



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID
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Norwegian Church Aid Ethiopia
ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

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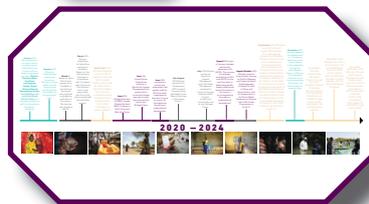
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Our Work in Ethiopia

Since we started our operation in 1974, we have been responding to humanitarian emergencies and undertaking long-term development interventions in Ethiopia.

We implement our programmes together with local partners, both faith-based and resource/value-based organisations, and in close cooperation with government structures. We build and maintain these relationships at the grassroots for continued impact.

We are a member of the ACT Alliance, a coalition of faith-based organisations working in over 100 countries.

Our Mission

In Ethiopia, we seek to empower communities through development work, humanitarian emergency response, and advocacy, where rights-holders claim their rights and access services.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



This annual review of 2020 brings to light Norwegian Church Aid's overall work in Ethiopia, our results, and how we worked with stakeholders across seven regions in the country during the year.

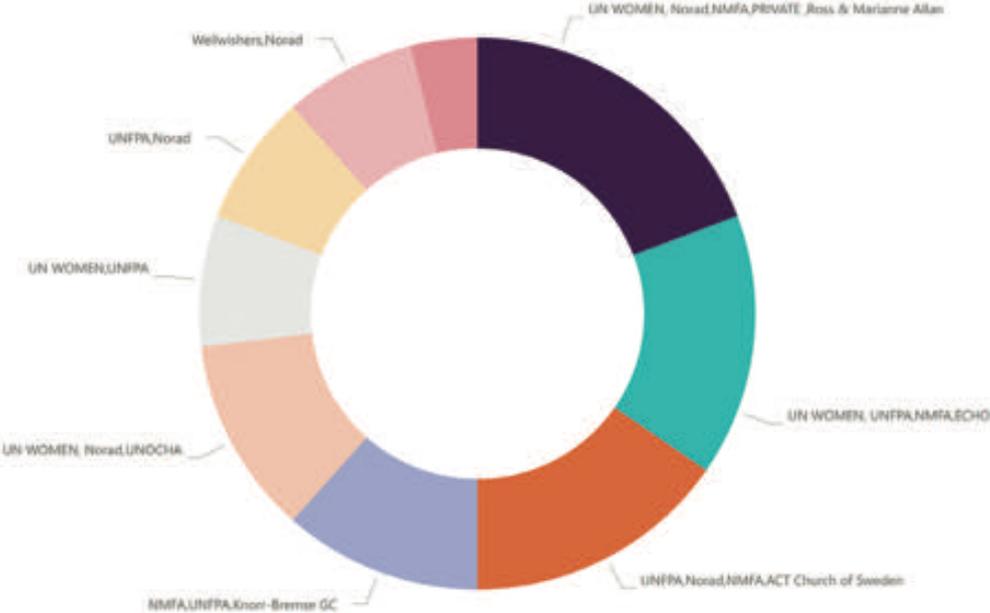
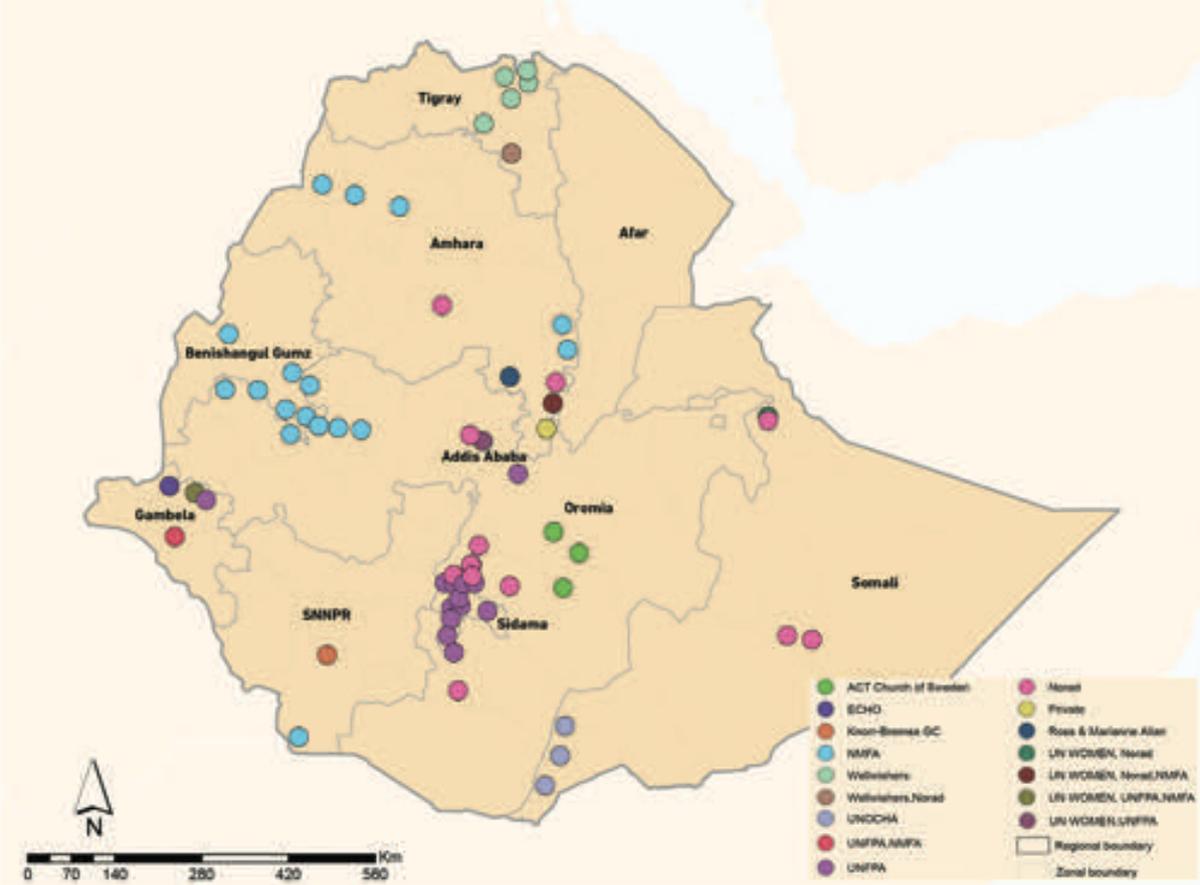
The year 2020 has been peculiar for many reasons. We embarked on a new country strategic period (2020-2024). At the same time, we were faced with the Covid-19 pandemic; and large-scale humanitarian emergency needs due to a locust infestation that occurred in more than two decades in the horn of Africa; as well as the conflict in Tigray; and mass displacements in different parts of the country. This has demanded us to adapt how we deliver development and humanitarian emergencies in a very dynamic context. It meant changing modalities but also finding innovative ways to be able to reach communities, and partners-- including the better use of technology and communication mechanisms.

