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LWF

World Service
Ethiopia

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Cover and back cover photos: Internally displaced women, men and children due to conflict in Dawe Serer and Sweyna woredas, Bale Zone, Oromia regional State in 2019. Copyright Sophie Gebreyes/LWF

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REPRESENTATIVE'S MESSAGE

In October 2019, the dramatic changes, the peace treaty with Eritrea in particular, brought about by Prime Minister Abiy's first year in office were recognized by the Nobel Committee which awarded the Prime Minister of the Ethiopian Federal Democratic Republic (EFDR) the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. Nevertheless, the period in the lead up to this jubilation, was marred by protests and violence with ethnic and religious overtones in many parts of the country exacerbating the already severe internal displacement situation.



On the programmatic level, 2019 was the first year of implementation of LWF Ethiopia 2019-2024 six-year country strategy anchored in the LWF programmatic framework made up of three intersecting priority areas of Quality Services, Livelihoods and Protection/Social cohesion. With the opening up of the civil society space with the promulgation of the Civil Societies Organizations Proclamation No 1113/2019 and the revised Refugee Proclamation No. 1110/2019, LWF will fully implement the protection and social cohesion component of the programmatic framework during the new strategy period.

LWF Ethiopia received total pledges of EUR 5.06 Million, out of which EUR 3,875,160 were expended during this reporting period. 47.33% of the funding were to IDP response, 42.47% to refugee and 10.2% to drought response. Access issues and volatility is some of the LWF's implementation areas partly hampered project implementation. A total of 357,993 direct right holders of whom 190,578 are men and 167,415 are female representing 53% and 47% of the total outreach respectively were supported in Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia and Somali Regional State.

We are very grateful for the generous and timely support of 23 donors and partners during the course of the year which made our work possible. We thank the Ethiopian Government and the Agency for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO) for fostering a conducive environment for civil society organizations in the country, Government departments such as the various line ministries, regional governments for Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia and Somali, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs, and the Ministry of Peace for facilitating our work.

We look forward to partnering with you all in 2020, a year full of promise as well as trepidations with the national elections scheduled for August 2020. We invite you to read our annual report detailing our achievements in collaboration with those we seek to serve in partnership with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophia Gebreyes', written in a cursive style.

Sophia Gebreyes
Country Representative

WHO WE ARE

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) based in Geneva, Switzerland was established in Lund, Sweden in 1947. It is a communion of 145 churches in 98 countries. LWF World service is internationally recognized humanitarian and development arm of LWF. LWF Ethiopia is one of the country programs under World Service.

LWF became operational in Ethiopia in 1970, and established a permanent office in 1973 at the invitation of Ethiopian Evangelical Church (EECMY), an LWF member church, to assist communities in Northern Ethiopia. EECMY's then president, the late Emanuel Abraham also pleaded for more support in 1976 for LWF to extend relief assistance to communities in other parts of the country that were affected by the prevailing humanitarian crisis.

VISION AND MISSION

Vision - People in Ethiopia united in diversity achieve their full potential to claim their universal rights to live in a just society with peace, dignity, hope and a future.

Mission - Inspired by God's love for humanity and creation, World Service responds to and challenges the causes and effects of human suffering and climate change.



VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Dignity, human rights and justice

LWF respects the dignity of every person and empowers and supports vulnerable communities in their efforts to achieve justice, human rights and a sustainable future by addressing the underlying causes of poverty and exclusion and work for a more equitable distribution of power, resources and opportunities.

Compassion and commitment

LWF cares and shows compassion for those who are suffering. At the same time, LWF is committed to the highest professional standards in program and resource management.

Inclusion and diversity

As differences among us express the richness of God's creation, LWF respects diversity within the communities it works with and within its workforce. LWF promotes equal employment and other opportunities to all irrespective age, color, sex, gender, religion, ethnic background, and disability.

Meaningful participation

LWF is committed to being inclusive and enabling the full and equitable participation of women and men, people of all ages and people with disabilities in all its activities, programs and decision-making processes as well as in society.

Transparency and accountability

LWF is strongly committed to transparency in all its activities, motives, aims, program and financial decisions and results. We aim to balance accountability towards affected populations with accountability to partners and back donors.

Humanitarian principles

We provide support to people irrespective of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, or political conviction, without discrimination or favoritism. We subscribe to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence.

Gender Justice

LWF believes that women and men, both created in the image of God, are co-responsible stewards of creation. Gender justice is expressed through equality and efforts balanced power relations between women and men. We are committed to eliminating institutional, cultural and interpersonal systems of privilege and oppression that sustain discrimination against women.

Climate Justice

We recognize that the impact of climate change is often felt most acutely by those who suffer from extreme poverty. LWF is committed to ensuring that our programming minimizes the immediate and long term risks.



PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

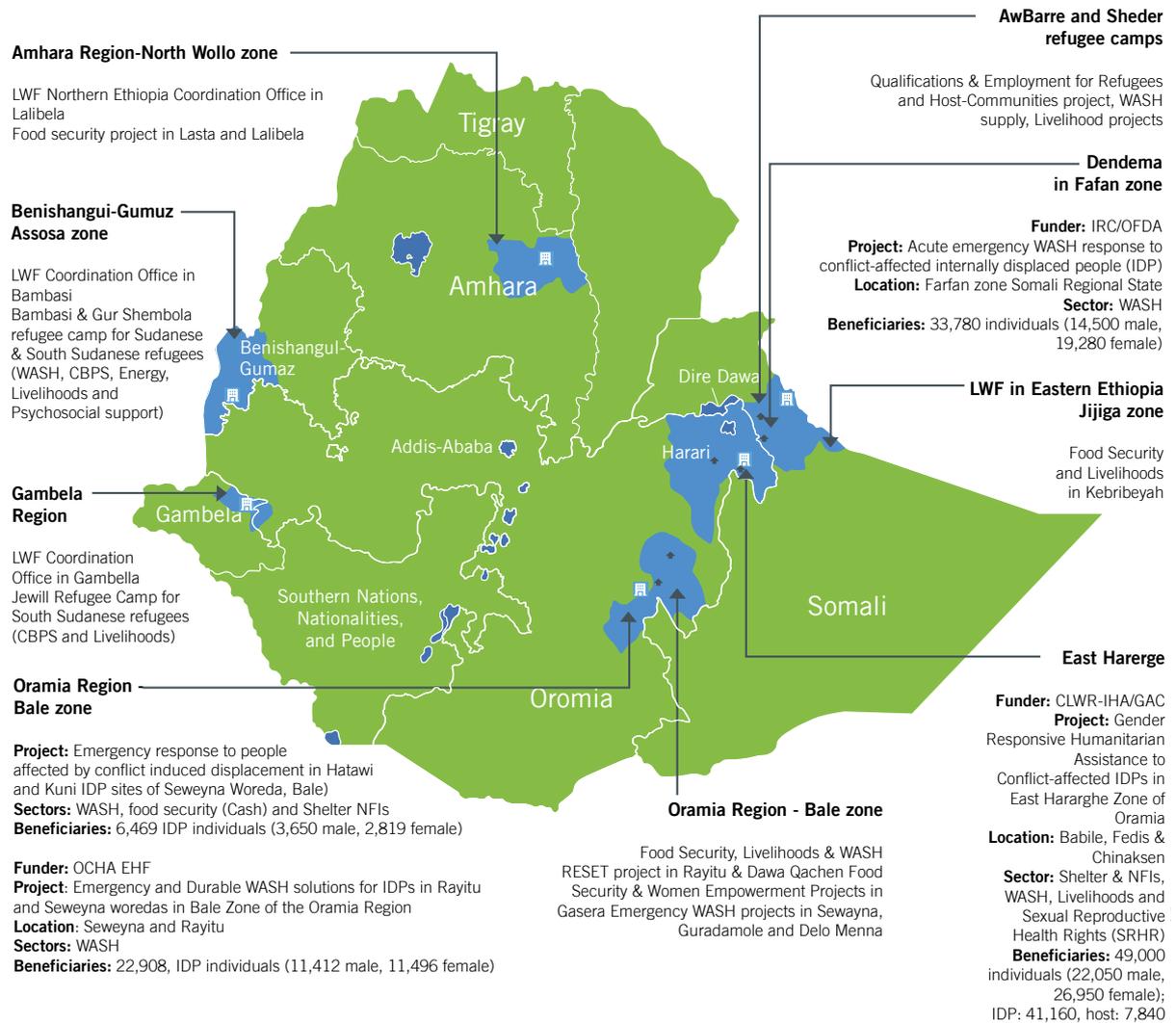
- Quality Services
- Livelihoods
- Protection and Social Cohesion



WHERE WE ARE

LWF operated in the five regional states of Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia and Somali Region implementing development, drought, conflict IDP and refugee response projects in the following 18 woredas (districts): Aw-Barre, Babile, Bambasi, Chinaksen, Dawe Kachen, Dawe Serer, Delo Menna, Fedis, Gambella Zuria, Gasera Guradamole, Kebribeyah, Lasta, Lalibela, Legahidha, Meda Welabu, Rayitu and Seweyna, reaching a total 357,993 people 190,578 men/boys and 165,415 women/girls.

