

COMMUNITY-LED ACCELERATED WASH (COWASH) PROJECT

Phase I (Jun 2011-Sep 2014)



**Effective and sustainable
WaSH services**

Phase I Completion report of Component 1 (June, 2011 – September 7, 2014)

Date and location: January 20, 2014, Addis Ababa by the Chief Technical Advisor

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation	Interpretation	Abbreviation	Interpretation
AfDB	African Development Bank	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
BGS	British Geological Survey	NWCO	National WaSH Coordination Office
BoE	Bureau of Education	NWSC	National WaSH Steering Committee
BoFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development	ODF	Open Defecation Free
BoH	Bureau of Health	ODI	Overseas Development Institution
BSGR	Benishangul Gumuz Region	OWNP	One WASH National Program
CDF	Community Development Fund	POM	Program Operational Manual
		RSU	Regional Support Unit
CLTSH	Community-Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene	RWSC	Regional WaSH Steering Committee
CMP	Community Managed Project	RWSEP	Rural Water Supply and Environment Programme
COWASH	Community Led Accelerated WASH in Ethiopia	SNNPR	Southern Nations & Nationalities Peoples Region
CSO	Community Service Organization	SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor	TA	Technical Assistance
CWA	Consolidated WaSH Account	ToT	Training of Trainers
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)	UAP	Universal Access Plan
EFY	Ethiopian Fiscal Year	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ETB	Ethiopian Birr	WASH	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
EUR	Euro	WASHCO	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee
FinnWASH-BG	Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme in Benishangul-Gumuz Region	WB	The World Bank
FTAT	Federal Technical Assistance Team	WIF	WaSH Implementation Framework
GoE	Government of Ethiopia	WMP	Woreda Managed Project
GoF	Government of Finland	WSP	Water Safety Plan
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan	WSP-AF	Water and Sanitation Program-Africa
HRD	Human Resource Development	WSSD	Water Supply and Sanitation Directorate
IEC	Information, Education and Communication	WWT	Woreda WaSH Team
IRC	International Research Centre		
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency		
METB	Million Birr		
MEUR	Million Euros		
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs (of Finland)		
MFI	Microfinance Institution		
MoE	Ministry of Education		
MoFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development		
MoH	Ministry of Health		
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding		
MoWIE	Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Energy		

1 INTRODUCTION

Community Managed Project (CMP) is one of the implementation modalities or approaches of water supply and sanitation in rural part of Ethiopia. This approach was developed and tested by Rural Water Supply and Environmental Program (RWSEP) during a period of 2003-2011 and during that time it was known as Community Development Fund (CDF) approach. During the development of the WASH Implementation Framework (WIF) in 2011-2013 the four existing implementation modalities were aligned and harmonized under one umbrella of WIF. Those implementation modalities are:

- Woreda Managed Project (Woreda is the implementer)
- Community Managed Project (Community is the implementer)
- Self-Supply (Household is the implementer)
- NGO Managed Project (NGO is the implementer)

In the harmonization and alignment process the CDF name was changed to Community Managed Project (CMP). Before closing of RWSEP in November 2011 a new Government of Finland supported WASH project emerged in July 2011 as a result of the World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) led evaluation in 2010. The evaluation concluded that the Community Development Fund (CDF) is highly efficient, cost effective and sustainable compared to other WASH implementation modalities. This new WASH project is called Community-Led Accelerated WASH (COWASH) and its main objectives are to assist the Government of Ethiopia in achieving the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) targets in rural WASH and to scale up the CMP approach in Ethiopia through CMP alignment in One WASH National Program (OWNP).

The first phase of COWASH started in July 2011 and was planned to be three years. The phase I was anyhow extended by three months and it ended at the end of September 2014. At the end of the Phase I COWASH project was implemented in 67 woredas of five regions (Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) and Benishangul-Gumuz) applying the CMP approach. The CMP approach holds a philosophy of involving the community to the project implementation and financial management right from the inception to post construction and grants for the implementation are transferred directly to the community.

COWASH is implemented at the Federal level through its Federal Technical Assistance Team (Component 1) housed in the Ministry of Water, Irrigation. At regional level the project is implemented through Regional Water Bureaus and coordinated by the Regional WASH Steering Committees and assisted by the Regional Support Units (RSU). RSU staff is employed by the Regional Water Bureau. The regional part of the COWASH is considered as Component 2. Component 2 capacity building component is financed by the Government of Finland and the investment component is financed by the Regional Governments. There are some minor modifications of this principle in Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz regions where some parts of the investments are also financed by the Government of Finland and in SNNP where some part of capacity building is financed by the Regional Government.

The capacity building in COWASH follows the cascading principle where trained regional professionals transfer their knowledge down to the Zone and Woreda staffs and Woreda staffs will further train communities to implement their own projects. The supervision and capacity building is led by a Regional Support Unit (RSU) established at the Regional Water Bureau. The capacity building is increasing the technical and financial management capacity of the regions, zones, woredas and communities to manage the whole project cycle.

The financing mechanism is decentralised. The investment funds from the Regional Government are transfer to a community's account established in a local Micro Finance Institution (MFI) following the approval of a community water supply project by the Woreda WASH Team (WWT) based on the request made by the community. After the approval of the project, the community representatives and the Woreda Administrator sign a financing agreement. After this each project will open an account in the local MFI office and the funds from the woreda CMP account are transferred to this account. The funds to the woreda CMP account are replenished either from the Bureau of Finance and Economic Development (BoFED) or from the Regional Sector Office according to the fund transfer modality decided by the Region.

Ethiopia is in a process to move into sector wide programme approach implementation. In this approach development partners' funds are deposited into a Consolidate WASH Account (CWA) and funds become public funds. Public funds regulations do not allow the use of third party (in this case MFI) in fund transfer. Therefore a new system fulfilling the requirements of the public funds transfers has been designed to facilitate the fund transfers to the communities in One WASH. In order to allow the community procurement an exception for the sector program implementation is required and the approval of the CMP Implementation Manual for One WASH need to be approved by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED).

Since the launch of the COWASH project in July 2011 WASH sector in Ethiopia has developed rapidly. The WASH sector cornerstone documents such as the revised WASH Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed November 2012, the Universal Access Plans II (UAP II) for rural and urban water and sanitation were completed in Dec 2012, the WASH Implementation Framework (WIF) was signed in March 2013, and the One WASH National Program (OWNP) Document was launched in September 2013. COWASH project document was revised in 2013 and streamlined with the new One WASH principles. The revised COWASH became a 5-year project (2011-2016) with EUR 22 Million contribution from the Government of Finland, 23 million EUR from the Government of Ethiopia and 5 million EUR from the communities in kind.

There is a strong supporting atmosphere among WASH stakeholders for streamlining their programs, plans and operations according to the signed MoU for WASH and WIF. This is manifested by the vivid communication for WASH coordination between various WASH financiers. Many of the former barriers for joint and coordinated efforts to have One WASH have disappeared and the sector is jointly addressing the challenges of the WASH development to reach the targets of the national Growth Transformation Plan I.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

COWASH was launched in July 2011. This Phase I completion report is from July 2011 to the end of September 2014. The Phase I was extended from July 2014 to the end of September 2014. In the execution of the project the number of woredas was increased from 30 to 67, water point target was increased from 1,700 to 8,246 and the contributions were increased from a total MEUR 12 to MEUR 50 (GoF contribution increased from MEUR 11 to MEUR 22, GoE contribution from MEUR 0.5 to MEUR 23 and community contribution from MEUR 1 million to MEUR 5 million and the total project duration was extended only by two years to the end of June 2016. In the process the project expanded to 5 Regional States of Ethiopia.

It was estimated in the Project Document that the per capita cost of investment for water point is 211 ETB/capita (10 EUR/capita). This illustrates the cost effectiveness of the project. Actually the project has implemented the water supply with 6 EUR/capita. Practically one family will get water supply with 30 EUR.

In Amhara the percentage of CMP woredas from the whole region by September 2014 is 26%. The same percentage in Tigray is 19%, in SNNP 6%, in Oromia 3% and in BSGR 45%. COWASH succeeded to increase the number CMP implementation woredas by 61 % in three years.

Before COWASH, CMP was implemented in 360 rural Kebeles. When COWASH started in 2011 the number of Kebeles increased to 661 and after three years of COWASH implementation number of CMP Kebeles was 940. This means that COWASH has expanded its coverage in three years by 260 %.

According to the revised project document the three years target was to provide potable water supply access to 1,146,750 rural people. Actually a total of 1,191,169 rural people are using potable water supply as a result of COWASH implementation at the end of September 2014. Target was achieved by 1-4 %.

It is estimated that once Phase II of COWASH is ending by June 2016, the total number of rural water supply beneficiaries from RWSEP and COWASH will be nearly 3.6 million. If the FinnWASH-BG beneficiaries are added to this, the number of the beneficiaries by June 2016 will be 4 Million.

The total number of people living in COWASH woredas is 9 million. In 2011 the number of people without access to water supply in these woredas was 4.5 million. Therefore COWASH by providing water to 1.2 million people has increased the total access to water supply by 27 %.

Due to the COWASH interventions at least the same number of people who use the water supply financed by COWASH (1.2 million) have ensured access to basic sanitation. The target of three years was to declare 215 Kebeles ODF. In COWASH woredas a total of 337 Kebeles were declared ODF with the support from COWASH and Health sector. Target was achieved by 176 %. Furthermore the total number of institutional latrines constructed in three years is 107. It is 91 % from the three year target.