When we commenced the new strategic period 2020-2024, we envisioned Empowered and resilient communities living in peace and dignity. In contrast to the needs on the ground, this vision is a stark reminder that we have a long road ahead, but one that is possible to realize with the engagement of communities themselves, our implementing partners, government bodies, and our supporters.

With our work in 2020, we have made important achievements in the areas of Climate-Resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Gender-Based Violence/Reproductive Health; Faith-Based Climate Action; Peacebuilding; Strengthening Civil Society; as well as in humanitarian emergency response. I invite you to go through the review document to learn for yourself the crucial results we have contributed but to take inspiration from our approaches and lessons.

Eivind Aalborg, **Country Director, Norwegian Church Aid Ethiopia**

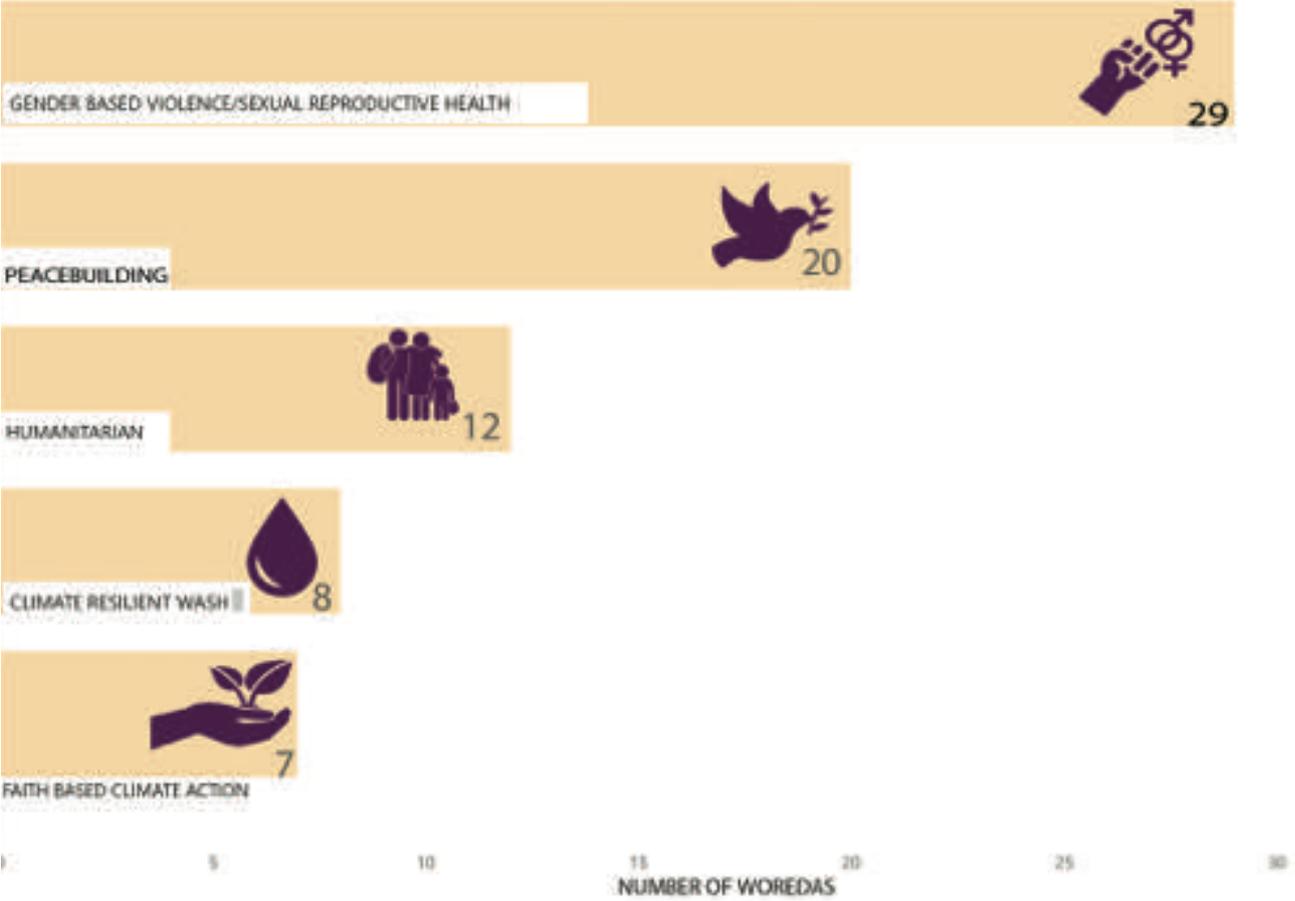
Donors per Region



Our Programmes



Number of Woredas per Region



Timeline 2020

January: NCA Ethiopia embarks on a new country strategic period (2020-2024) with a focus on three global programme priorities: **Climate-Resilient Water Sanitation and Hygiene; Gender-Based Violence/Sexual Reproductive Health; Peacebuilding; and with Faith-Based Climate Action** as a strategic initiative, as well as Humanitarian Emergency Response.

January: NCA Ethiopia's Peacebuilding programme launches a Women for Peace platform at the national level including Peace Committees at the grassroots level.

March: A Waste for Value Pilot Project phases out in Gambella. A key learning document was produced to enable the replication of the project. The learning was shared by UNHCR.

March: NCA Ethiopia establishes its field-office premises in Gambella Region for the Humanitarian Emergency Programme, with its support staff. Previously NCA Ethiopia and a sister organization, Dan Church Aid, jointly coordinated the field office mission.

April-July: NCA Ethiopia responds to the COVID-19 pandemic through IRCE in Addis Ababa and through its field office in Gambella Region. The response included availing sanitation items and preventive information campaigns on media and print.

June: NCA Ethiopia launches a NORAD-funded Climate-Resilient WASH Program in North Shoa and West Arsi Zones.