LWF'S INTERVENTION AREAS IN 2019



📍 Project sites

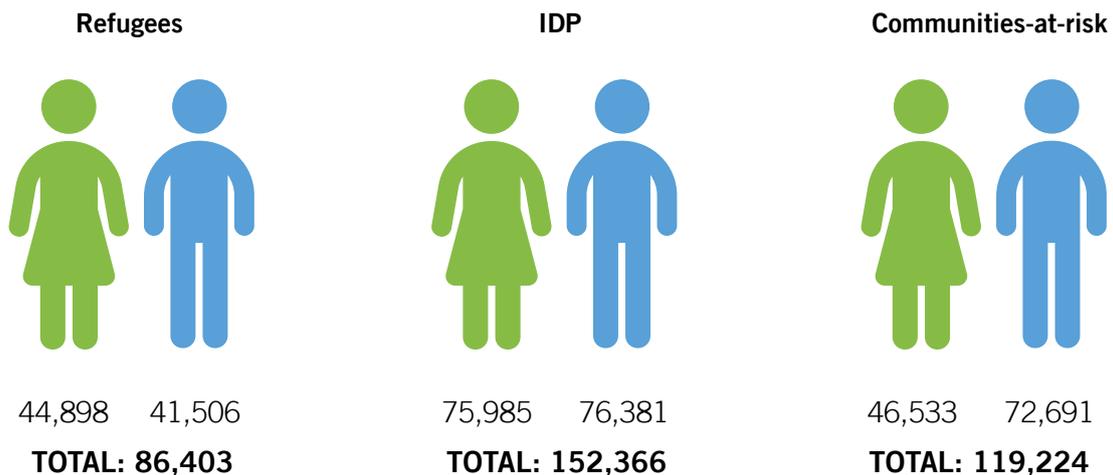
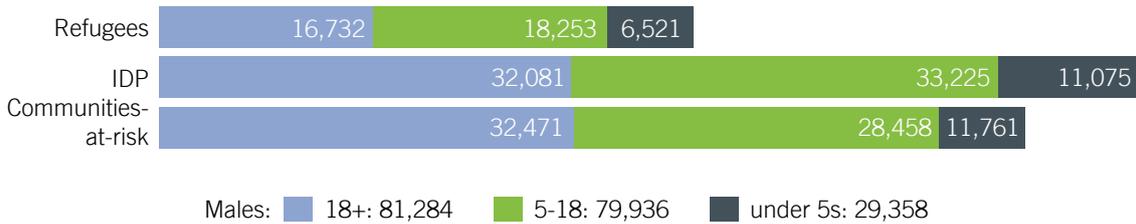
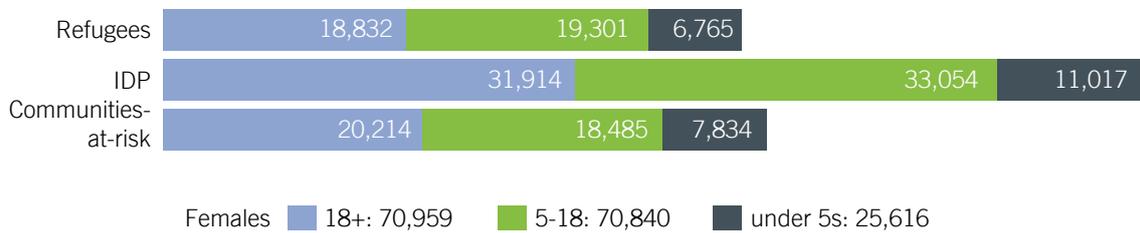
🏢 LWF coordination offices

■ Intervention zones

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Guided by its Lutheran identity and humanitarian principles, LWF Ethiopia stands with communities affected by extreme poverty and conflict and climate change-humanitarian crises focusing on the restoration of livelihoods and the building of resilience to withstand future shocks. In 2019, LWF Ethiopia began implementing the new six-year country strategy 2019-2024. Placing communities at risk, internally displaced, refugees and hosts at the center, the country strategy has three overlapping programmatic focus namely livelihood, quality services, protection and social cohesion. LWF implemented 21 projects in 2019 within these priority areas and reached a total of 357,993 right-holders as per the following breakdown:

LWF ETHIOPIA'S REACH IN 2019



LIVELIHOOD

LWF Ethiopia implemented a total of 10 food security and livelihood projects reaching 31,437 nationals, of whom 14,529 (46%) are female in Amhara, Oromia and Somali National Regional States. Additionally, 5,101 refugees, of whom 2,450 (50%) are female were supported through 4 livelihood interventions implemented in 3 refugee camps in Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella and Somali National Regional States.

The interventions aimed to support people and communities become more resilient and economically self-reliant through the protection and increase of assets, capacity of building. LWF works at the individual/household, community and institutional levels to ensure long-term sustainability of livelihoods interventions.

Temima Seyid, a graduate of LWF Ethiopia livelihoods program

One of these interventions is the three-year project entitled “Sustainable Livelihood and Youth Economic Development” in Gasera woreda, Bale zone of Oromia National Regional State. The project aims to improve youths’ and poor farmers’ livelihoods by ensuring their access to gainful employment opportunities. The project

also focuses on improving gender equality and supporting women’s equal access to gainful employment. The project targets a total of 18,835 people, of whom 9852 are female (52%) or 3729 HHs, of which 664 Female-headed are female-headed. Out of these, 2,594 are unemployed youth (1153 Female).

Temima Seyid is one of the women in Gasera town reached through activities supporting unemployed youth. Temima is a member of the business centre established by the project in Gasera town. Temima and other 4 youths (2 men and 2 women) were trained in business and computer maintenance. Once the trainings were completed they started a computer centre called *Temima And Friends Small-scale Business Enterprise* and 3 desktop computers, a laminator, a binder, a regulator, a generator, and a computer table and chair worth 188,000 ETB (EUR 5,272) on cost-sharing arrangement was provided, with the group members contributing a total of 30,000 ETB (EUR 841) equivalent to 16% from their own savings.

The group saved additional 163 ETB (EUR 5) per day and over a period of two and a half months they deposited Birr 13,000 (EUR 365) at the



Temima and her group mates in front of their computer center @ Seble Belachew



Temima working in the computer center her and her group mates established @ Seble Belachew

'The project helped me and my business partners' s to improve our way of thinking and to focus on adopting to change.'

Temima Seyid

Oromia International Bank. The group members also earn a monthly salary of ETB 1, 000 per person each. The group's business Temima and Friends Small-scale Business Enterprise is officially registered by the woreda.

Prior to joining the group, Temima has been unemployed for more than a year even though she had graduated in Information Communication Technology from Batu Terara TVET College with Level IV Diploma. Since the establishment of the enterprise, Temima's self-esteem and self-confidence have significantly increased. Living with her parents as an unemployed person at the age of 21, Temima felt as though she was a burden and not able to be financially independent and support her family. Temima is now happy that she is able to earn a regular income to fulfil her basic needs as well as put some savings aside that

will make her business grow and help others. Since day one, Temima kept thinking on how to develop or expand her business further saying: 'The project helped me and my business partners' s to improve our way of thinking and to focus on adopting to change.'

The project was supported by Act Church of Sweden and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) both financially and technically making a big difference in the lives of the target people.