COWASH succeeded in inclusion of CMP approach as part of WIF, OWNP and One WASH Program Operational Manual (POM). CMP approach is well known nationally and internationally. CMP approach has been accepted by all partners in principle, but final approvals to adopt the CMP to the national WASH implementation through the Consolidated WASH Account (CWA) are not yet made.

The total Component 1 expenditure at the end of September 2014 is EUR 2,216,846. This is 89.1 % from the total component 1 budget for Phase I. The total fee usage is 88.7 % and the reimbursable use is 90 %.

The total amount of funds budgeted for the four regions for three years (GoF+GoE) was Birr 379,927,308. The total amount used by the four regions in three years is Birr 312,531,404. In total this represents 82 % budget utilization by the regions.

3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Due to the rapid change in the project environment in 2011 (WASH sector development) and due to the increasing demand to expand the COWASH implementation in the regions, the Project Document of COWASH was revised and aligned to One WASH and the new Project Document was approved in 2013 and the Project Agreement with MoFED was amended in January 2014 and accordingly regional agreements were amended in February-March 2014 to cover the period of 2014-2016. In the new project document the project period was increased from 3 years to 5 years, components 2 and 3 were merged together and the Government of Finland budget increased from 11 EUR to 22 MEUR (100 %) and the Government of Ethiopia budget increased from 5 MEUR to 23 MEUR (460 %). The major project targets were re-designed accordingly and are shown in the table 1 below.

Table 1: Increase of major targets from original project to the extended COWASH project

Definition	Original Project Document target	Revised Project Document Target	Increase
Number of Regions	5	5	0 %
Number of Woredas	30	67	223 %
Number of water points	1,700	8,246	485 %

According to the revised Project Document the **overall objective** of the COWASH project is to "*achieve the universal access to WASH in the rural areas of Ethiopia*". The project is contributing towards this objective through the construction of water supplies and institutional sanitation facilities and through the promotion of household level hygiene and sanitation.

In the revised Project Document the **project purpose** is to "*support the acceleration of UAP-rural water and sanitation targets attainment*". The project is contributing towards this project purpose through the establishment of an enabling environment and through the implementation of CMP interventions in selected rural areas of Ethiopia.

The COWASH project interventions have been divided into 2 components:

Component 1 Strengthening the Federal Capacity to Implement Community Managed Projects alongside with a Support to the Establishment of the One WaSH Program.

Component 2: Establishing and Strengthening the Capacity in Regions to Scale-up the Implementation of Community Managed Projects

COWASH Project started in June 2011. The regions (Component 2) started to implement COWASH as follows: Amhara, Tigray and SNNP in 2011, Oromia in 2012 and Benishangul-Gumuz in 2014.

The COWASH project budget structure in EUR (millions) is as follows:

Table 2: COWASH Project budget structure in the revised project document (in MEUR)

Definition	GoF	GoE	Community	TOTAL	%
Investments	3,3	21,3	5,0	29,6	59
Capacity Building	12,7	0,2	0	12,9	26
Operational Costs	2,3	1,5	0	3,8	8
Federal Technical Assistance	3,7			3,7	7
TOTAL	22	23	5,0	50.0	100
%	44	46	10	100	

It was estimated in the Project Document that the per capita cost of investment for water point is 211 ETB/capita (10 EUR/capita). This illustrates the cost effectiveness of the project. Actually the project has implemented the water supply with 6 EUR/capita. Practically one family will get water supply with 30 EUR.

The competent authorities of the project are the MoFED, Bureaus of Finance and Economic Development (BoFED) of Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, SNNP and Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional States and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland represented by the Embassy of Finland in Ethiopia.

The implementing agencies are the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) at federal level and Regional Water Bureaus of Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, SNNP and Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional States in association with regional WASH partners of Bureau of Health (BoH) and Bureau of Education (BoE).

At Federal level the close multilateral partners of COWASH are the World Bank, African Development Bank and UNICEF. Major bilateral partners are DFID, and JICA. Most relevant CSO partners are Millennium Water Alliance, Ethiopian WASH Alliance, WaterAid, SNV, World Vision and IRC-Water and Sanitation Centre.

COWASH has extended its intervention area to 67 woredas in 5 regions of Amhara (40), Tigray (7), SNNP (8), Oromia (8) and Benishangul-Gumuz (4). The distribution of COWASH woredas in Ethiopia are illustrated in the figure 1 below.

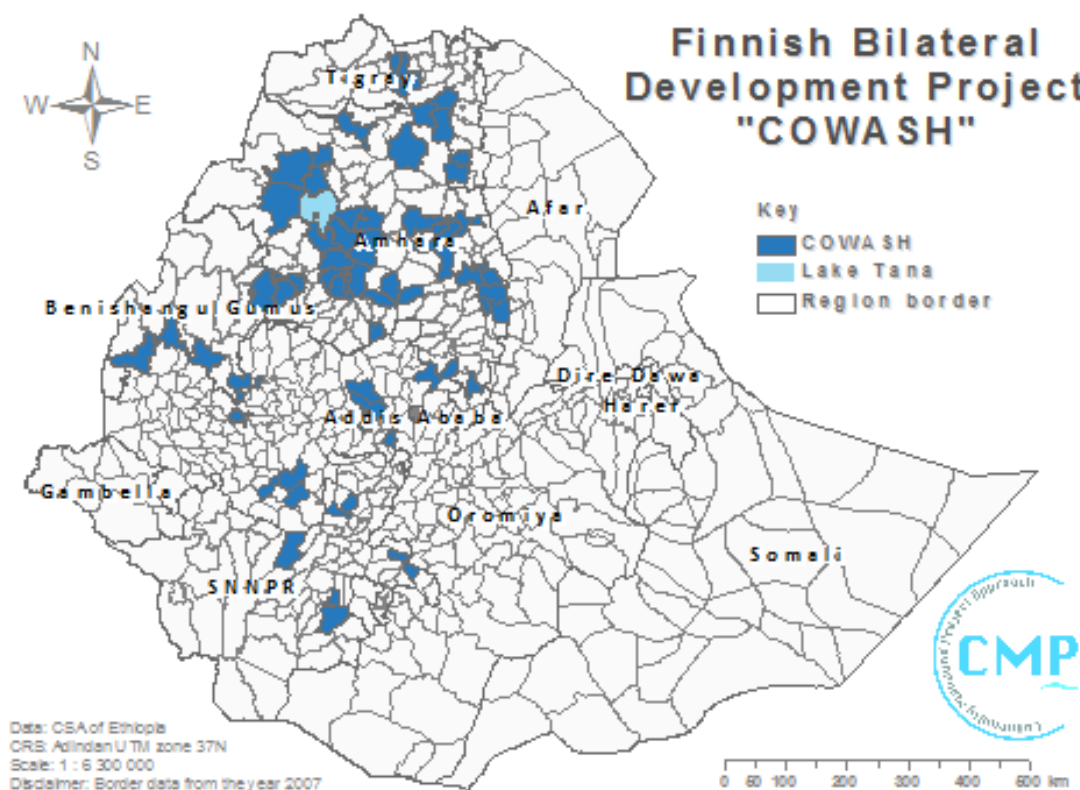


Figure 1: Distribution of 67 COWASH supported woredas in Ethiopia.

In addition to COWASH the Government of Finland is supporting another WASH project in Benishangul-Gumuz region being the FinnWASH-BG Programme. This project is implementing the CMP approach in 5 woredas of Metekel zone. The implementation approach in this project is called Community Development Fund approach, but practice it is the same as CMP. FinnWASH-BG project is planned to be terminated in June 2015 as the major targets of the project will be achieved.

4 PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

4.1 REGIONS IMPLEMENTING CMP APPROACH

There are 11 regions in Ethiopia and out of these 11 regions, two of them are City Administrations and considered urban. The target of the project was to increase the CMP approach into 5 rural regions during the original (2011-2014) project period. COWASH has achieved this target 100 %. Today CMP is implemented in i) Amhara, ii) Tigray, iii) SNNP, iv) Oromia and v) Benishangul-Gumuz regions. This represents 56 % regional coverage.

4.2 WOREDAS OF TARGETED REGIONS IMPLEMENTING CMP APPROACH

The original project document and also the revised project document do not give any targets for the number of woredas where CMP is to be implemented. Therefore the increase of the woredas implementing CMP approach per region is compared to the woredas who started to implement CMP approach in the first year of the project i.e. July 2011. The number of the Woredas supported by COWASH is determined by the Regional WASH Steering Committee on COWASH based on the availability of the resources and based on the regional government equity principles. The increase of the CMP woredas in COWASH Phase I indicates the project purpose achievement. The table 3 below illustrate this performance.

Table 3: Increase of woredas implementing CMP approach in Ethiopia

Region	Number of rural Woredas	No. of CMP woredas in July 2011	No. of CMP woredas in September 2014	Increase of the CMP woredas in numbers	Increase of the CMP woredas in %	Percentage (%) of CMP woredas in a region by September 2014
Amhara	153	27	40	13	48	26
Tigray	36	2	7	5	500	19
SNNPR	125	2	8	4	200	6
Oromia	249	0 ¹	8	3	60	3
BSGR	20	5 ²	9 ³	4	80	45
TOTAL	653	36	68	25	61	10

COWASH succeeded to increase the number CMP implementation woredas by 61 % in three years and nationwide the CMP woreda coverage increased from 6 % to 10 %. The highest proportion of woredas implementing CMP is in Benishangul-Gumuz region (45 %) and the lowest is in Oromia region (3%). Benishangul-Gumuz region has only 20 woredas whereas the Oromia has more than 266 woredas. In Amhara, which is the second largest region in Ethiopia, the COWASH woreda coverage is 26 %. The percentage proportion of CMP woredas in 5 regions is presented in Figure 2.