June: The Humanitarian Programme launches a Menstrual Hygiene Management pilot project with a community-based approach on both host communities and at Jewi Refugee Camp.

June: NCA conducted a partnership assessment and gender audit for NCA and seven implementing partners to serve as a basis for strengthening the partners' organizational development.

July-August: NCA Ethiopia and Action for Development (AFD) respond to communities affected by Acute Watery Diarrhoea in Dassenech District.

2020



July: NCA Ethiopia introduces Menstrual Hygiene Management and Solid Waste Management components across its Climate Resilient WASH Projects, on both host communities and at Jewi Refugee Camp.

August: NCA signs a five-year strategic partnership agreement with UNFPA. This ensures the strategic partnership of NCA and UNFPA for the next five years in addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices in the country, for strengthening the partners' organizational development.

August-October: NCA Ethiopia conducts three studies focusing on Conflict Mapping and Context Analysis; the Engagement of Women of Faith in Peace and Reconciliation; and An Assessment on the Social Media Response on National Inter-Faith Prayer Programme on Covid-19.

September: NCA Ethiopia launches a Church Forest Methodology. The methodology includes the Ethiopian Orthodox Church's long years of experience in forest protection and management. It is meant to serve as a model for afforestation/ reforestation programs including scaling up of successful conservation of sacred and communal forests and restoration of degraded environments. Women of Faith in Peace and Reconciliation; and An Assessment on the Social Media Response on National Inter-Faith Prayer Programme on Covid-19.

December: NCA Ethiopia supports the development of a Theological Reflection on the Role of Women in Peace Building through the Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia. The theological reflection draws from the teachings of Christian and Muslim faiths on peacebuilding.

November: Ethiopia Seventh-Day Adventist Church, through the Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia, declares against Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage, which will be cascaded in the coming project period.