QUALITY SERVICES

LWF's humanitarian response is aligned to the Quality Services priority area of the strategy, interventions mostly targeting IDPs, refugees and communities affected by drought and conflict access life-saving services such as improved access to potable water for humans and livestock, access hygiene and sanitation services, distribution of food and non-food items. A total of 10 emergency drought, IDP response and refugee assistance projects were carried out in 2019 reaching a total of 199,656 right holders, of whom 90,777 were female (45%). Of these, 185,520 (93%) were Ethiopian nationals of whom 84,938 were female (46%) in LWF's operational areas (Amhara, Oromia and Somali National Regional States) while the remaining 14,136, of whom 5,839 were female (41%) are Somali refugees and their hosting communities in Aw-Barre and Sheder woredas.

Among the emergency response projects supporting Internally Displaced People (IDPs), Emergency response to people affected by conflict-induced displacement in Hatawi and Kuni IDP sites was one, implemented between May and September 2019. The project achieved the following results:

- a) Provision of 2,428 m³ of clean water through water trucking over a period of 62 days to a total of 6,469 people, of whom 2,819 were female (44%), that is 5 litres of potable water per person per day.
- b) Construction of 4 emergency communal latrines with two block each, 3 at Kuni and 1 at Hatawi IDP sites emergency communal latrines were constructed. Each block has 5 rooms a total of 2,000 IDPs (1,000 male and 1,000 female). The latrines were constructed with ramps to facilitate disability access.
- c) Construction of Hara Huphan pond with 5,130 m³ and Biyo Yala pond with 5000 m³ capacity in Hatawi. The ponds were dug through cash-for-work in 500 IDPs participated. The ponds a total of 7,472 people of whom 3,253 are female (44%) had sufficient access to water for more than two dry month in Hatawi.
- d) A total of 197 IDPs, of whom 142 are female (72%) have benefited from unconditional cash payments made at the two IDP sites.

Teyiba Mohamed, one of the project right holders, is a 38-years old who with her husband and four children (2 boys and 2 girls) in Yala located on



Teyiba with her family @Teferi Hailu, Lwf Emergency Officer

the border of Oromia-Somali border. Teyiba and her family were displaced from their village due to the ethnic conflict between the two ethnic groups. The family currently lives in Hatawi IDP site in Sewena woreda. Teyiba recounted: 'Before being displaced, we used to have many livestock (goats, cows and camels), a grazing land and a house. We lost most of our possessions and we fled with only 2 cows and a camel.' The family made the difficult journey to Hatawi across the border often without enough food or water.

Even after reaching Hatawi, they were met with difficulty of accessing water, food and shelter. Teyiba continues: 'Everything was different when we came here, we depended on the local community and that was frustrating even though they were very kind enough and share with us the little of what they have.'

The story of Teyiba is just one of far too many in Ethiopia in 2018 and 2019 with the explosion of conflict-induced displacement. LWF responded mostly in Oromia region, in Bale and East Haraghe zones where it has existing presence and capabilities. The Hatawi IDP site is located in a very dry area with no readily available ground or surface water. Making water trucking very crucial. Teyiba recalls "We were suffering from such a harsh situation of water scarcity. Thanks to the donor and the LWF, we have been provided with 30 liter of treated water every day for our



Teyiba uses Hara Kuphan pond for her livestock @Teferi Hailu, LWf Emergency Officer

household.” Teyiba continued, “I know that one pond was rehabilitated by the project in Hatawi and we are using it. Before that, we were fetching water by travelling 6 long hours-everyday. Because the pond in our village is rehabilitated, we have access to water for cooking, washing clothes and for our livestock. It also saved time and energy that we re-directed for other livelihood activities”.

In connection with this, Teyiba mentioned that her family benefitted from the cash received by her husband from the cash for work activity during the pond renovation. Teyiba believes that she increased access to food through cash transfer reporting that she used 80% of the cash to buy food and 20% to buy clothing for her children. Besides water supply, the hygiene and sanitation activities also brought much needed relief to the displaced persons, including distribution of WASH NFIs, construction of latrines and hygiene promotion.

Teyiba stated that she and her family members have improved their hygiene practices. Additional to the washing basin, Jerry can and 10 bars of

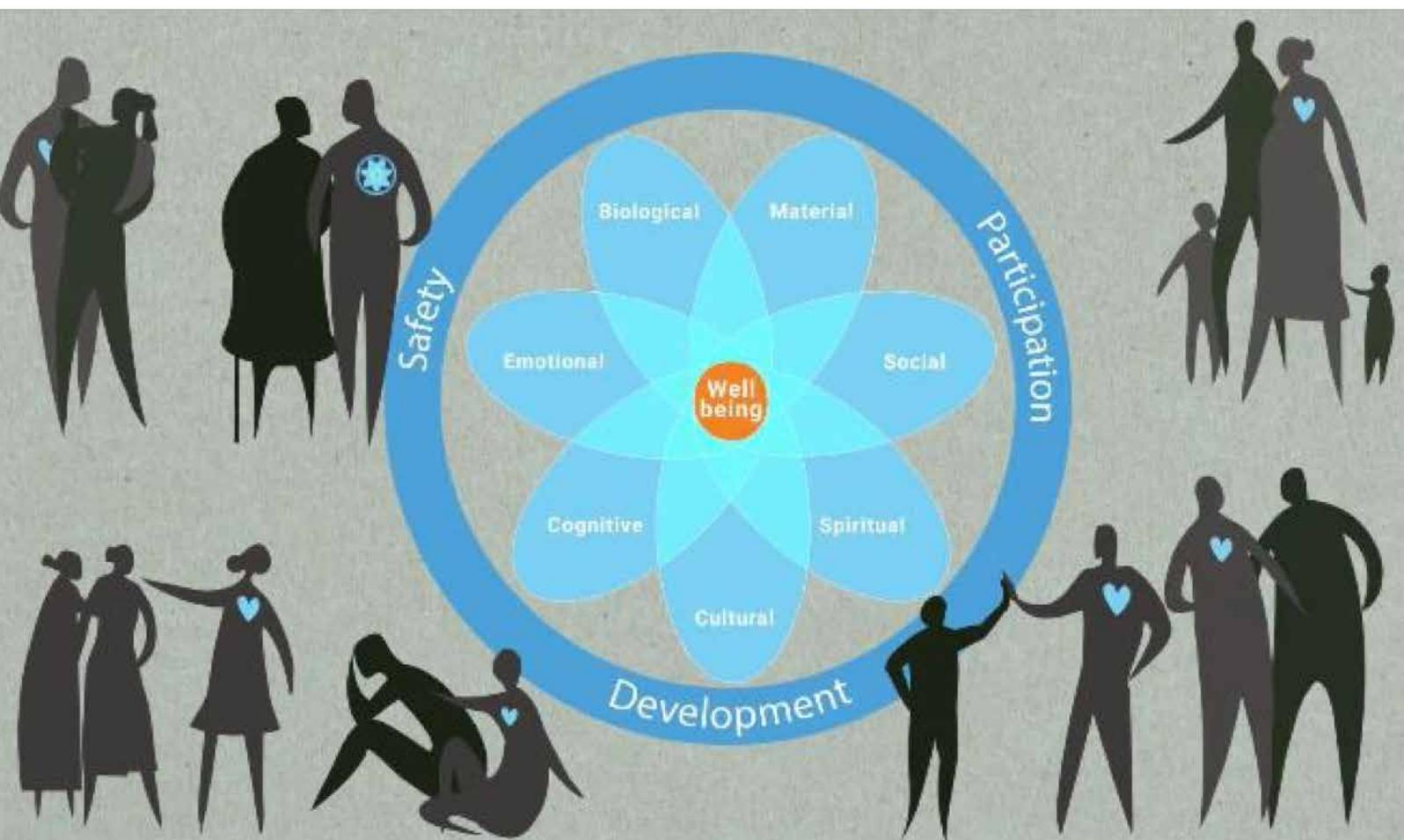
multipurpose soap provided for the household, Teyiba also received 6 packs of sanitary pads and has made it easy to menstrual hygiene management while being displaced. The communal sex-segregated latrines also proved to be essential for improving the sanitation practice of Teyiba’s family and those in their surroundings. According Teyiba “People used to defecate in the bush and open fields which was not good our health, but now we use the communal latrine and can wash our hands with hand washing facilities. Teyiba is particularly very happy with the sex segregated latrines as they t keep our privacy and safe to use during the night.”Teyiba and family also received shelter NFIs including plastic sheeting and blankets which provide her and family protection from weather related and other vagaries. Teyiba participated in sanitation and hygiene mass campaign. “As the result of awareness creation, I improved my knowledge and understanding about sanitation and hygiene practice. After the capacity building on WASH, I started cleaning/ washing water containers and food utensils regularly.”