¹ In Oromia the implementation started in July 2012, but the woredas were already selected in 2011

² These 5 woredas belong to the FinnWASH-BG project

³ The 4 woredas were added to COWASH in BSGR in 2014

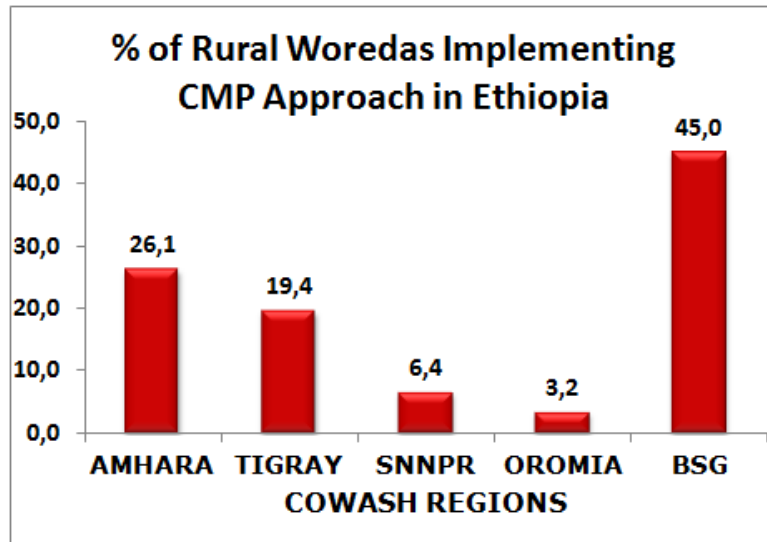


Figure 2: The percentage of CPM woredas in the 5 regions of Ethiopia.

The development of the CMP woredas from 2010 in Ethiopia is presented in the figure 3 below. The number of the CMP woredas rose steadily until in 2013 the Amhara National Regional State decided to add 13 new CMP woredas into COWASH. Similarly Oromia nearly doubled and SNNP doubled the number of CMP woredas in 2013. In 2016 the number of CMP woredas in Ethiopia is expected to decrease due to FinnWASH-BG withdrawal if the FinnWASH woreda will not be transferred to COWASH.

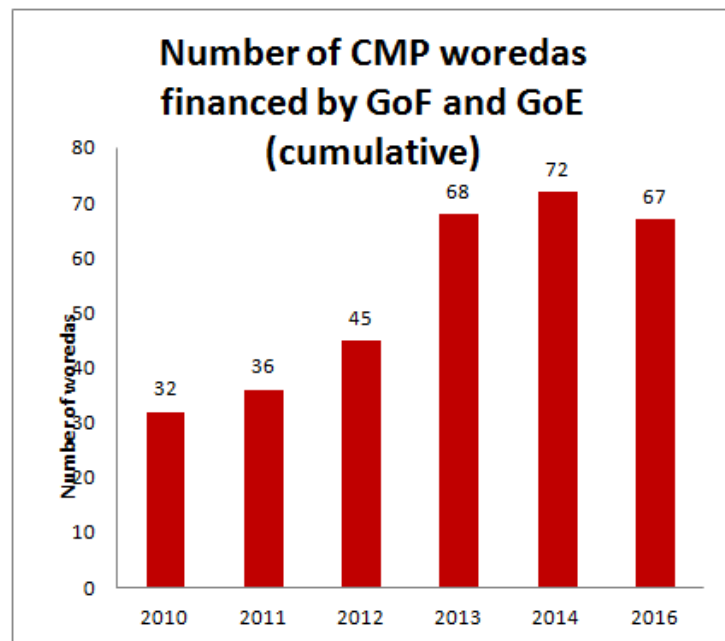


Figure 3: Development of CMP woredas in Ethiopia

4.3 KEBELES OF TARGETED WOREDAS IMPLEMENTING CMP

This indicator describes the CMP expansion progress in Ethiopia. Before COWASH in 2010/2011 CMP was implemented in 360 rural Kebeles. When COWASH started in 2011 the number of Kebeles increased to 661. In the second year of COWASH implementation the number of kebeles increased to 727 and in the third implementation year the number of CMP Kebeles was 940. COWASH expands to five new Kebeles in a woreda per year. The figure 4 illustrates how aggressively CMP approach has increased in Ethiopia as a result of COWASH interventions.

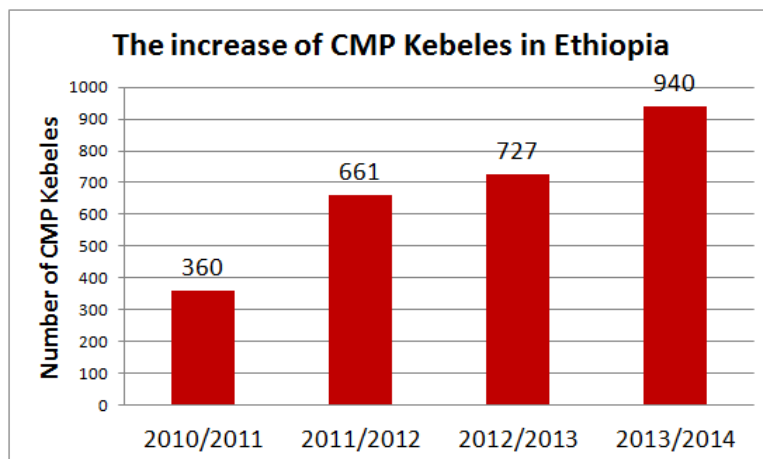


Figure 4: Increase of the CMP Kebeles in Ethiopia.

The figure 5 illustrates the share of CMP Kebeles in the CMP woredas per region in Ethiopia in September 2014. In Amhara the CMP Kebele coverage is highest as CMP has been implemented in Amhara already 10 years. The 13 new woredas which joined the CMP implementation in Amhara in 2013 lowered the CMP Kebele coverage a bit.

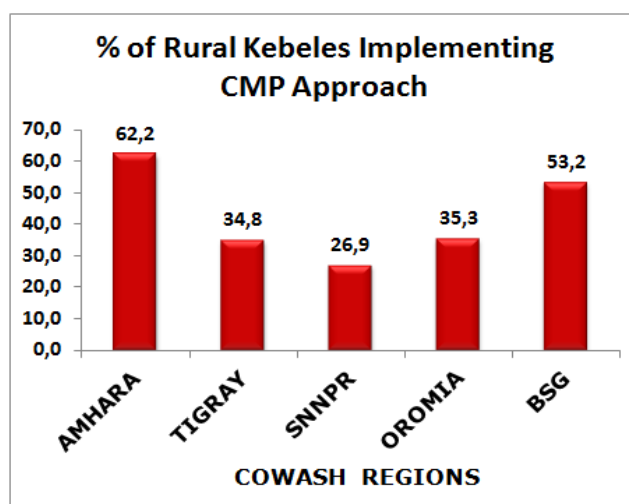


Figure 5: Coverage of CMP Kebeles in CMP woredas in 5 regions in September 2014.

4.4 RURAL WATER SUPPLY ACCESSES

According to the revised project document the three years target was provide access to 1,146,750 rural people to potable water supply. These figures include also institutional water supplies. Actually a total of 1,191,169 rural people are using potable water supply as a result of COWASH implementation as illustrated in figure 6. This is 44,419 rural people more than planned (4 % over the target).

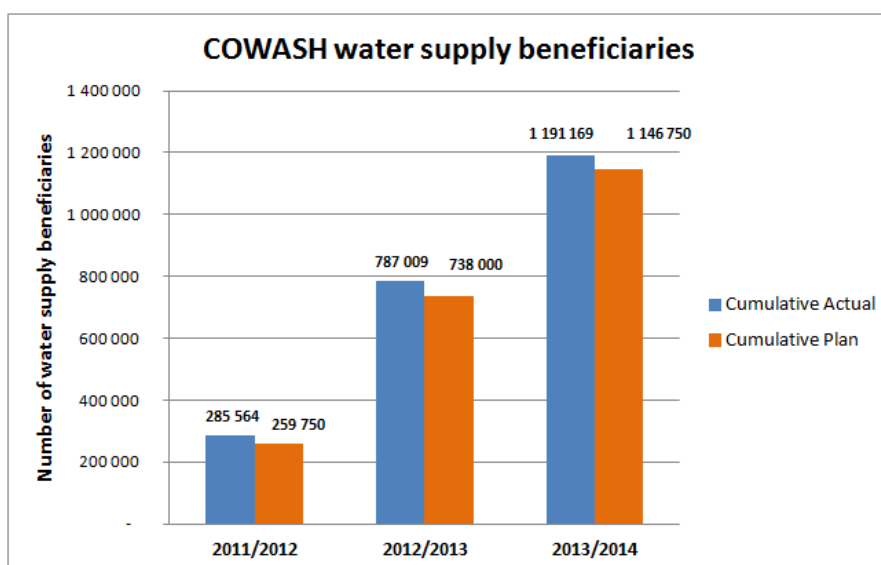


Figure 6: Cumulative increase of COWASH rural water supply beneficiaries

The highest number of community water supply beneficiaries achieved was in Amhara (998,578). Amhara passed the three year target by 36 %. Oromia region also achieved the three year target by 100 %. In Tigray the target was achieved by 71 % and the lowest achievement was in SNNP by 40 % as illustrated in figure 7.