November: NCA Ethiopia launches a documentary film on the Ethiopian Church Forests and its project with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church together with the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

November-December: NCA Ethiopia, through the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission, responds to a locust infestation in Ankober District with emergency food support to affected farming communities.

- 2024



Our Programmes



CLIMATE RESILIENT WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (CR-WASH)

15,738 People we served with clean drinking water

14,449 People we served with basic sanitation services



Sustainable, Safe, and Affordable Basic Drinking Water Supply

15,738 gained access to improved basic drinking water.

25 gravity springs and hand-dug wells constructed/rehabilitated.

OUR APPROACH

Construction and development of gravity springs and hand-dug wells based on the local context and water potential of the areas we operate.

Mobilization of community members to participate during the construction of schemes as well as for the protection and management of schemes.

Hygiene Promotion to Prevent Key Health Risks

75% of people practiced handwashing with soap during at least three out of five critical occasions.

2 women microenterprises organized and capacitated to produce reusable sanitary pads to assist schoolgirls in managing their menstruation.

OUR APPROACH

Build awareness through community-based hygiene promotion campaigns at critical handwashing times, such as before breastfeeding or feeding children, eating, preparing food, after using toilets, and cleaning toilets, etc.



Sustainable, adequate, and equitable basic sanitation services

2567 household latrines constructed following community awareness-raising.

6 blocks of sex-segregated improved latrines constructed by CR-WASH projects in schools.

OUR APPROACH

Raise awareness through campaigns aided with learning materials.

Mobilize communities through Community-Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene approach to end open defecation.

Provide sanitation facilities to schools.

Promote menstrual hygiene management to address the needs of adolescent girls in schools.

Community resilience to respond to climatic hazards affecting WASH services

8 communities carried out soil and water conservation to increase climate-resilient WASH.

70 hectares of land protected through soil and water conservation with community engagement.

OUR APPROACH

Provide skills and inputs to communities to protect their watersheds, sustain the natural resources and respond to natural disasters that may affect their WASH services.

Facilitate local-level emergency preparedness activities.

14,449 people accessed basic sanitation services.

2567 household latrines constructed following community awareness-raising.

FAITH-BASED CLIMATE ACTION

57,288 People we served



Climate Resilient Communities through Faith Actors' Response

1, 460,717 multipurpose seedlings (tree, fruit, and forage) planted by the right holders on degraded communal and private lands.

OUR APPROACH

Afforestation/ reforestation, watershed protection, Sustainable Land Management, Climate-Smart Agriculture

Training and capacitating farmers to apply different context-specific physical and biological soil and water conservation structures such as terracing, deep trench, soil, and stone bunds. Establish and strengthen community taskforces for preparedness and response of climate change-related hazards.

Faith actors and communities advocate for climate action

6 advocacy actions taken by faith actors and communities towards duty-bearers.

OUR APPROACH

Organize and building the capacity of faith-actors and communities to advocate towards duty-bearers.

Facilitating advocacy events with faith actors, government representatives, and communities at grassroots level. This includes policy dialogue forums facilitated at district, and region level on policies related to climate, environment, disaster risk response and management.



Diversified Livelihood Alternatives for Asset-Poor Households

662 asset poor women and men with significantly increased income from zero in the base year (2019).

OUR APPROACH

Train asset-poor and jobless women and men in alternative business options and engage them in income generation activities such as sheep/goat rearing, beekeeping, fattening, and nursery management.

Organize asset poor and jobless women and men in saving and credit groups; equitably support and link them to inclusive markets.

Climate-smart food production

2,423 farmers who adopted climate-smart agricultural practices.

OUR APPROACH

Build the awareness of small-scale farming households on climate-smart farming practices. Avail climate-smart and water-smart agricultural techniques promote natural resources management practices.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

25,000 People we served

Transform dominant social norms to protect women and girls from violence and harmful practices.

50 community dialogues held to address gender-based violence and harmful practices and their consequences.

1,267 religious and traditional leaders mobilized to act against GBV.

869,708 people accessed awareness-raising platforms.

12 million+ people who accessed information through media.

OUR APPROACH

Build awareness of religious and traditional leaders and community-based organizations on harmful practices.

Mobilize faith-based structures and cascade higher-level commitments to the grassroots.

Build larger community awareness through community conversations and dialogues.

Life-saving and specialized services for survivors of GBV and at-risk women and girls

579 women/girls at risk and survivors of violence accessed lifesaving and specialized lifesaving GBV services.

OUR APPROACH

Build the capacity of institutions and service providers (one-stop centers, police, judges, healthcare providers) for survivor-centered and confidential services.

Raising community and survivors' awareness on the availability of the services.

Establish functional referral pathways.

Engage women and girls in alternative income generation.



Comprehensive sexuality education and family planning and sexual reproductive health services.

589 women accessed comprehensive sexuality education and modern family planning services.