Teyiba washing her hands after using the communal latrine constructed by the project @Teferi Hailu, LWf Emergency Officer



Pond renovated (Hara Kuphan Pond) at Hatawi IDP site giving service to people, Sewena woreda @Teferi Hailu, LWf Emergency Officer



PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION

Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPS)

Conflict and subsequent displacement have adverse psychosocial effects on refugees' wellbeing. These situations are often prolonged as durable solutions are few and far between leaving refugees caught up in a day-to-day existence relying on hand-outs for basic goods and services. The realities of daily subsistence and the challenges of ensuring adequate food, water, health and others often create intense mental distress and sense of hopelessness. Moreover,

lack of effective response to conflict-related distress mixes all too readily with the intensive daily stressors.

All camp-based refugees in Ethiopia receive general food rations, which are distributed either only in kind or in the form of food combined with cash. Currently, the World Food Program (WFP) is only supporting 10 kg to 13.5 kg rations per person per month (August 2018- to-date) in Gambella due to a decrease in funding. The food rations being provided are not enough to fulfil the monthly household food demand¹.

¹ Food security, psychosocial wellbeing and community social cohesion gaps and capacities in Jewi and Nguenyiel camps and surrounding host communities. LWF Ethiopia and Dr. Catherine Huser, Senior Refugee Coordinator, Church of Sweden. February 2019

In addition, refugees report that especially larger families regularly sell some 35% of the ration (e.g.: 4 kgs of 11) to generate income for purchase of non-food items like clothing, shoes, firewood, cooking utensils, furniture, etc. This situation aggravates the food insecurity of the refugees. The monthly ration provided to refugees only lasts 15 to 20 days leaving a 10 to 15-day food gap each month. This has severe implications at both the nutritional and economic security levels in the household. Many agree that this further undermines the psychosocial well-being of especially women who are already overburdened with war-related distress, high risks of domestic violence, reproductive and productive responsibilities². Moreover, 'emergency expenditures' arise all too frequently, including illness, marriage and death.

Most often, the majority of refugees in the camps are women and children. For instance in Gambella Jewi refugee camp, 71 % of the total population are children between 0-17 years of age while 56% of the total refugee population are women³. Refugee women bear the most responsibility of caring for children and the household in the midst of such challenging circumstances.

The kebeles in which surrounding Jewi camp are Jewi, Quarmi and Bonga. The camp is located 18 km from Gambella town. Unlike the refugees, the host in the three kebele have better access to land and water sources. However, due to traditional rain-fed agriculture, most of them produce during the rainy season. As a result the host communities face food insecurity and nutrition gaps as well as lack viable economic options to cover their basic needs⁴.

LWF partnered with act Church of Sweden to address the above mentioned psychosocial problems of refugees in Jewi and Bambasi refugee camps and their hosting communities in Jewi, Qari, Bonga, Wemba and Dabus through food security, income generation, environmental protection and psychological support. Moreover,

it also focuses on strengthening of social networks and fostering peaceful co-existence between refugees and host.

Building resilience of refugee households through income generation: the story of three remarkable South Sudanese women

Nyakhor Jock Rial, Nyadak Manyak Lok and Nyakuach Luchain Tipa are all young South Sudanese women in their early twenties living in Jewi refugee camp. Common to most South Sudanese refugees in the camp, these three women are supporting their large families with an average of 4 children per household. With no meaningful source of income and are completely dependent on the WFP's food rations and struggling to make ends meet. As many refugees, the inability to meet their families' basic needs and the daily circumstances of their lives had an effect on their emotional and social wellbeing. The worst feeling shared by all three women is the feeling that they cannot provide for their children.

Nyankhor, Nyadak, and Nyakuach tried to earn extra income to overcome the food shortage either petty trading or working as daily laborers. Just like many refugees, lack of capital was a restraint to develop their micro businesses and earn meaningful income.

Noticing their hard work and the potential they will have if supported financially, LWF provided initial capital to each women to use as a start-up for the business of their choice. Business skill training preceded the cash support, where by building the capacity of those selected for the income generation activities.

2 Ibid

3 UNCHR Person of Concern in Gambella as of November 2019

4 Food security, psychosocial wellbeing and community social cohesion gaps and capacities in Jewi and Nguenyiel camps and surrounding host communities. LWF Ethiopia and Dr. Catherine Huser, Senior Refugee Coordinator, Church of Sweden. February 2019



Nyakhor and her husband Lual Gatluak at their kiosk with two of their children. Copyright LWF/2019

Noticing their hard work and the potential they will have if supported financially, LWF provided initial capital of 2,000 ETB (54.44 Euro) to each woman to use as a start-up for the business of their choice. Business skill training preceded the cash support, where by building the capacity of those selected for the income generation activities.

Nyakhor Jock Rial, her husband Lual Gatluak and their two children Galuack Lual (boy) and Nyamal Lual (girl) are refugees from South Sudan currently living in Jewi camp. While in South Sudan, Nyakhor did not have a regular work. She used to collect vegetables from the bushes and fish from the river for household consumption. On rare occasions, when these are in excess, she used to sell vegetables and fish to the market and generates income. She has strong will to become a business woman but she says lack of capital and business skills to make her dream a reality. Her husband, Lual Gatluak, also tried to find daily labour in the camp to increase their household income however despite his efforts, more often than not Lual was unemployed due to the little labour opportunities available in the camp.

With the cash support from LWF, Nyakhor was able to scale up her vegetable selling business

by purchasing more varieties of vegetables in larger quantity. As her income increased, she saw an opportunity to grow by opening a kiosk. She rented a small space from another refugee for 600 ETB (16.3 Euro) per month and started selling oil, cereals, sugar, napkins, soap, and other materials. In the beginning, she now is earning 3,000 ETB (81.7 Euro) monthly from the kiosk.

Nyakuach Luchain Tipo, is single mother of 5 children named Nyawich Bilw, Nyadak Bilw, Nasir Bilw, Dit Gilw, and Nyakhor Bilw. She was taking care of her children and did not have a paying job while in South Sudan. She was dependent on her husband economically.

When the conflict broke out, Nyakuach fled to Ethiopia with her five children and her husband stayed home and she with his first wife. She became a single mother and a refugee at once. She had to look for any means to support her household income in the refugee camp. So Nyakuach worked as daily laborer for women operating cafeteria business in the camp. She was able to work as her children are between the ages of 18-6 years old and they are in school. After school, here older children assist in taking care of the younger ones until she is back from work. After working the whole day, she was earning only 20 ETB (0.54 Euro) per day.

With the cash support from LWF, Nyakuach started a cafeteria business selling hot beverages, soft drink and fast food. She was earning about 150 ETB (4.1 Euro) per day. The business was enough to cover for needs but she was not able to save as she was the sole earner. She rented a space to do her business with 150 ETB (4.1 Euro) per month.

Nyadak Manyak Lok, also another single mother of 5 children, was fully dependent on WFP ration to feed her children and herself. As a

LWF introduced an incentive to those refugees who exhibited better performance and dedication.

mother, inability to feed her young children was very stressful and she loses her self-confidence as a result. Especially towards the end of the month, she worries so much as the ration is only sufficient for three weeks. Unlike the two women who already were engaged in some sort of income generating activities, Nyadak did not have any other source of income. Nyadak was trained in business skills and received 2,000 ETB (54.44 Euro) to start a cafeteria business selling hot beverages and fast food. She gets an average of 350 ETB (9.5 Euro) per day. Nyadak has so far saved 4,000 ETB (108.9 Euro) while also managing to satisfy her daily household needs.