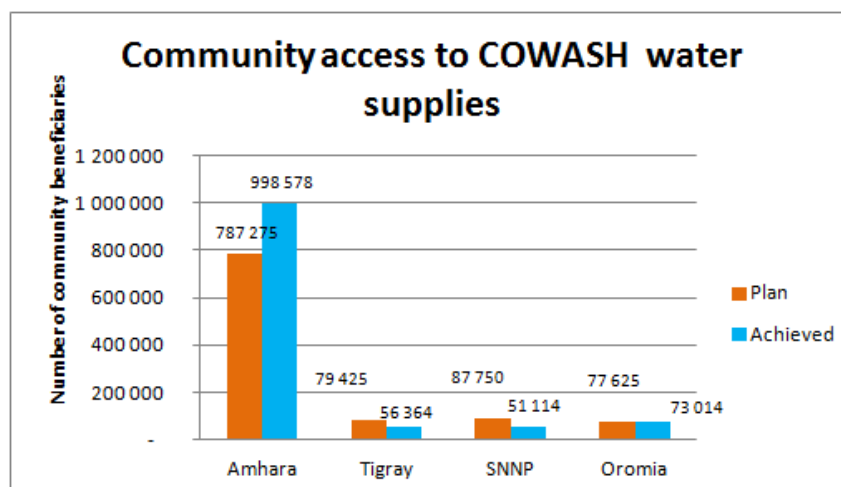


Figure 7: Community water supply beneficiaries achieved by COWASH

The figure 8 hereby illustrates the efficiency of the regions in water supply construction. Amhara region achieved the three year target by 117 % and has achieved the 5 year target already by 74 %. Oromia started one year later than Amhara, Tigray and SNNP but has already exceeded the three year target by 135 % and achieved 58 % of the total 5 year target in two years. Tigray and SNNP regions are behind the three and five year targets. Poorest performance has been in SNNP region as they have achieved only 45 % from the three year target and 17 % from the five years target.

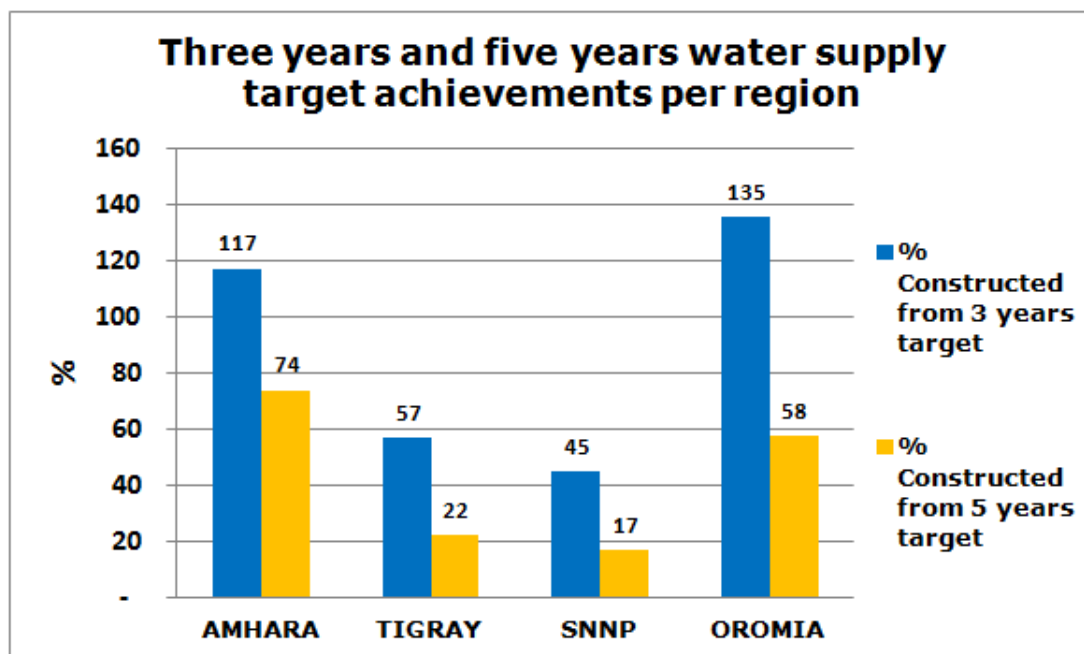


Figure 8: Efficiency of the regions in water supply construction.

The Government of Finland water and sanitation support to Ethiopia started on 1994. The figure 9 below illustrates how the support has been accelerating. The first acceleration point was in 2003 when the CMP approach (called Community Development Fund (CDF) approach at that time) was introduced in the Rural Water Supply and Environmental Program (RWSEP) in Amhara region. Second acceleration point was in 2011 when COWASH started to mobilize the Regional Government funds for its implementation. A total of 2,737,640 people have been benefitting from clean water from RWSEP and COWASH to the end of September 2014. It is estimated that once COWASH, the present 5 year project, is ending the total number of rural water supply beneficiaries from RWSEP and COWASH will be nearly 3,6 million. If the FinnWASH-BG beneficiaries are added to this, the number of the beneficiaries by 2016 will be 4 Million.

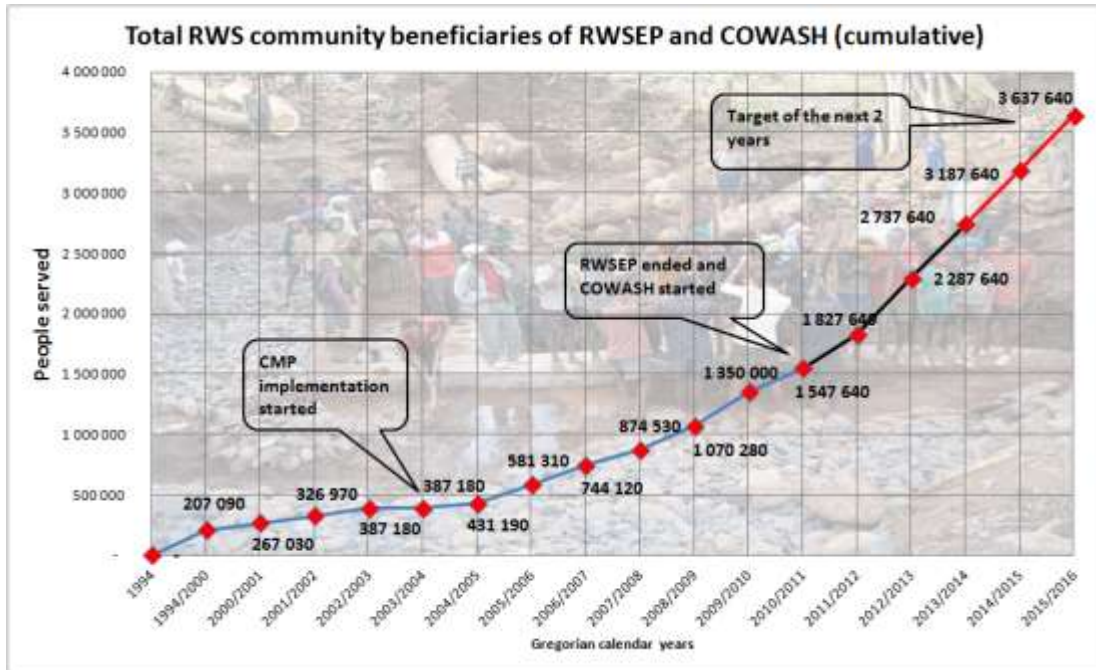


Figure 9: Total number water supply beneficiaries since the Government of Finland support started in 1994.

The total number of water points constructed by COWASH in three years is 5,027. This number includes also the institutional water points. As a result of the construction of 4,733 community water points in 2011-2014, the total average rural water supply access coverage of the woredas, due to COWASH, increased by 24.5% to 53.4% in the woredas which joined COWASH in 2011/2012. In the woredas, which joined COWASH during the second year (2012/2013) the access coverage increase varied from 14.6 % to 27.3 %. The figure 10 below illustrates the average access coverage increase achieved by COWASH (impact) in the 4 COWASH regions. The highest increase is in Amhara region and the lowest in SNNP.

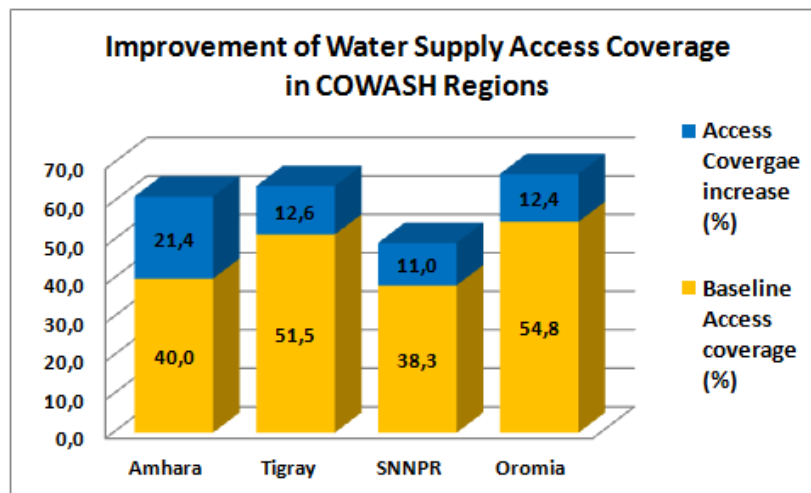


Figure 10: COWASH inputs into the rural water supply access coverage in COWASH woredas

4.5 INSTITUTIONAL WATER SUPPLY ACCESS

Total number of institutional water supplies constructed in three years is 294 as presented in the figure 11 hereby. This is only 59 % from the three year target. Out of these institutional water supplies 236 have been constructed for schools and 58 for health institutions. As a result of the construction of 236 school water supply schemes and capacity building activities, school water supply access has been improving in the woredas. In three years the average school water supply access coverage of the first year woredas have shown a growth of 14.1% to 27.0 % due to COWASH only. In the 2nd year woredas, the COWASH support increased the average school water supply access coverage of the woredas by 13.8% to 46.1%. The average school water supply access coverage of 13 Amhara woredas, 3 Tigray woredas and 3 Oromia woredas has increased by 6.2%, 3.9% and 32.0%, respectively.

