

**wellwishers***Saving and enriching lives in Ethiopia*

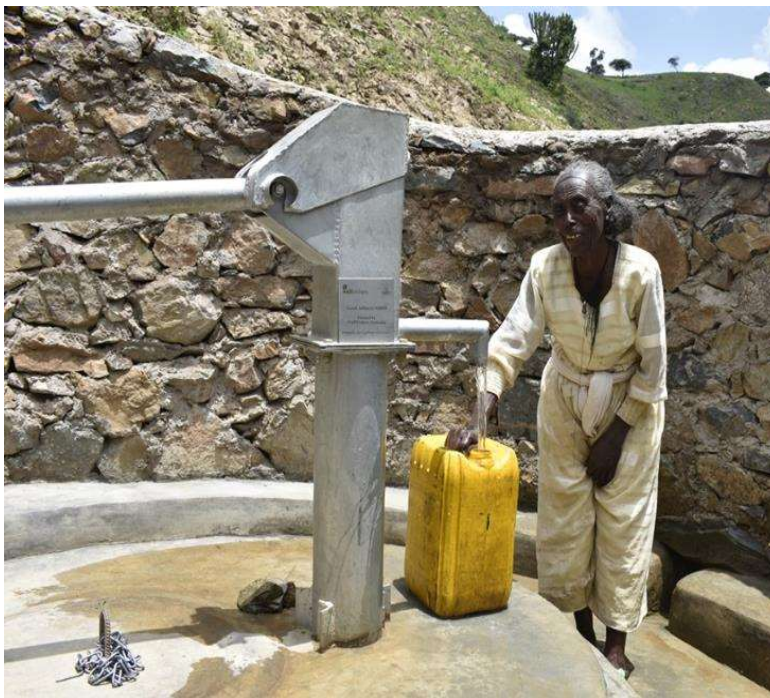
Arsema Weldemichael at
Gereb Adihayle
WellWishers well
(District Kolla Tembien,
Village Werkamba)

160 people draw their
domestic water needs
from this well!

This well can be found at
13.75012, 39.0027 if you
would like to see its
environment on Google
maps.

Our wells program in 2020

PHOTO BELOW: Mrs Kidan Hagos, the Wellkeeper at Gereb AdiHayle well (District Kolla Tembien, Village Werkamba). Another day - her long walk home. Time to brew a traditional coffee!



If you can get YouTube on your computer, type in this site to see a brief video of the Well Committee and some more of Kidan Hagos: <https://youtu.be/x6tSADZMNzI> (yes, there is a '.' in [youtu.be](https://youtu.be/x6tSADZMNzI))

End of 2020 approaches...

2020 has been a very difficult year worldwide. Ethiopia has been hit hard with Covid-19 and combatted it with limited resources. 2020 has also been the year of one of the worst locust swarms in 25 years, particularly across the north and west of the country. Locusts have destroyed over 200,000 hectares of crops. November has brought new military conflict. See a Statement below from one of our Trustees.

Conflict, Covid-19 and locusts all make our support more urgent to ensure there is some quality of life for our friends in Ethiopia. We are confident our Ethiopian partners will find a way forward. With your support, our village water program will go ahead in 2021.

Donations over \$2 to WellWishers are tax deductible. Please think of sending us a Christmas gift this year! Over 98% of donations go directly to support our program work in Ethiopia.

See ways to donate on the enclosed form

Statement on the current conflict in Ethiopia

Dear WellWishers friends,

It is with a heavy heart I write to update you on developments in Tigray and Ethiopia generally. You may see reports on the ABC and SBS or read in other places regarding the current conflict.

Following the central government's refusal to hold general elections by the end of the Constitutional 5-year period on October 5, its refusal to recognise peaceful elections in Tigray Region and its subsequent declaration that the elected Tigray Parliament was illegitimate, the Ethiopian Prime Minister moved troops along the regional border between Tigray and Amhara Region, and worked with the regime in Eritrea to have Eritrean troops massed along the northern Tigray border. The Tigrayan response was to take control of the Ethiopian Army Northern Command base in the Tigray capital Mekelle. This was done with little resistance.

Since then the rhetoric between the two sides has escalated. Initially military installations in Mekelle were bombed by the Ethiopian Air Force. On November 16, the University was bombed. Fighting has occurred in the western and far southern parts of Tigray. Power and telecommunications to the whole of Tigray were cut. The key power source for Tigray - a hydro station on the Tekeze River - has been bombed from the air. Most disturbingly, all aid to Tigray has also been blocked - including 50,000 MT of food aid coming via Djibouti for the Tigray Safety Net Program. All spraying of locusts in Tigray under international support has been blocked. All support to the massive (Eritrean) refugee communities in Tigray is now blocked. All Tigrayans working for government and the UN throughout the whole country have been sacked and rounded up. Foreigners in Addis Ababa who were considered sympathetic to the Tigray cause have been arrested. This is nothing short of ethnic targetting on the part of the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed who won a Nobel Peace Prize last year. Citing Myanmar, one commentator has written that it seems the Nobel Peace Prize has become a 'licence to murder'.