OUR APPROACH

Mobilize communities on health-seeking behavior.

Facilitate integration of comprehensive sexuality education in training; strengthening in-and-out of school clubs and women's/ girls' safe spaces.

Establish referral pathways and integrating the Minimum Initial Service Package in service provisions.

PEACE BUILDING

22,900 People were served through dialogue, training, experience sharing, and joint interfaith activities.



Promoting social cohesion, peace, and reconciliation by religious actors

15 inclusive peace dialogues held.

9 Peace committees established from all faiths (Muslim, Orthodox, protestant, and Catholic), and representing women and youth.

OUR APPROACH

Facilitate dialogue for interaction and collaboration across faiths and conflict lines.
Build the skills of community members, religious leaders, women, men, and youth in promoting social cohesion.

Establish/ train inclusive peace committees at the grassroots level.
Facilitate joint theological reflections, public statements, and joint actions among faith leaders to promote social cohesion.

Participation and influence of women of faith in social cohesion, peace, and reconciliation

270 women organized in local peace groups in Bale project area and participating in peace and social cohesion activities.

30% and **13%** of women represented in peace committees in Amhara, Oromia respectively.

OUR APPROACH

Ensure representation and participation of women in peace committees and women for peace platforms, including advocacy with religious, traditional leaders and local government institutions, formal/informal networks to open space for women.

Ongoing capacity building of women's structures, offer technical support, and facilitation of exposure visits to influence local and national structures.

Facilitate theological reflection documents to show the position of women from theological perspectives.

Participation and influence of youth in peace processes

270 youth active in youth peace builders' groups

40% and **13%** of peace committee members were youth in Amhara, Oromia respectively.

OUR APPROACH

Engage youth in peace processes, local peace structures, and inter-faith peace structures.

Build skills and capacity of youth.

Establish Peace Builders groups to address conflicts and social cohesion.

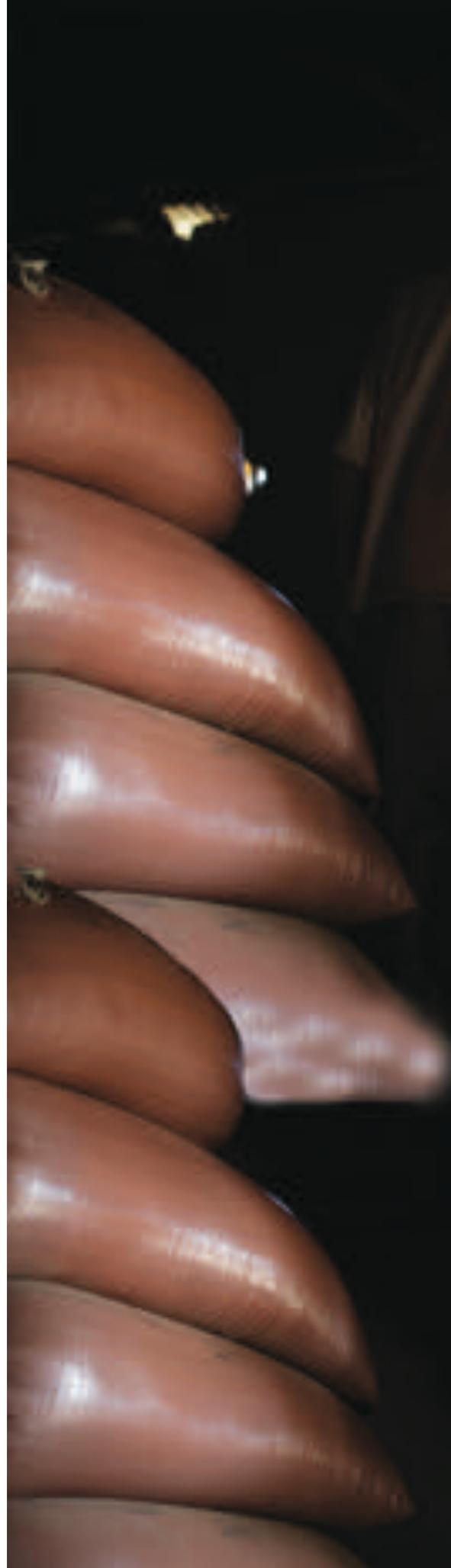
Support youth-led peacebuilding and social cohesion activities such as sports events, inclusive dialogues.

Programme Provider's Capacity and quality interventions

OUR APPROACH

Ongoing capacity building and technical support to partners to effectively coordinate and achieve quality results.

Facilitate ongoing review and learning through regular review committee meetings, information exchanges through telegram groups, and training.



HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

261,591 People we served in emergencies



We responded to four emergencies in 2020 in Gambella, SNNP, Somali, Amhara, and Addis Ababa. Responses included:

Relief assistance for locust-affected communities in Ankober Woreda of North Showa Zone, Amhara Regional State through emergency food distribution.