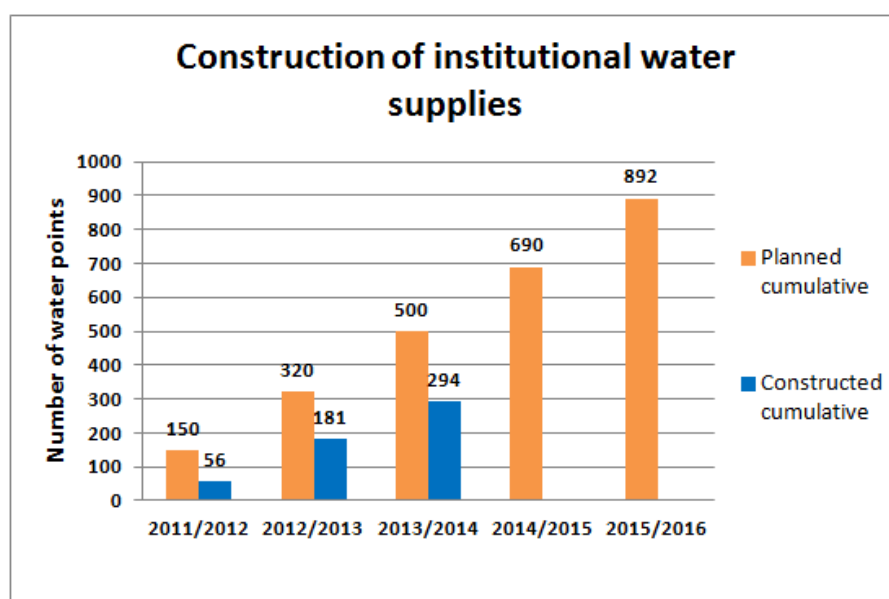


Figure 11: Construction of institutional water supplies by COWASH (cumulative)

4.6 HOUSEHOLD SANITATION ACCESS

According to the regional reports, the number of ODF kebeles declared in COWASH woredas in the last three years is presented in the table 4 below. This table illustrates that the ODF target setting in the document was underestimated and that total ODF target has already been achieved. According to the received regional and woreda reports the access to basic sanitation in COWASH woredas close to 100 %. The improved sanitation reports are not available from the regions. The CMP implementation process requires that all households who apply the construction of the water point shall have a traditional latrine. It can be therefore safely reported that the same number of people who use the water supply financed by COWASH (1,191,169 people) have ensured access to basic sanitation.

Table 4: ODF kebeles declared during 2011-2014 in COWASH woredas

Region	Total No. of Kebeles in COWASH woredas	Total number of COWASH Kebeles	Total number of ODF kebeles in COWASH woredas	COWASH kebeles declared ODF	5 years target from COWASH document
Amhara	1,065	662	340	258	45
Tigray	135	47	69	34	35
SNNP	260	70	132	32	35
Oromia	173	61	37	13	100
TOTAL	1,633	840	578	337	215

4.7 INSTITUTIONAL SANITATION ACCESS

The total number of Institutional latrines constructed in three years is 107 as illustrated in figure 12. It is 91 % from the three year target. Out of the 107 latrines 68 have been constructed for schools and 39 for health institutions. The latrine construction has increased the average proportion of schools accessing improved latrine by 9.5% to about 10.0% in the first year woredas. In many of the 2nd year woredas, the proportion of schools accessing improved latrine has grown by 6.4% to 30.5%. The improvement in health facilities access to improved latrines was low compared with the schools. Anyhow, the average proportion of health facilities accessing improved latrine has grown by 3.3% and 5.4% in the 1st year Amhara and Tigray woredas respectively. 33.7% increase in health institution latrine access was recorded in Oromia 2nd year woredas.

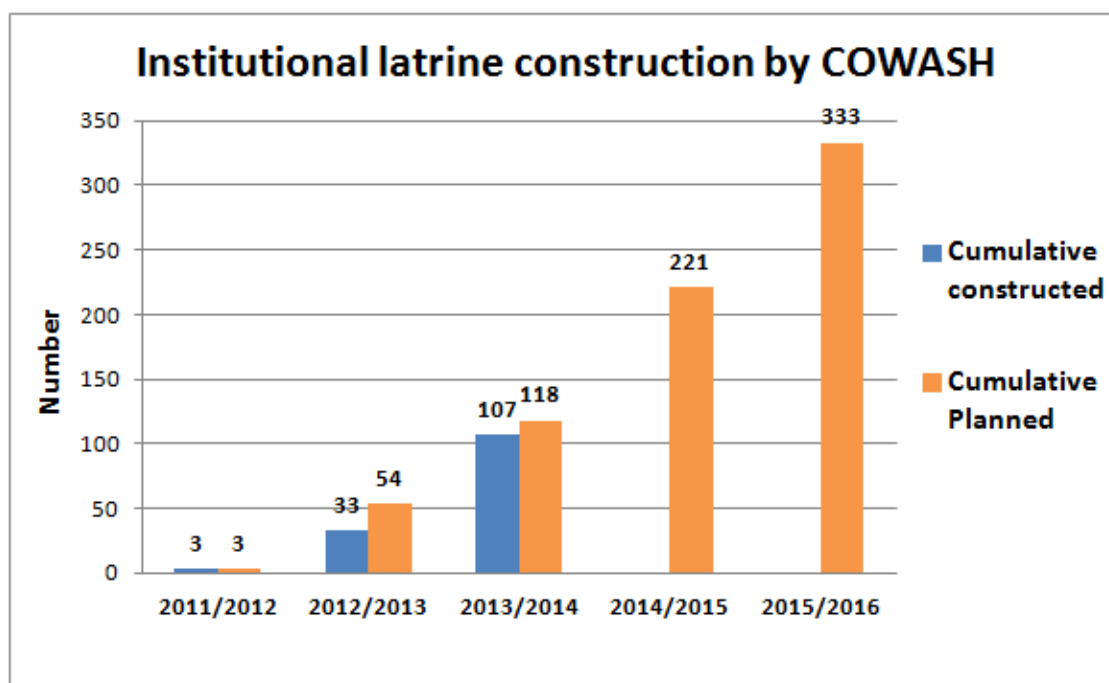


Figure 12: Achievement of institutional latrine construction targets

4.8 REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATIONS FOR COWASH

In the original project document the regional government allocations were estimated to 5 million ETB (200,000 EUR). Today, the 5 regions have committed to 503 METB (23 MEUR) contribution in COWASH. The project has succeeded to increase the regional budget allocations by nearly 500 million ETB (19 million EUR increase using exchange rate of 26). In the first year of COWASH (2004 EFY) Amhara allocated 20 METB for COWASH implementation. For the second year (2005 EFY) implementation the Amhara budget allocation was 38 METB (85 % increase from the previous year) and for the third year (2006 EFY) implementation the budget allocation was 65 METB (70 % increase compared to the previous year allocation). The budget increases in other regions were following the similar pattern as illustrated in the Figure 13 below.

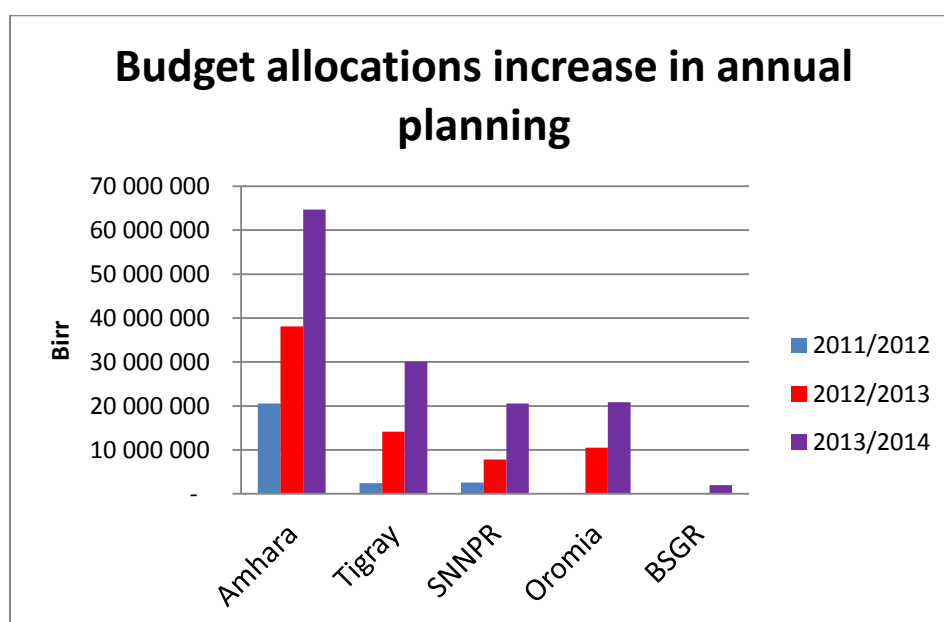


Figure 13: Increase trend of the regional budget allocations for the annual COWASH implementation

5 PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING RESULTS

5.1 THE RESULT AREAS OF COMPONENT 1

5.1.1 Community Managed Project Approach scaled-up at National Level

COWASH project has succeeded in inclusion of CMP approach as part of WIF, OWNPN and One WASH Program Operational Manual (POM). CMP approach is well known nationally at Federal, Regional and Woreda levels in Ethiopia. CMP approach is also known internationally. Furthermore the project has succeeded to finally attain the CMP Focal Person at Federal level. CMP approach has been accepted by all partners in principle, but

final approvals to adopt the CMP to the national WASH implementation through the Consolidated WASH Account (CWA) are not yet made. As evidenced by the stakeholder reports that more emphasis is given by the stakeholders and government organizations to the capacity building and leadership of the community in rural water supply and this strengthens CMP at all levels.

