



Final report for our 2016 program from our partner, REST

The 2016 'Completion Report' from our northern Ethiopian development partner REST (Relief Society of Tigray) outlines the successful construction of 35 new safe water wells and the rehabilitation of a further 6 wells which had ceased functioning. Read the full report by asking us for an email or paper copy or see: www.wellwishersethiopia.com/images/FullReport2016.pdf

SUMMARY: A new well marks a transformation for the lives of the people within each of these 41 rural villages which had each been prioritised as being critically in need of safe potable water. The wells affordably provide villagers with safe and equitable access to sufficient quality and quantity of water for drinking and domestic usage. Released from the drudgery of an average 1.5 hours carrying water, the health and dignity of village women is immediately upgraded and their daughters have the more opportunity to spend time at school. Average walking distance to each new water source is now 15 minutes with a daily supply of at least 25 litres per person.

Through the contributions of WellWishers supporters, these new and refurbished wells are now directly fulfilling the key criteria of the REST wells program of 'eradicating poverty and improving the quality of life' for the rural villagers of this northern region of Ethiopia.

Our hand dug wells program operates from a tried and proven process of co-opting the local village people into every stage of planning, siting, wells installation, on-going usage and governance. With ownership follows careful usage and maintenance of the wells with each recipient village mandated to have a management committee of 6 people.

WellWishers is delighted to note that the same protocols are in place within the parallel REST program for improving hygiene and sanitation.

Sanitation Program Progress

WellWishers and REST have this past financial year funded a sanitation program across the same arid eight woredas (administration districts) as the hand dug wells. Such issues as eliminating open defecation, installing latrines, hand washing and protection of sources of drinking water were addressed in the sanitation program. In each region assessments were conducted of sanitation deficiencies with the associated health implications and an education program implemented under the title of 'Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene'.

WellWishers helped fund this grass roots program over the past year to educate more than 7000 people of the importance and practice of safe sanitation. Training was provided to 328 identified leaders who were assigned the responsibility of continuing education to improve sanitation at the village level.



Before



On the way....



A happy ending....





Report from the April Field Visit of one of our Trustees, Guy Gilbert

Guy's visit to Ethiopia in April covered discussions with our implementing partner, REST (The Relief Society of Tigray) and our monitoring partner NCA (Norwegian Church Aid) plus visits to eight old and new wells, and one well under construction. Each well providing water for between 150 and 600 people. He also visited associated sanitation programs, essential to the health promotion around clean water provision.

His report comprehensively describes all the issues around our WellWishers program on the ground, illustrated with lots of useful photos. It was Guy's first return visit since his work with Community Aid Abroad in Ethiopia in 1990.

See Guy's report at:

www.wellwishersethiopia.com/images/GGFTRApril2017.pdf or contact us for an email or posted copy

From Guy's report: *The outcome (from the well) was captured by Hadas Mabratu, a 75-year-old woman, who said "you have given me clean water for the first time in my life, the children are healthy, I am happy". A man at the same well, Gebretsadkan Hailu, said "our intestines always used to be singing a different song, now they are quiet".*

Our program for 2017 is underway

Thanks to the continued generosity of you, our WellWishers donors, and the confidence that the people of Tigray will continue to receive our much needed support, we agreed to a further grant to enable the construction of wells in another 40 villages. These wells will benefit another 6760 villagers in northern Ethiopia. Our total well count will then reach 762, our beneficiary count will reach an amazing 288,914. Our partner REST will again construct these wells with local people, and NCA will provide monitoring services. As expected, well construction costs have risen (in Australian dollar terms) and our budget with REST is \$270,000. Our full and agreed program from REST may be found at www.wellwishersethiopia.com/images/REST2017narrativeproposal.pdf or contact us for an email or posted copy.

A little help goes a long way....

We receive no government funding, so the fabulous support of the Australian community, with help from friends in Singapore and the UK, made all this life-saving work a reality. Thank you!

\$30 will ensure a permanent supply of clean domestic water for someone in northern Ethiopia

\$150 supplies a whole family with water.

Behind these figures is a lot of voluntary support and effort and goodwill both here and in Ethiopia. Thank you for your continued support.

Regular donations

Donations over \$2 to WellWishers are tax deductible. One-off or regular donations can be made direct to our account, or through GiveNow (secure Credit Card site), or by cheque.

See www.wellwishersethiopia.com/donations.html, or the attached form.

End of the tax year approaches...

All donations over \$2 to WellWishers are tax deductible. Please remember us before June 30 if you are thinking of donating. 97% of donations go directly to support our program work in Ethiopia.

Receipts for July 2016 - June 2017 will be posted or emailed early July.

Your support is gratefully appreciated by the Trustees, and many-folds more by the villagers of Ethiopia.

DONATIONS

\$6800 will cover the cost of one well for an entire village, providing clean, reliable, accessible and permanent water for about 225 people.

\$150 will provide a permanent water supply for a household in Ethiopia.

My donation is enclosed \$.....

Name:

Postal address

..... Postcode.....

Email (if you have one):

My Cheque for \$..... made out to WellWishers is enclosed

OR Debit my Visa/Mastercard, donation amount \$.....

Name on card:

Card number: Exp:...../..... CCV: (last 3 numbers on the back of your card)

Signature:

OR Donate online (secure site): **www.givenow.com.au/wellwishers**

OR Donate direct to WellWishers account at

The Bank of Queensland: WellWishers BSB: 124048 Account No: 21658949

Please include your name and postcode as reference

Please tell us the name you wish on the Tax Deductible receipt (especially if it is someone else's name):

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☐ Please send me information about making a Bequest to WellWishers

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is for the current Calendar Year. To become a Member, please complete the form below and forward with the Annual Membership fee for 2017 - \$2.00 (payable with stamps if you wish). Your email address would be appreciated.

Name:

Postal address:

Email: Email my Newsletter Y / N

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