Lifesaving response for conflict-affected, internally displaced people, and disaster-affected host communities through an emergency WASH intervention in Hudet, Moyale, and Qadhaduma Woredas of Dawa Zone, Somali Regional State.

Quick emergency preventive response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Gambella and Addis Ababa. Lifesaving response for Cholera affected communities in Dasench Woreda through WASH emergency response.

Emergency WASH refugee response projects in Gambella, Jewi, and Nguenyyiel refugee camps. In addition, we were also engaged in:

Environmental conservation/recycling waste through the “Waste for value” pilot initiative in Jewi refugee camp and the host community in Gambella town as well as the provision of Menstrual Hygiene Management in emergency responses.

How We Responded

Drilled new wells for water supply; Rehabilitated solar-powered borehole water supply system and shallow wells; Strengthened WASH Committees.

Distributed food crops and WASH non-food items (NFIs), e.g., water treatment chemicals, soaps, jerrycans, and buckets to households in need.

Availed dignity kits for women/girls with specific needs.

Constructed gender-segregated latrine blocks.

Held sanitation and hygiene awareness campaigns.

Raised public awareness on COVID-19 through Information, Education, and Communication materials in local languages; and distributed soaps, alcohol hand sanitizers to communities and a Covid treatment center; availed pedal-operated handwashing stations and tippy taps in public places.

590 latrines constructed with shower shelters in Jewi Refugee Camp.

408 sanitation facilities rehabilitated/maintained.

538 qt. wheat grain distributed to 1,098 households in locust affected District of Ankober.

7,500 people accessed clean drinking water through the construction/rehabilitation of context-specific schemes.

8481 households received WASH non-food items, such as soaps, water treatment chemicals, Jerrycan, bucket, calcium hypochlorite, and oral rehydration solutions.

WASTE FOR VALUE: PILOT PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



In June 2019, NCA Ethiopia initiated an innovative solid waste management project in Jewi and Nguennyiel Refugee Camps and host communities in Gambella.

The “Waste for Value” project encourages refugees and host communities to protect the environment from pollution but also helps them generate income through a circular economy. The project has seen encouraging results in reducing environmental pollution by facilitating the reuse and recycling of paper and plastic wastes in the intervention areas while providing income for refugees and host community members who are involved in waste collection, reuse, and recycling businesses.

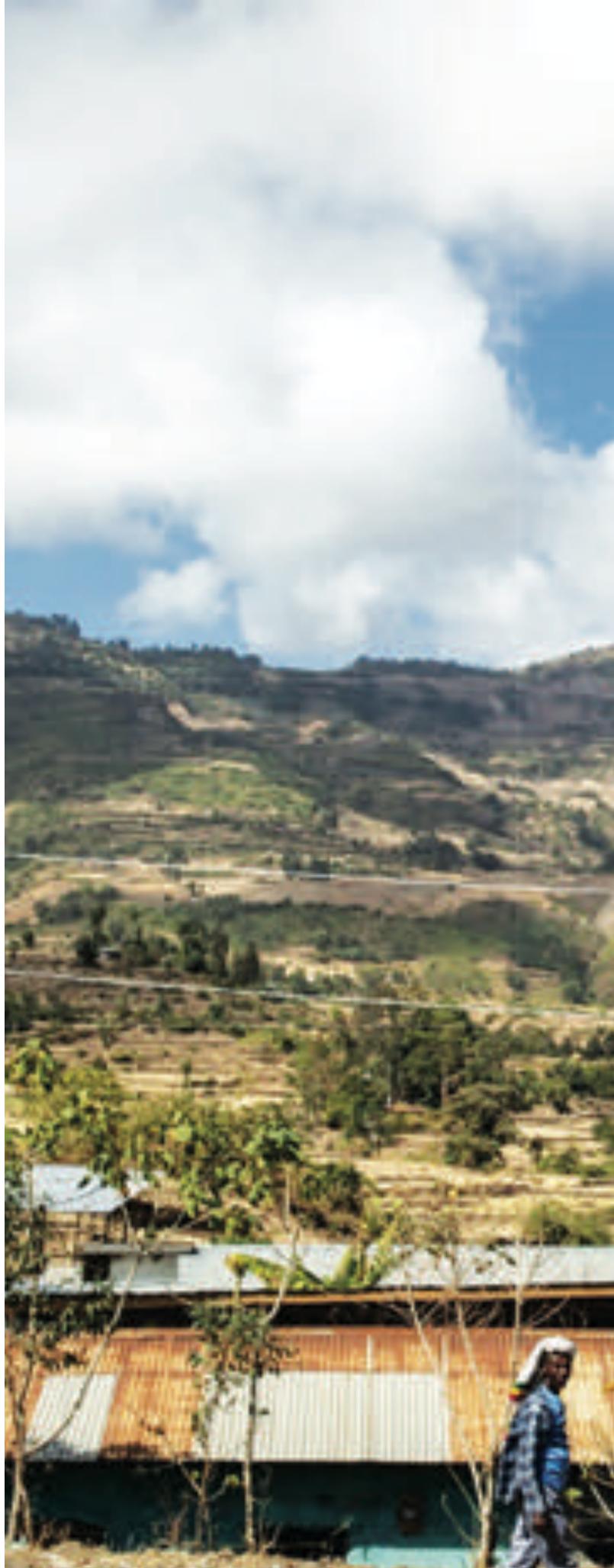
Currently, four cooperatives with 64 members in Jewi refugee Camp collect, sort, and sell the collected waste to a recycling company in Addis Ababa.