The project succeeded to complete the revision of the COWASH Project Document and the Project Document was approved in November 2013 and as a result the revised COWASH framework agreement was signed between MFA and MoFED on January 20, 2014. In the revised project document, COWASH project was extended for 2 years and from 1 region (Amhara) to 5 regions and from 27 woredas to 67 woredas. The revised framework agreement also confirmed that the GoF contribution increased from 11 MEUR to 22 MEUR and the GoE contribution increased from 5 METB to 503 METB.

The project is still struggling to institutionalize the CMP support mechanism in the implementation of One WASH. The fund channelling through MFI was not accepted by MoFED. The revised National CMP Implementation Guideline, using Channel 1 financial system in transferring public funds to communities and using community procurement as an implementation tool, has been prepared. Its approval by MoFED is still to be done.

5.1.2 CMP implementation capacity developed

COWASH has successfully developed nearly all required capacity development instruments to facilitate the WASH and CMP implementation in the regions and woredas. CMP Implementation Manual using MFI fund channelling was developed and technical guidelines to implement high technology CMP projects were also developed and disseminated. COWASH has aligned the institutional WASH implementation with the national technical manuals where COWASH inputs have been incorporated.

The RSUs in all 4 regions of Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR and Oromia have been trained and capacitated for the facilitation of the CMP planning, implementation and capacity building in woredas. As a result, WASHCOs have managed to construct 4,733 water points benefitting nearly 1,2 million men and women. It is to be mentioned that the number of water points planned in the original 3-years project document was 1,650 and this amount was already tripled in three years.

As a result of COWASH capacity building, 236 schools and 58 health facilities have got access to water supply in three years of COWASH implementation. Moreover 315 water points were also rehabilitated serving an additional population of 80,000 people.

Emphasis to sanitation and hygiene has been showing improvement. By the end of the third COWASH implementation year, 68 schools and 39 health facilities have got access to improved sanitation. In terms of beneficiaries, more than 63,412 students and teachers and 2,367 health staff benefit from these latrines.

5.1.3 Development and Implementation of One WASH National Program Supported

COWASH assisted in the development of WIF and OWNP document and succeeded in making CMP part of these documents. Furthermore, CMP is made part of POM. Furthermore COWASH support in development and implementation of WASH sector coordination, joint technical reviews and annual Multi-Stakeholder Forums has been substantial.

Due to MoFED not accepting the channelling of public funds through MFIs to communities, the CMP integration into One WASH has not yet been possible. Accordingly, COWASH has to continue as a bilateral project until the community procurement and investment fund channelling to communities through Channel 1 is solved. COWASH with UNICEF and SNV took this as an initiative and developed the CMP Implementation Manual which implements the CMP approach through the use of public funds financial and procurement systems. This Manual is completed and once approved by MoFED will facilitate CMP implementation through CWA.

5.2 THE RESULT AREAS OF COMPONENT 2

5.2.1 Target regions, zones and woredas capable to plan, manage, monitor and implement rural WASH interventions using CMP approach

The achievement of this result can be described with the following outcomes:

- ✓ Woredas, Zones and regional sector bureaus have been preparing their annual plans.
- ✓ Woredas have been trainings thousands of community and woreda level people as a result of the support provided by the COWASH FTAT.
- ✓ Communities managed to procure construction materials and build and administer their own water points

5.2.2 Financial and procurement services delivered for CMP intervention at all levels in the selected regions

COWASH funds have been flowing down to beneficiary communities, woredas and zones; regions have managed to request funds from the Government of Finland and Government of Ethiopia. The procedures, formats and processes developed seem to function well.

5.2.3 Sustainable community and institutional access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene in the target woredas increased

The total cumulative number of water points constructed by COWASH is 5,027 including communal and institutional water supplies. This represents 108 % achievement compared to the 3 year plan and 60 % achievement compared to the five year plan. On top of the new water point construction, COWASH has also rehabilitated 315 old water points, which did not give service to the communities. If the rehabilitated water points are taken into the cumulative number of water points, the total COWASH water point construction progress after three years of implementation is 63 % compared to the 5 year plan.

6 RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The problems encountered and mitigating actions taken have been summarized in the following table.

Different kinds of challenges have been faced during the reporting period. The major ones that require the attention of National WaSH Steering Committee (NWSC) are indicated as follows.

Challenges	Measures taken
Delay in NWSC meetings on COWASH: The 2006 EFY COWASH Component 1 annual plan should have been approved before the new fiscal year starts. The NWSC meeting was held on March 31, 2014 and some decisions, including approval of the plan, were made. The delay in the meeting was due to the delay in signing the agreement with MoFED on the COWASH extension of 2 years.	COWASH reminded the pertinent stakeholders to carry out the meeting timely
Delay in preparation and approval of regional annual plans. The 2006 EFY annual plans of COWASH in the regions were expected to be prepared before the end of 2005 EFY. However, the plans were approved in the 3 rd quarter due to presence of competing activities in the regions and woredas. Another reason for the delay in the approval of annual plans was the delay in the signing of the COWASH Framework Agreement of 2 years extension with increased budget contributions from the GoE and GoF. The Framework Agreement was needed to be signed first before the Regional Financing Agreements could be amended. The delay in the preparation and approval of annual plans will hamper the implementation rate and budget utilization of woredas thereby affecting the contribution of COWASH in accelerating the GTP/UAP WASH targets.	COWASH provided technical assistance to all the regions in the preparation of their annual plans timely and reminded the RWSC members for timely approval of the plans
Delay in the revision of the regional financing agreements: The present financing agreements are valid until July 2014. However, many of the regions have finished the amount of GoF contribution indicated in the financing agreement and, hence, these agreements are expected to be updated based on the new budget allocations defined in the revised COWASH project document (2011-2016). The regional financing agreements were delayed until the 3 rd quarter and that has affected the implementation of some activities of the project in the regions. Currently, all the regional financing agreements are signed and the BSG financing agreement is ready for signing by the Embassy of Finland.	The need for revision of regional financing agreements was understood by both parties. COWASH FTAT has been informing RWSC members on the need for revising the agreements. Though it was late, all the regional financing agreements are now signed.
Delay in sending quarterly reports: Quarterly performance reports are expected from regions to prepare project performance report at the federal level and to submit to the pertinent bodies timely. However, quarterly reports from the regions are delayed and this takes much time to prepare the performance report of the project at the federal level. Quality of the regional reports is also a problem that is delaying the finalization of federal level reports.	The problem persists in the quarters. COWASH FTAT has been assisting RSUs in preparing regional reports and providing feedback on the reports sent to COWASH FTAT.
Lack of attention to WASH and busy WWTs and RWSCs: Much is expected from Regional WASH Steering Committees (RWSCs) and WWTs in leading, coordinating, speeding-up and sustaining CMPs in particular and WASH activities in general. However, many of the RWSCs and WWTs are overstretched with a number of other competing activities and less attention is given to CMP/WASH related activities. Annual plans are not prepared timely and challenges that the project is facing at different times are not discussed and solutions sought.	This has been raised during CMP management trainings in the regions and COWASH FTAT has been raising the issue to WWT and RWSC members to give emphasis to WASH.

Challenges	Measures taken
<p>Assignment of RSU staff for non-COWASH activities: Regional water bureaus have continued assigning some of the Regional Support Unit (RSU) staff for some time-taking non-COWASH activities and this is affecting the supervision and technical assistance provided to the woredas and preparing quarterly reports timely at the regional level. This problem is increasing from time to time in some regions like SNNPR and Tigray.</p>	<p>Though the issue has been taken to the attention of the regional Water Bureau heads and Embassy of Finland, the problem is still there in SNNPR and Tigray regions.</p>
<p>Non-independent nature of the RSU: In all regional financing agreements it is indicated that the RSU should have an independent nature. However, only Amhara region has tried to implement that commitment even though in Amhara the RSU Administration Manual has not been approved and therefore the RSU is dependent on the Water Bureau procurements.</p>	<p>The independence of RSU has not been respected in any of the regions; it is relatively better in Amhara. COWASH recommended the issue to be discussed in each of the RWSC meetings.</p>
<p>Lack of vehicle: Regional and woreda experts have not been able to provide technical assistance to the beneficiaries and carry out supervision works due to lack of field vehicles. The procurement of SNNPR RSU car took much time.</p>	<p>SNNPR has paid 30% of the price of the car and discussing with supplier on the delivery of the car and Oromia has received the car. COWASH FTAT have been discussing with regions to speed up the procurement of the cars.</p>

7 RESOURCE ALLOCATION

7.1 COMPONENT 1

The total Component 1 expenditure at the end of September 2014 is EUR 2,216,846. This is 89.1 % from the total component 1 budget for Phase I.

