



Saving and enriching lives in Ethiopia



From humble beginnings...

In 1985 in response to the devastating Ethiopian famine, Community Aid Abroad Australia (CAA) proposed funding and training for a domestic water supply program in the villages of Tigray, northern Ethiopia. CAA's local partner the **Relief Society of Tigray (REST)**, founded in 1978, had until then been engaged in emergency food aid, health, education and some irrigation programs. CAA's offer was to assist with the development of a hand dug wells program, suited to the rough terrain and limited available local resources. By the early 1990s and working closely with CAA, REST had created a Water Department, trained scores of well technicians, employed skilled hydrogeologists and developed a supply line for necessary equipment. REST's expertise in water became well established, coming from humble beginnings during the great 1884/85 famine.

When CAA (by then, Oxfam Australia) withdrew funding to focus on other areas, WellWishers was established in 2007.

Water supply and associated food security programs have now become a central feature of REST's world-renowned work. It has become the largest Ethiopian non-government organisation (NGO), possibly the largest national NGO in Africa.

I believe it is not an overstatement to say that the humble hand dug wells program inaugurated in 1985 has led to the transformation of the lives of two million people through the provision of clean drinking water.

Talking of his experience with REST, and reflecting on the last four years alone, Heshe Lemma, the Deputy Director of REST, writes:

WATER IS LIFE!!! It has been clear to all of us that potable water is scarce in the rural and urban areas of Tigray (northern Ethiopia). To mitigate the scarcity, REST has given top priorities to create, develop and access clean and safe water both to the people and livestock at their near localities. In the last four years alone, REST has constructed deep wells, shallow wells, hand dug wells and spring development in total of 5600 water points functioning to benefit more than 200,000 households!

One of the (borehole) water points of 60 metres deep is located at Kola Tembien Wereda, Bega Sheka Tabia. Asqual Assefa, 35, a mother of 3 children, said that previously she was obliged to walk 3 to 4 hours every other day to fetch unsafe drinking water and very limited in quantity. "Now, thanks to REST I only spent 15 minutes to fetch clean and safe water which is well controlled by REST and our committee".

In addition to our Hand Dug Wells program, and using funds from Charity Water in the US, REST has purchased a number of borehole drilling machines which are able to seek water at much deeper levels.

However, our Hand Dug Wells program remains a vital element in water supply in remote areas where REST's large machinery is unable to go, or boreholes are unsuitable.

WellWishers can be proud of the critical role our support has played and continues to play in working to ensure the supply of safe drinking water for over four million rural Ethiopians in Tigray Region.

Thank you for being part of the continuing journey. Graham Romanes

Please keep your support coming

You can donate direct to our bank account, by completing the form below with your Credit Card details, through GiveNow.com.au or by cheque to our Post Box. We will issue tax receipts early in July.



Before: unclean water source shared with animals



Digging the well. 15 metres down and still going!



Well Committee at WellWishers well, Mai Getem



Cultural/social change: boy carrying water.



Check Dam construction – a community effort



Abeba Woldu and friends at the communal taps, Genti



Striking water with REST's new deep borehole drill

REST's capacity in Water has developed exponentially since 1985. From the (seemingly) simple and low tech hand dug wells, to spring capping, to borehole drilling with sophisticated heavy machinery and the use of solar pumps to reticulate borehole water large distances, REST has become a leader in village water supply in Ethiopia. Clean nearby water supplies have improved rural health and educational opportunities, especially for girls.

REST's work in hillside terracing for water and soil conservation, check dams and irrigation systems has led to increased food supplies.

WellWishers has played a vital role in this development and reinforced the close friendship between the Australian and Ethiopian communities.

Thank You, friends of WellWishers!



DONATIONS

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

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

Name:

Postal address:.....Postcode:.....

Email (if you have one).....

My Donation is enclosed: \$. (Cheques made out to WellWishers)

OR Debit my Visa / Mastercard - donation amount: \$.....

Name on card:

CARD NUMBER:

Card Expiry...../..... CCV..... (last 3 numbers on the back of your card)

Signature..... Date:.....

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

OR Donate direct to WellWishers at

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

Please include your name and postcode as reference.

Name for Tax Deductible Receipt purposes if different from bank account or card

Name:.....

Or please tell us if this is a gift in lieu (special occasion or person) and details:

☐ Please send me information about making a Bequest to WellWishers

MEMBERSHIP

To become a member please complete the form below and forward with the Annual Membership Fee - \$2.00 (payable with unused stamps if you wish). Your email address would be appreciated.

Name:.....

Email:.....

Postal address:Postcode:.....

Thank You.

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