LWF introduced an incentive to those refugees who exhibited better performance and dedication. These refugees were selected by a team of evaluators from LWF, RCC, block leaders and livelihood colleagues as having outstanding business and were supported with construction of shops.

Nyakhor and Nyakuach were among the selected few to receive extra support as an incentive for their hard work where LWF constructed shops for them. This incentive was very helpful to the women as it meant that they don't have to pay rent for the spaces they operate. They saved the large proportion of the money from the rent and used the remaining amount to cover for other



Nyakuach Luchain Tipo preparing hot beverage. Copyright LWF/2019

The most striking change they see in themselves, is the sense of relief that comes with being able to feed and clothe their children. Their confidence, self-esteem and self-worth has increased as a result.

household needs. The additional support was a motivation for them to work harder.

Nyakuach increased her monthly income from 4,500 ETB (122.5 Euro) to 9,000 ETB (245 Euro) and have saved 1,000 ETB (27.25 Euro) after maintaining her cafeteria. While Nyakhor and her husband were able to grow their monthly income from 3,000 ETB (81.7 Euro) to 10,500 ETB (285.87 Euro). After covering their daily expenses, she and her husband had saved 2,500 ETB (68.05 Euro) so far. They have also purchased different materials for their cafeteria.

Although the degree may vary, all three women were able to consistently feed their children, purchase clothing and school materials, purchase household furniture and save what is left from covering their household needs. Beyond supporting their immediate families, they were able to hire other refugees, opportunities, and create a space where refugees can access services. They also interact and link with the host communities through trade. They have become role models for other women who come seeking their advices.

The most striking change they see in themselves, is the sense of relief that comes with being able to feed and clothe their children. Their confidence, self-esteem and self-worth has increased as a result. Their personal relationships with their spouses and children has also improved in a way that they are able to engage positively. These stories are testaments to the added value of integrating CBPS approach in to programming.

Interview with Chayli Fehler

LWF Ethiopia has cooperated with STEP UP CAMP since 2017 in Jewi refugee camp in Gambella for refugees from South Sudan. Since then a group of volunteers from all over the world led by the dynamic and creative Executive Director Chayli Fehler have come to Gambella for a little over three weeks to set up a summer camp for children and adolescents in Jewi. The program is very popular the participants and major stakeholders such as UNHCR and ARRA. The interview was conducted by Sophie Gebreyes, LWF:

Chayli, can you tell us a bit about your background?

I was born and raised in London UK, in an orthodox Jewish family. I am the oldest girl of 9 children.

My up-bringing was within a strictly orthodox community, but we were taught to care for people of all faiths and respect all of God's creations. We were inspired by our Rabbis and Educators to be lamplighters and bring light and goodness to others around us, combatting darkness in the world. Ever since I was young I was always very interested in other cultures and different people, and how I could make a difference to those who were suffering or had challenges in their lives. I am currently Director of Education in one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe and run a Youth Volunteering programme in the UK called Project ImpACT.

What made you start the Step Up organisation?

During my holidays, I began travelling and volunteering in various countries that experienced a natural disaster, such as Nepal, Haiti and the Philippines. I volunteered with children and youth in different communities and villages teaching English and running activity clubs. Eventually I decided to open an organisation where myself and other volunteers who work in schools and youth groups could give back to other disadvantaged children and youth during our free time in the summer and winter holidays.

I was particularly interested in the refugee crisis as my grandmother came to the UK as a refugee from Austria at the age of 9 years old. She fled to safety in the UK on the kinder transport before the war started, and sadly never saw her parents again. They were murdered before they could escape, together with many of her family members.

What does your programme do?

The Step Up programme provides life skills and education to children and youth who have fled conflict and violence during a humanitarian crisis. The programme runs in refugee camps during the summer and winter holidays, and keeps children in a safe, productive and stimulating environment.

The educational camps encourage young refugees to look after their personal health and wellbeing, improve their English and develop vocational skills and enjoy creative subjects that are not covered in school. Through our Peace Building workshops, the youth explore and learn to appreciate and value differences and diversity in their communities and around the world.

We recently piloted the Step Up youth leadership programme which offers training for a select group of young refugees who can then use their skills to volunteer and gain hands on experience supporting the staff on the Step Up Camps or Step Up Clubs. The leadership programme for both girls and boys emphasises youth empowerment and active involvement in their local community. The Step Up programme is run together with local teachers, youth volunteers and NGO's. We have run programmes in Calais, Uganda, Djibouti and Ethiopia.



Copyright STEPUP/2019

The programme in Gambella in the Jewi refugee camp is run in partnership with LWF and the local community who play a big part in developing the programme with us and the content for each year. In our programme, we emphasise the importance of friendship, respect, unity and understanding between all faiths, cultures, peoples and tribes. The youth remember almost everything from each year we have been, and have written letters on how much the programme has affected their lives for the good, and their understanding of appreciating differences. The children and youth are shy at first but after they become comfortable, they love practising English with our staff and developing their writing and creative skills. The highlights for the youth this year was our new mindfulness moment we did every morning, the new English library we launched, and the annual Step Up show for the community.

It's a challenge to work in Gambella, especially as a group of orthodox Jews who keep strict kosher and observe the Shabbat every week, turning off all our gadgets at sun down on Friday, but it has been an incredible programme and the youth in Jewi are inspiring teens. They have been through hardship and difficulties, yet they are determined to learn and try to build a better future for themselves.

What is your visions for Step Up Ethiopia and beyond?

My hope is that the Step Up can expand to other refugee camps and that we can share our

programme with other communities. We would like to give local communities the training and resources so they can run the programmes, together with trained local youth leaders. I would like the programme to inspire youth to continue their education and be proactive in their communities taking leadership roles and inspiring and supporting the younger generation. We would like to provide a 'Step Up' to as many youth as possible.

Who funds the programme?

Funding is our challenge and our limitation! At the moment we receive a small amount of funding from families and friends in the Jewish community where I work. We hope with extra funding, we will be able to expand our work. All our staff are volunteers, and all funds go directly to the programme. We are a small team of passionate volunteers, with no overhead costs. For more info contact info@thestepup.org.



Chayli facilitating a session in Jewi refugee camp in Gambella, copyright STEP UP CAMP



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Ethiopia under review at the UN

The opening of the civil society space and the new proclamation coincided with the year that Ethiopia came under the review at the Universal Peer Review Mechanism. LWF is working in advocacy and one way of LWF is contributing is through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR is a peer review mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council that was established in 2006 by the UN General Assembly resolution 60/251 whereby every State is reviewed by other States once every four and a half years on a regular basis. The UPR periodically examines the human rights performance of all 193 UN Member States.

Ethiopia was reviewed for the first and second time in 2009 and 2014 respectively; and this year (in

May 2019) the third cycle of UPR Ethiopia has taken place. Lutheran World Federation World Ethiopia (LWF) has been supporting supported the third cycle of UPR Ethiopia in different ways.

As part of its commitment to advocacy under its protection and social cohesion program priority of its programmatic framework, in March 2019 LWF together with the UPR Working Group (a coalition of 11 CSOs who prepared the alternative UPR report) organize a workshop in which the draft alternative report was shared with the national stakeholders for their inputs. In April 2019 LWF supported 3 representatives from the UPR Working Group to travel to Geneva and participate in the UPR pre-session, where the alternative report is presented in the UN Human Rights Council. In addition, LWF facilitated meetings for the representatives of the UPR Working Group, with 6 permanent missions of states in the UN Human Rights Council.

LWF continued its support after the review and adoption sessions of UPR Ethiopia was completed in May and September 2019 respectively. During the review session in May Ethiopia received a total of 327 recommendations and in September the government of Ethiopia accepted 270 recommendations, during the adoption session. Accordingly, Ethiopia is expected to implement the accepted 270 recommendations before the next (4th) cycle UPR review of the country.

To support the implementation of the accepted recommendations, LWF and Addis Ababa University Human Rights Center organized a sensitization workshop on the UPR recommendations on December 6, 2019. The workshop targeted the key stakeholders including, representatives of the regional state governments, line ministries and other bodies of the federal government, universities as well as the CSOs. During the workshop the accepted recommendations were presented/introduced by experts and the participants discussed on the presentations. The discussion focused on how to implement the recommendations and the responsibilities of the different stakeholders. The participants underlined the need to organize similar workshops at regional level to increase awareness of the government stakeholders in the regional states.