The revised total budget of the Phase I (From June 2011 up to the end of September 2014) consultancy contract for C-1 is EUR 2,486,940. From this EUR 1,397,637 was agreed as the fee budget and EUR 1,150,095 for the reimbursable costs (Second contract amendment was made in June 17, 2014). In the original contract the consultant's fee tender included only the international long and short term consultants and home office coordination. In April 2013 the MFA and the consultant agreed (Amendment 1) to change "The Ministry's Standard Terms of Payment of Fees and Reimbursement of Costs" dated on 1.5.2004 to a new terms dated on 1.6.2012. In this agreement amendment No 1 the local long term, local short term and Junior Professional Officer fee-costs were agreed to be included into the "Fee" part of the budget. Table 5 below illustrates the Component 1 usage of the revised C-1 budget of Phase I. The total fee usage is 88.7 %. Reimbursable costs have been categorized into 2 categories a) TA related reimbursable costs and b) capacity building and sector support. The utilization rate of the former is 88.1 % and the latter 95.2 %. The remaining non-used budget was transferred for Phase II.

Table 5: Comparison of the C-1 budget use to the amended Phase I budget of component 1

Budget codes			Budget code description		Follow-up of the total Project costs of Component 1 compared to 5 year budget (EUR)						
			2003 actual	2004 actual	2005 actual	2006 Actual	2007 EFY Q1	Total Phase I	Budget for Phase I	Difference	Usage %
A		Fees	32 767	387 957	251 245	440 459	126 874	1 239 302	1 397 637	158 335	88,7 %
	1	International TA personnel	28 119	355 500	209 631	214 155	41 143	848 548	851 500	2 952	99,7 %
	2	Home office Coordination and support fee	1 600	9 600	10 200	12 000	3 000	36 400	35 600	(800)	102,2 %
	3	International short term expert fees	3 048	22 857	0	35 337	23 406	84 648	106 880	22 232	79,2 %
	4	Local short term consultancies			604	84 480	35 710	120 794	214 000	93 206	56,4 %
	5	Local specialists			21 216	90 042	23 615	134 873	123 318	(11 555)	109,4 %
	6	Junior Professional Officer			9 594	4 446		14 040	66 339	52 299	21,2 %
B		Reimbursables	23 526	283 398	207 430	175 698	50 230	740 283	840 000	99 717	88,1 %
	1	Salary related costs of National TA		85 649	89 392	23 326	7 977	206 344			
	2	Local assisting support personnel costs	549	9 631	15 420	15 683	6 373	47 655			
	3	Travelling costs	7 353	46 583	44 111	74 282	13 699	186 028			
	4	Office establishment	1 278	10 367	410	3 144	216	15 414			
	5	Vehicle purchase		56 396				56 396			
	6	Housing costs	13 608	41 744	24 188	19 579	6 707	105 825			
	7	Office running costs	706	13 053	14 598	18 473	14 751	61 580			
	8	School fees	17	17 837	18 773	20 573	249	57 449			
	9	Miscellaneous	15	2 138	540	639	259	3 591			
C		National level capacity building and support	-	100 816	61 928	39 432	35 085	237 260	249 303	12 043	95,2 %
	1	International level capacity building		47 094	13 493	12 488	19 164	92 239			
	2	National level capacity building		19 868	40 497	26 944	15 921	103 230			
	3	Local Short Term Consultants		33 854	7 938			41 792			
GRAND TOTAL			56 293	772 171	520 603	655 589	212 189	2 216 845	2 486 940	270 095	89,1 %

7.2 COMPONENT 2

The total amount of funds budgeted for the four regions for three years (GoF+GoE) was Birr 379,927,308. The total amount used by the four regions in three years is Birr 312,531,404. In total this represents 82 % budget utilization.

As indicated in the table 6 and figure 14 below the regional differences for the GoF and GoE budget utilization are huge. The best GoF budget utilization is done in Oromia (93 %) and the lowest in SNNP (64 %). The best GoE budget utilization is done in Amhara (91 %) and the lowest in SNNP (37 %). The main reasons for low SNNP budget utilization are the decentralized budget allocations (each woreda decides how much they want to allocate investment funds for COWASH) and poor regional performance in management, capacity building, supervision and procurement. In total the GoF budget utilization is 87 % and GoE budget utilization is 77 %.

Table 6: Component 2 budget utilization

Regions	3 years GoF Budget	3 years GoE Budget	GoF used in 3 years	GoE used in 3 years	GoF usage	GoE usage
	Birr	Birr	Birr	Birr	%	%
Amhara	147 659 297	113 334 592	130 683 903	102 891 061	89 %	91 %
Tigray	14 188 407	22 574 834	13 072 524	15 383 455	92 %	68 %
SNNP	16 395 627	24 623 696	10 425 224	9 039 861	64 %	37 %
Oromia	14 350 190	26 800 664	13 279 408	17 755 968	93 %	66 %
TOTAL	192 593 522	187 333 787	167 461 059	145 070 346	87 %	77 %

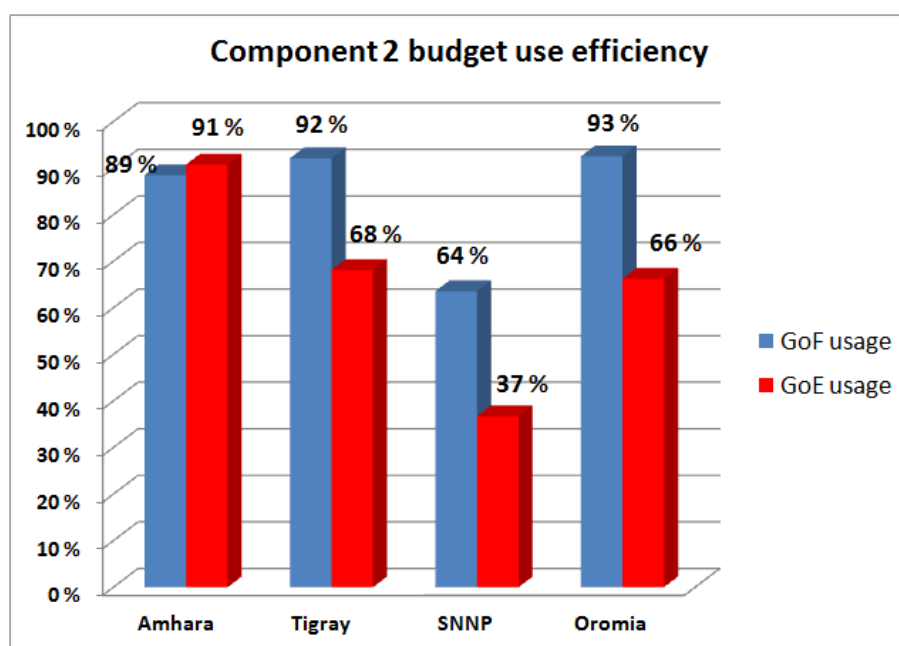


Figure 14: Component 2 budget use efficiency

8 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The key findings and recommendations are:

1) **Not strong Government and Development Partners' support for CMP**

The CMP benefits (speed, fund use, ownership, efficient fund use, transparency, use for high technology implementation and long lasting functionality and sustainability) are clearly evidenced by COWASH, RWSEP and FinnWASH as well as the World Bank CMP evaluation in 2010 and many COWASH research and progress reports. Still the mainstreaming and scaling up of the CMP approach to national level implementation are not strongly supported by the Government and main Development Partners. The Government and Development Partners still prefer to use the traditional implementation approach. In this Woreda Managed Project (WMP) approach woreda is an implementer and community is a receiver. In WMP it is assumed that community takes the responsibility of the system operation and management after handing over.

2) **Importance to have One WASH visibility**

In the development of One WASH National Program and in the start-up implementation of Consolidated WASH Account (CWA) the contributing development partners (World Bank, DFID, AfDB and UNICEF) have established their own coordination and management system where other non-CWA contributors are not involved. As the Government of Finland has remained in the bi-lateral implementation it has temporarily lost the visibility in One WASH until it starts to contribute to CWA.

3) **CMP as part of Consolidated WASH Account approach**

MoFED has not approved the use of Micro-Finance Institutions (MFI) for fund transfers to the community in Public Finance and Procurement System (Channel-1). Therefore the use of Micro-Finance Institutions in Consolidated WASH Account implementation had to be dropped. The COWASH with UNICEF and SNV developed a CMP Implementation Manual where channel 1 is used in fund transfers to WASHCOs without MFIs.

- The final manual will be ready in January 2015. The manual is to be sent by MoWIE for the approval of MoFED.
- Once MoFED has approved the CMP Implementation Manual the National WASH Steering Committee has to decide on when and at what scale COWASH is going to use this manual in 2007 EFY implementation.

9 ANNEXES

Annex 1: Analysis of crosscutting issues implemented in COWASH

IMPLEMENTATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES IN COWASH

1. Definition of crosscutting

In COWASH, the following issues are considered as crosscutting: gender, disability, vulnerability, climate change, environment protection, water safety planning, supply chain development including financing through credits.