In 2020, the cooperatives collected 13,430-kilo grams of disposed plastic, metal, and paper wastes from public areas in the camp that has been converted into value, generating nearly ETB 40,000 for the cooperatives. The same year, NCA’s Gambella Field Office piloted an innovative eco-boat constructed from collected plastic bottles. The eco-boat was tested on the Baro River and passed a trial test.

NCA phased out the pilot project in Gambella in 2020, with a plan to link the cooperatives with other livelihood partners. In 2021, it plans to replicate the practice in other regions as well.

What We Learned

- The demarcation of Church forests and landholdings certification for monasteries and Churches through the Ethiopian Church Forests Project has been crucial to save the Church forests from deforestation and encroachment. Community members (both adjacent and monasteries) participated in fencing sensitive forests from human and animal interference. In this regard, community engagement in the process has been vital to ensure care for the forests in the long term.
- Girls' empowerment initiatives played a significant role in building the capacity of at-risk girls to say "no" to child marriage. Using safe space sessions for girls to discuss sexual and reproductive health has been a successful approach. Working with girls aged 10-19 years and creating enabling environment to discuss matters that affect their wellbeing played a significant role in empowering girls. Other empowerment mechanisms such as engaging girls and their families in income-generating activities such as petty trade, animal fattening and handicrafts, and provision of scholastic materials were key in retaining girls in school and for them to say "no" to child marriage.
- Through the Waste for Value pilot project, and particularly in sustaining cooperatives for waste collection, we have learned that cultural and social stigma around the job can be reduced through continuous awareness-raising on the importance of environmental protection and by re-framing how the task is itself perceived, i.e. from "dirty waste-collecting" to "supporting the environment."



Story from the Field

A Community Reeling from a Locust Invasion in Ethiopia and NCA'S Emergency Response

“IF THE LOCUSTS RETURN, WE WILL HAVE NOWHERE TO GO.”

~Nigatu, a Farmer from Ankober District

In a farming community of Ankober District, Ethiopia, one October morning made their worst fears a reality. A locust swarm that ravaged farmlands across Ethiopia and neighboring countries hovered over the skies of several neighboring localities in the district. Even though the farmers had the word that the locust swarms have come into Ethiopia, they state that they were never prepared for the destruction it entailed.

“We were just a few days away from collecting our harvest,” says Nigatu Assefa, a farmer from Washa locality in Ankober. “Around noon, the locusts covered the sky like a cloud. We immediately informed the District Agriculture Bureau, as we had the concern and prior discussions,” he adds.

Another farmer, Nigussie Gete, 50, recalls that this is the first in his lifetime. “My parents once told me this kind of locust infestation occurred when I was only a child,” he notes.

By dusk, hand-held sprayers and pesticides reached the Washa locality. The locust, however, was unmatched in the control efforts. The swarm could destroy a village's crop within 10-20 minutes.



“As you know, our livelihoods depended on farming. But it was all gone in a few minutes. We could not even feed our livestock as nothing was left. Our crop is our life and if it’s destroyed, livelihoods are also destroyed.”, says Nigussie.

The locust infestation not only had a toll on the crops but also on the mental health of some community members.

“People experienced great anxiety and a sense of hopelessness.”, notes Nigatu, citing how a farmer he knows experienced a mental breakdown following the destruction of his farm.

An already fragile area due to a recent long-standing drought, Washa locality eventually became one of the four hardest-hit districts due to the locust invasion. According to Nigatu and other farmers, the locusts stayed for nearly 15 days, sapping whatever crop was left. This, they say, despite the efforts by the community and the local government.

Nigussie Gete, a farmer from ankober District who affected by the 2020 locust invasion. Photo: Hilina Abebe



Following a request from the local government in Ankober District and after assessing the high risk to agriculture-based livelihoods and food security in the area, NCA Ethiopia and its local partner, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid started relief assistance in late 2020.

“Discussions with farmers indicated that the majority of the households either had no food stock from the previous years or were food insecure. They also do not have as such diversified income sources. A significant proportion of the community are hence vulnerable to mislay their assets at a time of shock.”, revealed an NCA-EOC/DICAC assessment.