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LWF Ethiopia and Climate Justice

Climate justice is a term used for framing global warming as an ethical and political issue rather than one that is purely environmental or physical in nature. This is done by relating the effects of climate change to concepts of justice, particularly environmental and social justice and by examining issues such as equality, human rights, collective rights and the historical responsibilities for climate

change. A fundamental proposition of climate justice is that those who are least responsible for climate change suffer its gravest consequences. Based on this premise, LWF Ethiopia is committed to going beyond the environmental and physical to promote climate justice and working at three levels as shown in the chart below:



NEW WAYS OF WORKING AND PARTNERSHIP TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO THE NEEDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE



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In 2019 LWF Ethiopia continued to promote environmental protection work at the local level through natural resource management and soil and water conservation activities, reforestation and the promotion of alternative energy in both in refugee and non-refugee contexts.

In Bambasi refugee camp, World Environment Day (WED) was colorfully celebrated on June 05 2019 in the presence of refugees, host community members and stakeholders, including ARRA and UNHCR. LWF uses such opportunities to raise awareness around climate justice issues.

At the national level July 29th was declared national አረንጓዳዊ አሻራ (Green Legacy) Tree Planting Day in which most Ethiopians, from both the public and private sectors participated. Six LWF staff also participated in the planting of trees in Addis Alem/Ejéré town some 50 km from the capital. The ambition was to plant 350 million trees in one day which the Gov claims it has achieved towards and even more ambitious target of planting 4 billion trees by October 2019. Ethiopia has only 4% of its forest cover left which adds to the urgency of the matter.



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At the global level, LWF Ethiopia continued to advocate for climate justice and participated in two high level events in Berlin, Germany and in Belgrade, Serbia. On March the 27th, LWF Ethiopia, through its Country Representative participated on a panel discussion at the German Bundestag in Berlin at the invitation of Ms Claudia Roth, President of the German Green Party and Vice President of the German Parliament/ Bundestag. The event was held to raise awareness around the dire consequences of global warming ahead of European elections on the 26th of May.

Sophie Gebreyes presented the effects of climate change in Ethiopia, namely the recurrent severe droughts and competition over scarce natural resources that are the driving force behind climate-induced displacement in and illegal, unsafe migration pathways from the country.

On the 4th of June 2019, LWF participated in the Berlin Climate and Security Conference focusing on the nexus between climate and security. The event was organized by the Federal Foreign Office of the German Government which made the security relevance of climate change a priority issue for its membership – and presidency – of the UN Security Council in partnership with adelphi and the Postdam Institute of the Climate Impact Research.



Keynote Speaker John Kerry, Secretary of State of the Obama Administration, USA addressing the Conference, ©Sophie Gebreyes/LWF, 2019

On the 16th of October LWF participated in a panel discussion entitled: *'Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences'* at the 141st Assembly of the Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Belgrade, Serbia at the invitation of Ms Claudia Roth of the German Green Party.

A motion 'Climate induced displacement, a question of Justice' developed at the IPU was presented at the 19th Electoral Term of the German Bundestag for adoption on 10 December 2019, which was unfortunately defeated by the majority.



From Left to right, Ms Claudia Roth (Germany), Mr Yoro Sow (Senegal) co- rapporteurs, Dr Messner, Director of the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University, Sophie Gebreyes LWF and the moderator of he Expert Hearing

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

LWF Ethiopia hosted the LWF Regional Management Team Meeting in Lalibela From 30 September to 05 October 2019. The theme of the regional meeting was: *Towards Durable solutions: From conflict and climate change-displacement to hope and a future*. A total of 36 people participated in the meeting including senior management staff from Ethiopia, Kenya/Djibouti/Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda, staff from LWF headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland as well as our donors and partners from Australia, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and the US. The meeting focused on developing regional solutions-oriented initiatives for the South Sudan and climate crises affecting the region.



From left to right, standing:

Paul Oriik/Uganda, Berhanu Yismaw/act COS/Ethiopia, Andrew Pham, George Wesonga/Kenya/DJI/SOM, Saara Vuorensola-Barnes/Kenya/DJI/SOM, Dessale Molla/Ethiopia, Bobby Waddell/LWF Switzerland, Girma Benti/South Sudan, Sophie Gebreyes/Ethiopia, Maria Immonen/LWF Switzerland, Leah Odongo/ALWS Australia, Mirva Lindqvist-Okoye/LWF Switzerland, Eivind Ålborg/NCA Addis, Fredrik Jansson/act COS, Sweden, Rebecca Duerst/ELCA USA, Tsion Tadesse/BftW Ethiopia, Endeshaw Mulatu/Ethiopia, Alfred Kamfonje/Kenya/DJI/SOM, Gilles Amado Ouèdrago/LWF Geneva/Cameroun, Chey Mattner/LWF Switzerland, Peter Svensson/act COS/Sweden, Melissa Acar/Uganda, Petra Feil/LWF Switzerland.

From left to right, sitting:

Collins Onyango/South Sudan, Pius Kikomeko/Uganda, Jesse Kamstra/Uganda, Allan Calma/LWF Switzerland, Cathy Huser/act COS Switzerland, Lokiru Matendo Yohana/LWF Switzerland and Agnes Atana/LWF Geneva/Uganda.

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

From the total project income of EUR 4,258,642, 60% was earmarked for humanitarian response and the remaining 40% for development programming. Fifty-three percent (53%) of the humanitarian funding went towards conflict-induced IDP response, 37% to refugee and 10% to drought response respectively, mirroring the prevailing humanitarian crises during the reporting period.

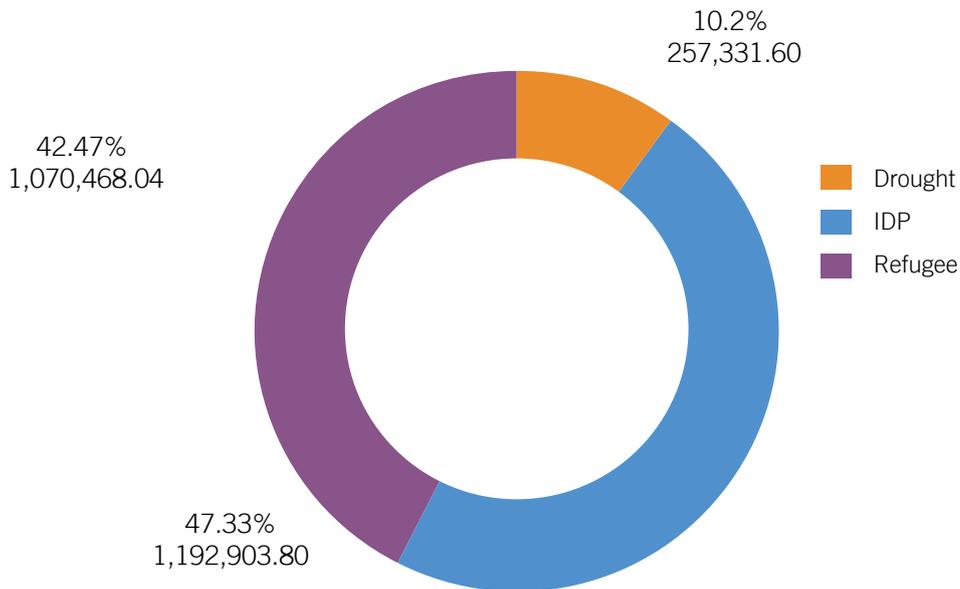
As per LWF country strategy 2019-24, 59% of the income went to the Quality of Services, followed by Livelihood at 32% and Protection and Social Cohesion rounding up the top three programmatic areas at 9% in both of the humanitarian and development settings.

This work was made possible by the generous and timely support from 21 partners worldwide. Thank you for your continued partnership.