2. Crosscutting Technical Advice

The original COWASH Project Document did not provide any guideline on gender mainstreaming and did not recommend any gender-oriented TA staff recruitment. The Revised project document established a long term national specialist post of a Crosscutting Specialist for the Federal TA Team. It was expected that this specialist will take the COWASH crosscutting issues to the next level with strong support from the Junior Professional Officer. Unfortunately, the delay in the signing of the COWASH Phase II took longer than expected and therefore the Crosscutting Specialist employment also delayed. The Revised Project Document describes the responsibilities of the Crosscutting Specialist as follows:

- Coordinate and lead the implementation and development of crosscutting issues (gender, environment issues, climate change, water quality, different community audits) in WaSH;
- Organize evaluation of the impacts of the project at different intervals;
- Advice on crosscutting related matters of One WaSH National Program;
- Consult/Liaise between the MoWIE, development partners, other Government offices involved in WaSH both at federal and regional levels concerning crosscutting issues;
- Assist in the establishment of crosscutting baseline and monitoring and evaluation system within existing WASH M&E system and ensure that community management of crosscutting issues is assessed;
- Assist in ensuring that the gender equality and other crosscutting issues are mainstreamed into WaSH intervention processes, capacity building, institutionalization, technical designs and access to resources;
- Develop effective and appropriate approaches, tools (e.g. social audit) and guidelines to identify and verify the impacts of the crosscutting issues of WaSH interventions;
- Lead the process of Water Safety Planning development and scaling-up;
- Ensure that crosscutting issues are incorporated in all aspects of COWASH;
- Record “best practices” and other cross cutting related findings to be incorporated in IEC materials of WaSH and ensure the dissemination to various audiences;

- Assist the targeted woredas to indentify successful actors in crosscutting issues and to form joint strategies in mainstreaming crosscutting issues in community management of WaSH;
- Assess the training needs and conduct periodically Training of Trainers (ToT) for the project staff as well as for project implementers at regional level;
- Review the existing situation of crosscutting mainstreaming at woreda level and propose strategies on how to accelerate the awareness and skills development in crosscutting capacity building considering that the actual capacity building can be outsourced;
- Prepare training materials for crosscutting issues;
- Plan and supervise the work of the Communication Officer;
- Participate in COWASH training programs;
- Participate in report writing;

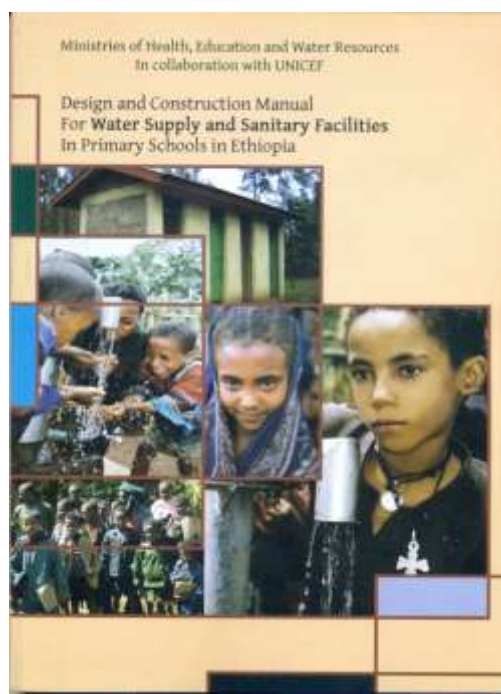
3. Gender

- a. COWASH gender strategy was formulated at early stages of the project.
- b. COWASH has also developed a step-by-step guide to help the project implementers to check the gender mainstreaming.
- c. COWASH is raising awareness on gender mainstreaming in each of the training events organized. The principle promoted is that each WASHCO should have at least 50 % of women members and that the women should be elected into one or more of the leading positions in the WASHCO. Unfortunately, there are still strong cultural barriers in most areas in Ethiopia, which are still to be handled before the women majority principle can be ultimately executed in COWASH.
- d. The COWASH water point designs are gender sensitive taking into account the needs of lonely water collectors. The design facilitates the lifting of the water pot to the back of the collector without help from other community members.
- e. COWASH supports annually the Women Affairs Directorate in the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) to appreciate the performance of women in water sector. In the annual International Women's Day celebration events leaflets and posters are produced and awards are provided for best performing women from all regions of Ethiopia. The selection process of awarded women is led by the Women Affairs Directorate of MoWIE.
- f. COWASH has prepared and implemented planning and reporting formats in a way that gender can be easily disaggregated in planning and reporting. There are still room to improve the gender disaggregated reporting from the woredas and regions as the importance of the gender disaggregated reporting is still not well understood down the administrative ladder of the country.

- g. Gender is not only considered in WASHCO selection, it is also given due emphasis when selecting the artisans for the training. COWASH guideline emphasizes that at least 15 % of the artisan trainees, if they are available in a project woreda, should be women. This is made practiced in Amhara region but there are still cultural barriers to brake in other regions of Ethiopia.
- h. Gender training in COWASH is provided at Kebele and WASCO levels. Kebele WASH Teams are trained to understand and mainstream gender in COWASH implementation at Kebele level and WASHCO trainings include also training on gender mainstreaming. Kebele and WASHCO level gender trainings are executed by the Woreda Women, Children and Youth Office.

4. Institutional WASH Manuals

UNICEF took the lead in preparing national child-friendly design and construction manuals for the school WASH and WaterAid was leading the preparation of similar manual for Health Institutions. COWASH was deeply involved in both exercises and provided through its TA staff designs, comments, proposals and inputs into both manuals. The manuals were published in 2012 and are now used nationwide in institutional WASH implementation, including COWASH institutional WASH implementation. The manuals take into consideration the different needs of both sexes and disabilities.



Both of these manuals can be found from the CMP web site:

<http://www.cmpethiopia.org/page/301>

5. Crosscutting sensitive COWASH manuals, guidelines and training materials

The plan was that the Crosscutting Specialist will scan all COWASH manuals and guidelines through with gender and crosscutting sensitive glasses. Unfortunately, due to the delay in Phase II agreement this could not been executed.

6. Climate Risk Screening Guidelines

COWASH together with ODI prepared application to UK Department for International Development (DFID) to finance the preparation of climate risk screening guidelines for rural WASH. The application was approved end of 2012 and ODI mobilized a team of experts to carry out field assessment and prepare the guideline.

The objective of this project was to develop a risk screening approach that can be used to assess climate-related risks to rural water supply in Ethiopia, and to identify steps that can be taken to reduce such risks. The approach considers risks along the 'water chain' from resource, to source end user, and look at how planning for rural water supply might be better integrated with watershed protection and water conservation measures. The overall aim was to enhance the capacity of individuals, organizations and institutions in Ethiopia to plan and implement secure rural water supplies that are robust to existing climate variability and longer term climate change.

The project was funded by the DFID and COWASH over the period Dec. 2012 to May 2013. The project was being implemented with the COWASH project, and draws on expertise from Addis Ababa University, RiPPLE Ethiopia, the British Geological Survey (BGS) and the International Water & Sanitation Centre (IRC). The project was led by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

Following the project Inception Workshop on January 11, 2013 and consultation with federal and regional stakeholders, the team carried out detailed field work in Farta Woreda, Amhara Region, with zonal and woreda staff. The field work involved visits to a number of different communities, with technical inspections of water systems (hand dug wells and protected springs) and catchments, and discussions with community members on the availability, access and use of water across seasons, and the performance of completed systems.

Drawing on this experience, and taking the existing COWASH field guidelines as a starting point, the team prepared additional guidance on how to increase the resilience of water points, focusing on site selection and 'catchment screening', water point construction, and an assessment of environmental risks. In addition, an area-based approach for assessing the vulnerability of springs, hand dug wells and shallow (drilled) wells to climate variability and change has been developed and applied to Amhara.

The documents produced by the team so far are the following:

- Catchment sizing tool - field appraisal
- Environmental risk assessment tool
- Geological assessment tool
- Climate Risk Management Tools for the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector

These documents can be found from the CMP web site:

<http://www.cmpethiopia.org/page/401>

The work is still continuing to finalize these documents and to organize relevant trainings. The COWASH plan was to use the second Junior Professional Officer (JPO) to take these tools to scale. Unfortunately, the Phase II agreement delayed and the JPO could not be employed in Phase I.

7. Climate change Adaptation through Water Safety Planning

COWASH has introduced the concept of Kebele Water Safety Planning. It is a new concept where Water Safety Planning for rural areas is conducted at micro-watershed level and led by the Kebele WASH Team. This approach integrates the water conservation risk management, water system risk management and household level water security risk management and ensures the entire micro-watershed as water secure area. COWASH has developed the guideline and training materials to implement this approach.

Furthermore, COWASH is actively participating and contributing to the National Climate Change Adaptation Plans through policy and strategy development and in close collaboration with the MoWIE and WHO.

8. The results achieved through COWASH crosscutting implementation

In education:

Increased girls' school attendance, level of education and literacy rates, as they no longer need to miss school to secure water for their families and have adequate and separate sanitation facilities.

In health:

Improved health for women and girls who no longer have to delay the defecation and urination.

Reduced child and maternal mortality as a result of access to safe water, sanitation facilities and improved hygiene during child birth.

Increased dignity and reduced psychological stress for girls and women particularly when symptoms associated with menstruation, pregnancy and childbirth can be managed discreetly.

Reduced physical injury from constant lifting heavy loads of water.

Reduced risk of rape, sexual assault, and increased safety as women and girls do not have to go to remote and dangerous places to defecate or to fetch water during the night.

In socio-economic opportunities:

Increased recognition of women as having skills and knowledge outside the scope of their traditional roles.

Strengthened voice for women in their families and communities to negotiate their own needs.

New opportunities for women's employment as well as greater autonomy and independence.