I could speculate on the outcome of this conflict, but we are clearly hoping that the international community can apply some pressure to bring the PM to talks. Tigrayans say they are ready for a dialogue which includes all key opposition figures and parties. The PM says he will not talk until the entire Tigrayan leadership is in his custody in Addis Ababa.

We are able to make intermittent contact with our partners using satellite equipment, and Tigray Television continues to broadcast its version of events by independent satellite.

None of our project areas have yet been directly affected by the conflict, and our partner REST is continuing to do the best it can with the resources available to it in key rural areas of its work.

Our program for 2020 has now been fully funded, and the program is substantially complete. We are awaiting a final report. So our program is safe so far as we only operate in the most remote rural areas. Our water program was born during the civil war of the 1980s and evolved to a point where its low technology techniques were the best for implementation in times of conflict. We have been 'blessed' with 29 years of peace and enormous progress has been made, but our partner and communities are masters of survival with a minimum of resources under difficult conditions.

We are confident to continue our fundraising efforts and planning for 2021, knowing that our partner (who worked so effectively during the 17 years of internal conflict from 1974 -91) will manage to find a way to support those who need safe water.

We can only hope this terrible conflict comes to some sort of quick humanitarian conclusion. If you would like regular updates please email me at info@wellwishersethiopia.com

Graham Romanes 18 November 2020

Maps which might help....

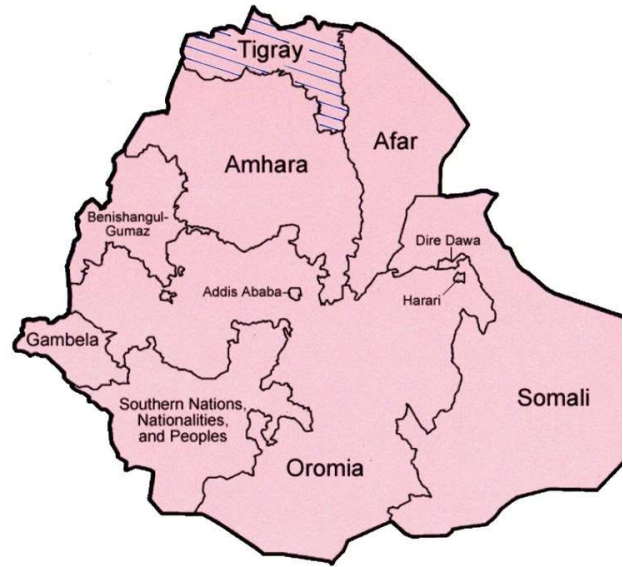


Map of the Horn of Africa.

Ethiopia bordered by Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya and South Sudan.

Tigray is the shaded region in the north, bordered internationally by Eritrea and Sudan.

Sudan will be the home to hundreds of thousands of Ethiopian refugees if the war continues. As it was for 200,000 Tigrayan refugees in the 1975-1991 conflict.



Map of the Regions of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's nine Regions are essentially based on common languages and culture. There also are Chartered Cities - the capital, Addis Ababa (known by Oromos as FinFine), and Dire Dawa. Until last year each Region had a dominant ethnic-based political party, largely drawn together in a common national 'Front'. The Tigrayan Party withdrew from the arrangement when the Prime Minister dissolved the ethnic-based party arrangement.

Our partner REST (The Relief Society of Tigray) has played a key role in the response to Covid-19 in Tigray Region. REST's primary role remains work with communities on sustainable livelihoods. Our wells program with REST is an important component. Our 2020 program is now drawing to completion, and in 2020 another 40 villages with a total population of 8100 people will have access to safe and accessible water. Thank you to our wonderful community donors who made this all possible.

When our Auditors have completed their work (Thank You Mazars Australia - mazars.com.au) our latest accounts will be publicly posted. They will show our latest annual income to be \$281,939 with admin at 1.03%. A wonderful effort by our WellWishers community

And a word from our sponsors....

"Thank you for the wonderful photos and pamphlets. We displayed them on one table and together with some vegetables from our garden they were of interest to the marmalade buyers. This is a photo of one table and that is my husband John and me. The stall went for one hour and we raised \$300 which we have deposited in the WellWishers account."

Thanks Margaret and John. Two families will now enjoy clean water forever!!!



Thank you for your interest and support!



DONATIONS

- \$6800 will cover the cost of one well for an entire community, providing clean, accessible and permanent water for about 225 people
- \$150 will provide permanent water for a family
- Donations of any amount are most welcome!

Name:

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

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

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

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

Name on card:

CARD NUMBER: Expiry...../..... CCV.....(last 3 numbers on the back of card)

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

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

OR Donate direct to WellWishers account at the Bank of Queensland:

BSB: 124048 Account No: 21658949

Please leave 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 with details:

.....

☐

Please send me information about making a Bequest to WellWishers

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership of WellWishers is for the calendar year

To become a member of WellWishers please complete the form below with the Annual Membership of \$2.20 (payable with unused postage stamps). Your email address would be very helpful for contact purposes.

Name:

Email:

Postal address: Postcode:

WellWishers Postal address:

Email address:

Telephone:

Honorary Manager:

P O Box 2088, Fitzroy, VIC 3065

info@wellwishersethiopia.com

0419 559 138

Graham Romanes