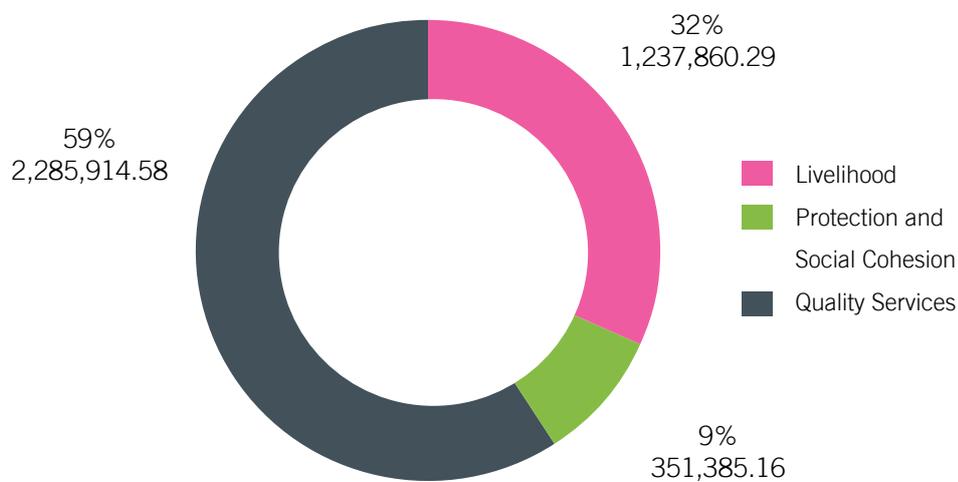
2019 INCOME BROKEN DOWN BY HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT IN EURO



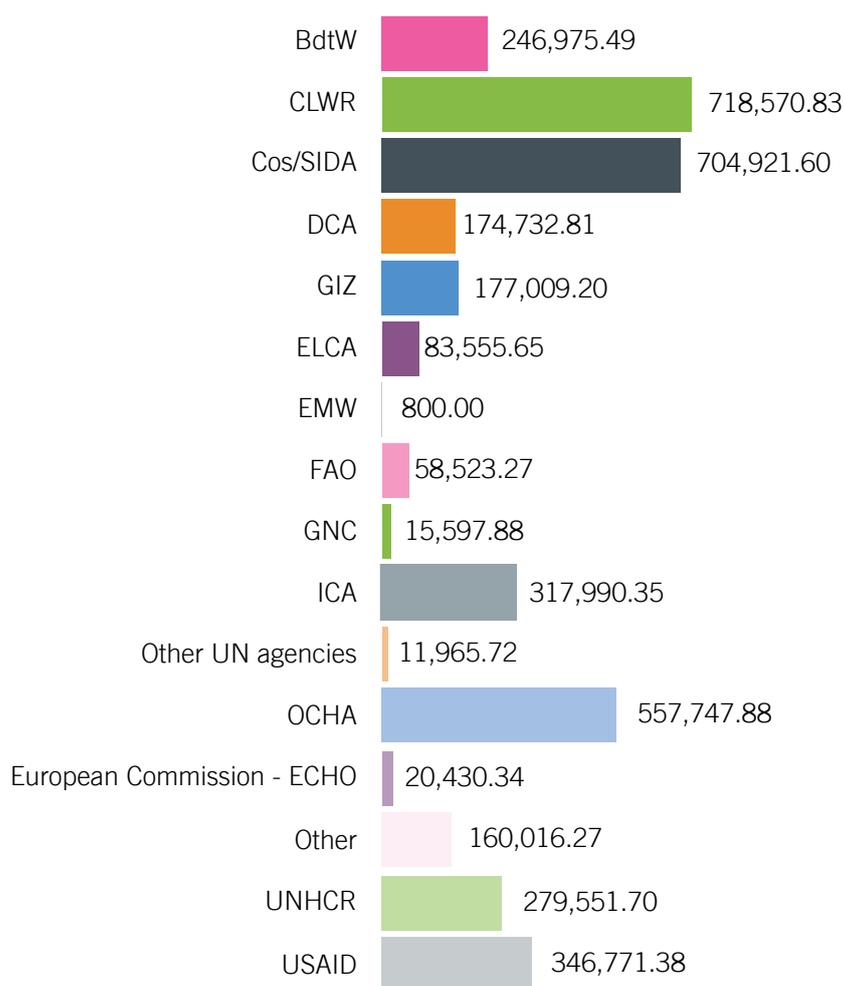
BREAKDOWN OF 2019 INCOME BY TYPE OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



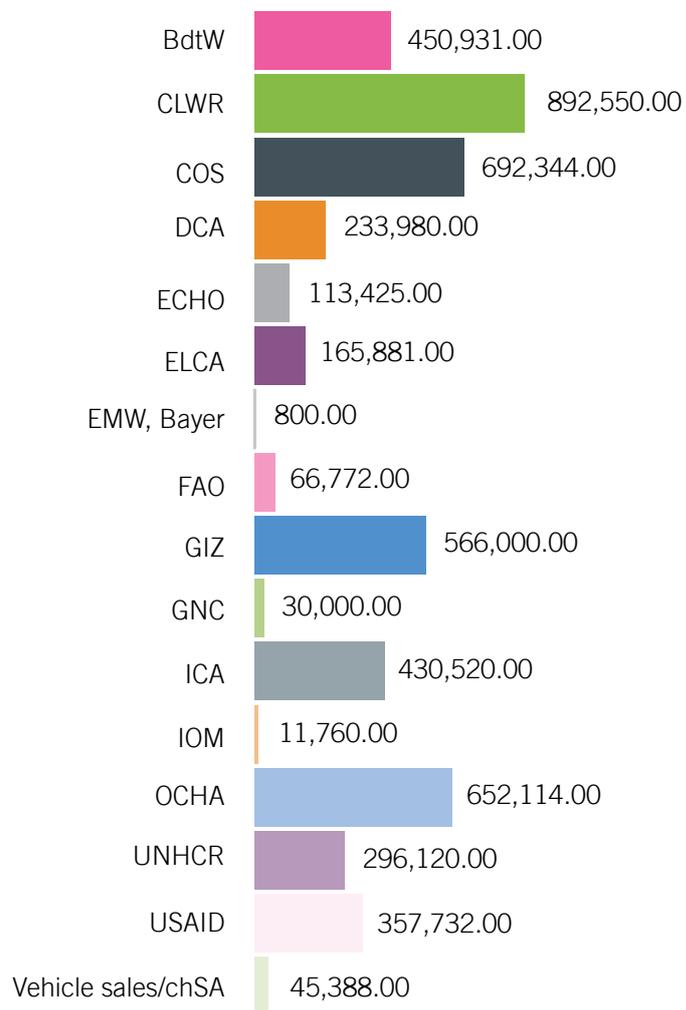
2019 PROJECT INCOME BY PROGRAM AREAS



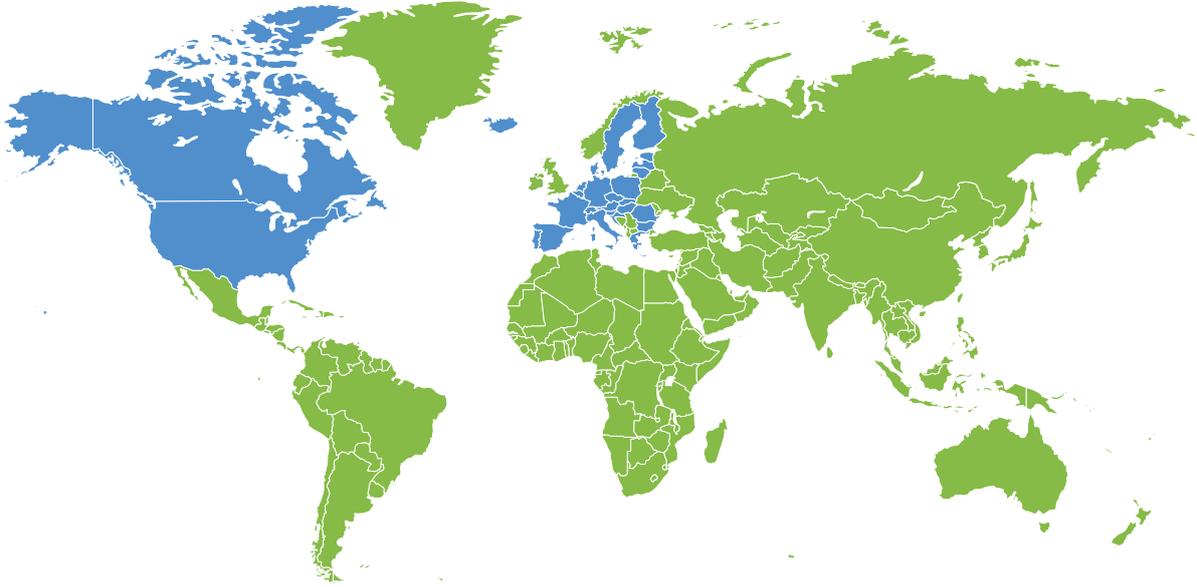
2019 INCOME BY DONOR IN EURO



TOTAL 2019 PLEDGES DISAGGREGATED BY DONOR IN EURO



THANK YOU TO PARTNERS!



