministry of health, developing WASH in HCF module to capacitate health works and cleaners. The software activities like message dissemination through recorded sound/voices and announcement are being collected to organize and cascade so forth.

3. Detailed description of achievements

3.1 Result 1: Reach the health centers' population through access to Water supply from existing hand pump/wells and new construction of Sanitation facilities (Latrine, Incinerators, Placenta pits ...etc) in health Centre premises.

3.1.1 Water supply construction

Prior to any works, the project conducted its preliminary assessment for water supply and sanitation construction to clearly define the specific works needed to provide safe, sustainable and sufficient water supply and sanitation facilities in Baziel and Elia Health centres. The water sources, its supply system and internal connections to each rooms have been assessed to renovate the whole systems. Also the construction of sanitation Facilities (toilet, showers and hand washings) have been assessed in both health centres. Besides, the construction of health care waste management facilities (Placenta pit and incinerator) identified to build in appropriate places of health centres.

Following the assessment, the project prepared bill of quantity for all works and advertised BID to hire contractors. Tender processes have been done according to Amref procurement procedure and the contractors were hired to construct water supply schemes and internal connections, sanitation facility construction and renovation in both health centres. The construction of elevated water tankers are in good progress. The elevated water tanker has **4 meter** height and will be tighten with 5,000L fabric glass “**roto**” (water tanker) in each health centre.

For the outstanding works, construction materials and industrial products deployed to renovate the water supply system and sanitation facility in classes/rooms.

Furthermore, the well development and pump test contractual agreement made with Gambella Water works construction Enterprise. The advance payment made for the organization and works will be resumed in this month. Subsequent to pump test, the solar power installation will be continued for Baziel health centre.

3.1.2 Health care waste management in Elia and Baziel HC:

Sanitation Facility (Latrine, Shower and handwashing...) Construction: Safe disposal of excreta at health facility is important to ensure faecal pathogens do not contaminate the

health care facility environment, water, food as well as to prevent cross contamination to patient, staff and relatives within the health care setting. Accordingly, the project is constructing latrines to ensure the basic sanitation service ladder so that the health centres will have usable and accessible toilets. The facilities will realize the needs of staffs and visitors, women and men, and people with limited mobility. The sanitation services from this hardware will meet the sanitation facility minimum requirements such as user convenience, accessibility, reliability and safety.

The Baziel health centre area were frequently affected by flooding. To mitigate the problem, WASH in HCF project is constructing structurally sound latrine with underground footing and built four colons at each corner of the underground masonry to absorb the risk of collapsing and fall. The latrine has **four** (4) classes; one for differently abled people, one for MHM, One for men and the remaining one for women.



Incinerator & placenta pit: Every health facility should have at least the minimum standard of incinerator. So that the project is constructing health care waste incinerator & Placenta pits to ensure safely disposal of health care wastes in well designated place.

3.2 Result 2: Enhance understanding of individuals, communities, health workers, and waste care management groups about WASH and health promotion in health care facilities through capacity building training and media campaign.

This project is working to contribute to increase basic WASH services; strengthen the role of healthcare services and staffs in health education and hygiene promotion to more efficient service delivery. Since WASH practices are specific IPC behavior practices, the project is working to ensure the regular handwashing by health workers, patients, and care taker/families at key moments. Not only hand hygiene promotion, but also the project is strengthening waste management groups to keep the regular environmental cleaning of surfaces, floors, walls, toilets and showers, and waiting areas.

Capacity building: the project team is developing WASH in HCF training module for health workers and cleaners to provide the training for **50** Health care workers and cleaners on health care waste management and infection prevention in March 2022. After the training, the two HCs will serve as centers for dissemination of health information to communities by using mixed methods of awareness raising. The key health and hygiene messages will be recorded on audio-tapes and replayed in patient and maternity waiting areas. The health and hygiene messages will be disseminated on one-to-one sessions at every patient-to health worker contacts points. Moreover, the two health centers will be rearranged to serve as a role model for the others.

Awareness raising: Performa has been collected to procure TV(32inch), sound system, DVD players, Flash, Dishes and other accessories to record and disseminate health information in health care facilities. Dissemination of Health information to patients and care takers will be carried out in health care facilities through these instruments.

4. Partnership and coordination

Amref has a presence in Itang special district since 2019 through its Emergency WASH, MDA, T-HDR projects and established strong partnership with the district government partners and the community at large. The existence of strong partnership and coordination supported us to easily start the implementation of WASH in HCF project.

The preliminary assessment conducted in collaboration with Gambella regional health bureau, Itang district health & water Offices. Besides to that, we were cooperating with Itnag district administration to secure the water sources for supply system expansion to health centres from nearby sources. Moreover, we are approaching to work with Gambella Water Works Construction Enterprises for well development and pump tests.





Success / lesson learned

Since the project started very soon, success story or lesson learned will be captured and documented in the project life.

Major constraints/challenges and actions taken

- Lack of Competent drillers
- Lack of already prepared WASH in HCF training module
- Fragile Security treat
- We approached to Gambella water works construction enterprise as a single sourced competitor for well development and pump test
- Now we are developing the training module to cascade the training for Health workers and cleaners training