The emergency relief was a much needed life-saving effort for farmers like Nigussie and Nigatu and fellow farming households. It included the distribution of wheat grain for farming households from Agere Selam, Washa, Zoma, and Ayirara localities of Ankober Woreda whose crops were affected by desert locust.



Wheat grain distribution underway at a food distribution center in Alyu Amba, Ankober. Photo: Hilina Abeba/NCA

Families received 23kg of wheat grain per household member to cover a month and a half of the food gap.

“Since getting the food assistance, households are feeling a little at ease. But we are still highly burdened since our livelihood depended on the income from farming. We will need agricultural inputs such as seeds and tools for the next planting season.”, says Nigussie.

The need on the ground, still high.

“We are concerned for the future. We fear that the locusts might come back again. We would like to request for the Government to study the locusts so that we are protected for the future. If it comes back again, we will have nowhere to go.”, noted Nigatu.

Donors

ACT Church of Sweden-Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA)
ACT Alliance
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
Norwegian Agency for Development and Humanitarian Aid (Norad) Regional and Civil Society
Private Donors (Wellwishers, Ross and Mariann Allan, Kavli Trust, Knorr-Bremse Global Care, Norwegian private donors)
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA)
Royal Norwegian Embassy/ NICFI
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)

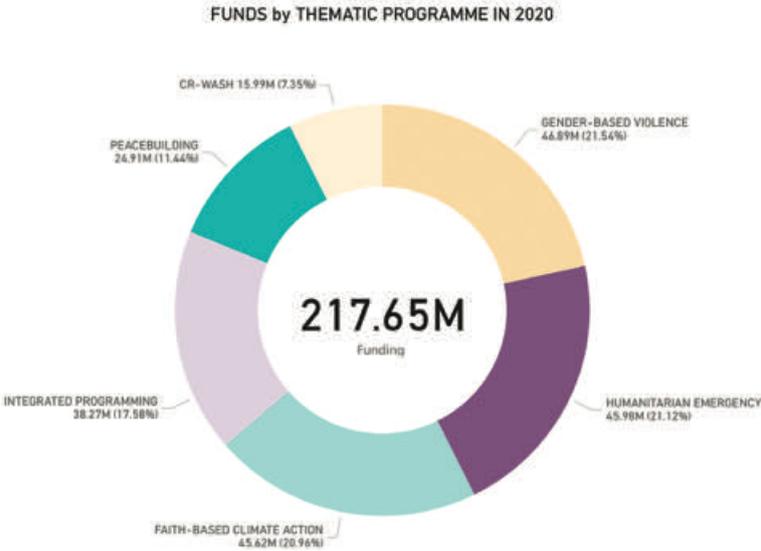
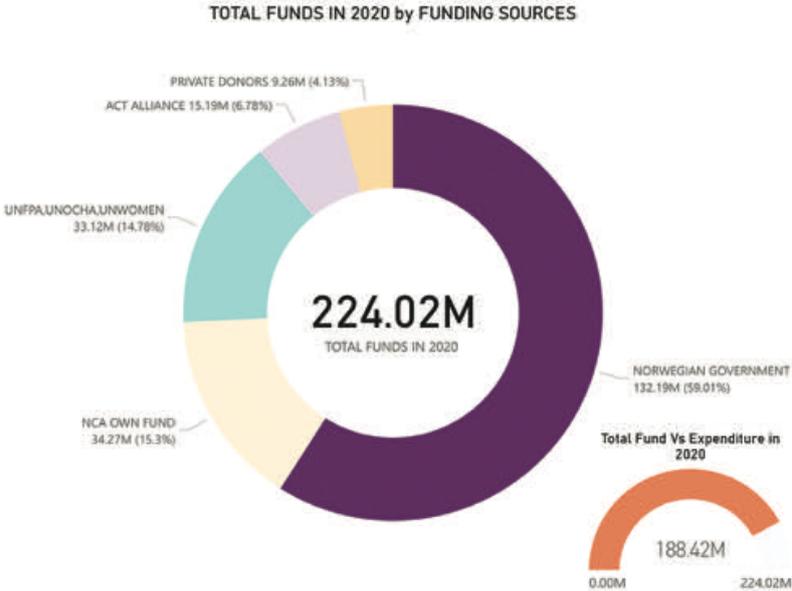
Partners



Action for Development (AFD)
Ethiopia Muslim Development Agency (EMDA)
Ethiopia Muslim Relief and Development Association (EMRDA)
Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission (ECC-SADO)
Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus –Development and Social Service Commission (EECMY/ DASSC)
Ethiopian Orthodox Church– Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC/DICAC)
Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia (ECFE)
Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia (IRCE)
Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA)
Relief Society of Tigray (REST)
Tamra for Social Development Organization (TSD).

Financials

Our funding has shown a steadily increase over the last four years. In 2020, we had a budget of ETB 224,018,918.00 through the generous support of our donors. This ensured the implementation of lifesaving humanitarian emergency and long-term development work across seven regions and one city administration.







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