LWF STAFF

All of this work in challenging circumstances would not have been possible without the dedicated service of its to LWF Ethiopia staff. During this reporting period, LWF Ethiopia employed a total of 147 total staff, 35 of whom were women. Even though the male/female ratio has slightly improved at the Head Office level especially at the management level with 4 women at senior and middle management level compared to 2018, the situation has not changed in the field location. To address the issue LWF has started an internship program for young female graduates only which has already begun to bear fruit!! We invite our partner to send volunteers to Ethiopia to support our work!

CHAMPIONS OF THE YEAR!

LWF was bestowed the best NGO of the year Award by the Oromia Regional Government in January 2019. LWF congratulates the LWF Bale Team which successfully managed several development, resilience building, conflict IDP and drought response projects in 9 woredas of Dawe Kachen, Dawe Serer,

Delo Menna, Gasera, Guradamole, Legahida, Meda Welabu, Rayitu and Seweyna woredas in Bale under the leadership of the regional Project Coordinator Ato Fekadu Genete and his dedicated team based in Ghinir and satellite offices. Congratulation Bale! We are proud of you!



Ato Fekade Genete, LWF Regional Coordinator, Ghinir, Bale, Oromia Regional State, © Sophie Gebreyes/LWF 2018

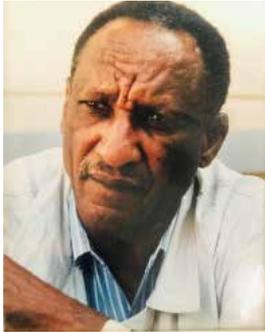


LWF Bale Team, Ghinir, Oromia Regional State, © Sophie Gebreyes/LWF, 2019



IN MEMORIAM

LWF is mourning the passing of four of its ex staff in 2019. Below we pay homage to them and thank them for their dedicated service while working in LWF. May their souls rest in Eternal Peace.



Engineer Gebreyes Haile – 20 September, 1936 - February 13, 2019

Engineer Gebreyes joined LWF on the 14th of February 1985 and served as Manager of the Soil and Water Conservation projects until 31 January 2003. He was the chief architect of the flagship LWF Ethiopia projects, known as SWCP or Soil and Water Conservation Schemes under which close to 200 small-scale irrigation schemes diversion, earth dam, spring s etc. were constructed all across the country, including Eritrea in the 1980s.



Martha Sacilotto, August 23, 1953 - April 2019

Martha joined LWF on the 1st of January 1977 and served most LWF Resident Representatives from the 1970s as Executive Assistant until her retirement in 2013. Martha was the institutional memory of LWF and its operations in Ethiopia.



Alemayehu Haile Mariam, January 18, 1967 - May 28, 2019

Alemayehu joined LWF on the 11th of April 2017 and served as a driver who served in many field office locations until the 28th of May 2019 and his untimely demise.



Meron Million, October 22, 1987 - July 25, 2019

Million joined LWF on the 1st of March as an Accountant in Dolo Ado and then in AwBarre/Sheder in Somali region. Million was an example of women staff who accept tough field locations with a toddler to boot! A Trailblazer in LWF Ethiopia. She served until the 5th of November when she moved on to another organization until her untimely death in July 2019.

SPOTLIGHT ON ENGINEER GEBREYES HAILE

Ethiopian engineer who designed over 150 irrigation systems dies at 82, a tribute by Canadian FoodGrains Bank

Monday, April 8, 2019

Under Engineer Gebreyes Haile's direction, mountains were moved. That's how Sam Vander Ende summarizes the impact Engineer Gebreyes had on his native Ethiopia during his lifetime.

Gebreyes, who died on February 13, 2019, brought irrigation systems and water access to remote and arid parts of Ethiopia through his work as a water resource engineer. He spent over 25 years as head of the soil and water conservation programme with the Lutheran World Federation and had a particular commitment to communities in the remote Afar region.

"He was a larger-than-life personality who commanded respect," says Vander Ende, an Ethiopia-based field representative for Canadian Foodgrains Bank. "He undertook challenges with great passion, energy, vision and leadership."

Gebreyes earned an engineering degree at Addis Ababa University. Before working at the Lutheran World Federation, he worked at Tendaho Agriculture Development Enterprise—a joint project between the Ethiopian government and a private British firm—as the organization's first resident Ethiopian engineer. In 1968, he was nominated for an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Southampton in England, from where he had already earned a Master's degree in agricultural engineering.

After the Lutheran World Federation, Gebreyes went on to establish Support for Sustainable Development (SSD) in 2003, supported by the Foodgrains Bank through its member Canadian Lutheran World Relief and with financial support from the Westlock growing project. Between Lutheran World Federation and SSD, he designed and built over 150 irrigation systems across Ethiopia and Eritrea, including in the Afar, a region of Ethiopia that held a special place in his heart. The Afar people are traditionally pastoralists who derive their livelihoods from their livestock. They move with their animals, bringing them to green pasture and watering holes.



Engineer Gebreyes Haile (right) and Leo Seguin (left) met in Ethiopia in the early 90s and quickly formed a close bond. (Photo: Rainbow for the Future)

In recent years, a changing climate combined with pressure on the land from local communities encroaching on Afar traditional land has made their traditional lifestyle difficult to maintain. Recurring drought led to families frequently needing emergency food aid to help them get by.

With increasing frequency of drought and looming challenges of climate change, alternative forms of livelihood were and are needed. Under Gebreyes' leadership, SSD offered Afar pastoralists an alternative livelihood. Instead of 'pure pastoralism,' the Afar could also produce irrigated crops and forage. This enabled elderly people and mothers with young children to stay in one place, and children could attend school—while the young men took the larger herds to search for grazing. Engineer Gebreyes Haile explaining features of an intake structure as part of SSD's project. (Photo: Submitted)

For Karin Achtelstetter, executive director at Canadian Lutheran World Relief, the impact Gebreyes' work had on girls and women will form a key part of his legacy.

"The spin-off effects of providing pastoralist families with options in how they earn a livelihood means young girls who otherwise would not have gotten an education are now enrolled in school, for example.

Both directly and indirectly, Gebreyes affected the lives of many people in a wonderful way."

Vander Ende echoes her comments.

"He was a shining light of a good development worker," he says.

Most of the irrigation systems Haile built are still running, managed by committees made up of local residents, and the work with SSD continues. Much of SSD's work in the Afar is thanks to a special bond Gebreyes shared with Leo Seguin, the recently deceased growing project leader and organizer from Westlock, Alberta.

Seguin met Gebreyes in the early 90s. The growing project leader traveled to Ethiopia with the Foodgrains Bank to see the impact Westlock fundraising donations were making on the ground. The two men quickly formed a close bond. Over the years, the community of Westlock, under Seguin's leadership, would continue to support Gebreyes' work in the Afar, eventually leading to the creation of SSD.

"From 1983 onward, no other person has worked alongside the Foodgrains Bank in the way Gebreyes Haile has," says Foodgrains Bank executive director Jim Cornelius.

"I am constantly amazed at the longevity and success of his accomplishments," he says. "His hard work and dedication transformed the lives of thousands of his fellow Ethiopians, particularly woman and girls."

"His memory will live on in the lives of the young children who will be educated because of him, and in each irrigation scheme that brings fresh water even in the driest of years to water crops that will nourish families."

The name Gebreyes means "servant of God" in the Ethiopian language of Amharic—a fitting name for a man who dedicated his life to serving the underprivileged.

—Amanda Thorsteinsson, *Communications Coordinator*





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