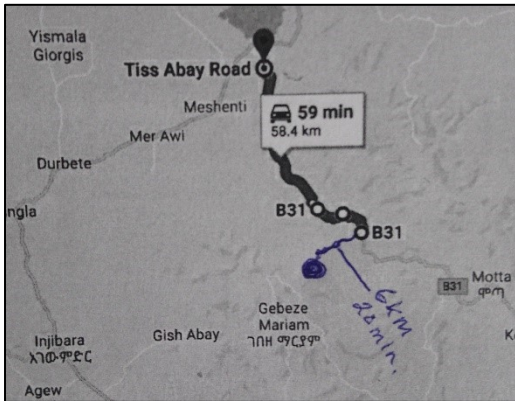


# Addis Alem Community Water Supply



Addis Alem community water supply was developed from a natural spring. It is located in Enegade Kebele of Yilmana Densa Woreda, West Gojjam Zone, Amhara region. Driving from Bahir Dar to the spring takes 1 hour 2 minutes. Addis Alem spring development has a very special features and history.

## ROAD TO ENEGADE KEBELE



Ato Asmare Temesgen, The Treasurer  
(Photo by Arto in Jan 2019)

## BEGINNING

In 2006 the community elected its original WASHCO to lead the construction and management of the water supply. Priest Anmut Muche, was elected as a Chair person, Ato Anteneh Mekonen as a Treasurer, Ato Alemu Mekonen as a Secretary, W/ro Aynalem Acham as a Store keeper and W/ro Fenta Alemu as a Controller. Time has passed and the Priest Anmut (Chairperson) was substituted by Ato Mulu Mekonen and Ato Anteneh (Treasurer) by Ato Asmare Temesgen.



Water collection point with 4 taps. (Photo by Arto, Jan 2019)

## CONSTRUCTION

The community, led by the WASHCO, applied this project from Yilmana Densa Woreda Water Office in 2006. The application was approved and WASHCO members were trained in construction management. The construction started in February 2007 and project was completed in one-month time by March 20, 2007 (12 years ago). The water supply was constructed using CMP approach. This means that the community was managing the entire



Cattle through for the animals. (Photo by Arto. Jan 2019)



Shower for the community and outsiders. Photo by Arto in Jan 2019)

construction, financial management and procurement. Total construction cost at that time were 40,000 Birr from which, the community contributed 10,000 Birr through labour and provision of local materials.

### **CAPACITY**

Currently, the spring development serves 49 households and about 250 people. The spring yield is 2l/second (120 l/minute).

### **MICRO-WATERSHED PROTECTION**

There are numerous unique features about this spring. Among many, the special feature of the spring is the protection of the micro water-shed and its management. From the beginning, the community and Kebele Administration understood the issue of sustainability and hence they built watershed protection to make the water supply sustainable. This was agreed by the community to close the upstream area to protect the source. Since the past 12 years to date, the watershed has become a jungle and provides continuous, good quality and adequate water for the community. Currently, the community is aware of the value of this protection and is proud and committed to taking a good care of it.



Exemplary micro-watershed protection providing sustainable water supply throughout the year. (Photo by Arto in Jan 2019)

### **FACILITIES**

Currently, the WASHCO is fully functional and the water scheme gets proper and regular maintenance by the local Artisans organized by WASHCO. Scheme has storage tank, water taps, wash basin, cattle trough and shower room. All children in the community are clean and healthy and the community is free from water-born-diseases and hence they are delighted and committed to keep the status quo.

### **INCOME**

During the project application period, the community contributed Birr 1,000 as up-front cash and saved this money to their O&M account. There is no tariff collection to date as the community cuts the grass three times per year from the closed area and sells it with Birr 2,400 per year. Other income for O and M comes from shower service rendered by the WASCHO. Shower fee was in the beginning 1 Birr/person, but has now increased to 5 Birr/person because of too much need by residents outside the community. Mainly teachers, health extension workers and development workers are the regular customers during the weekends. There is also a hired guard for the water scheme. The guard is female. She has been serving seven years. When she started the guarding



Open area inside the closed watershed where the grass grows and provides income for the water supply maintenance. (Photo by Arto in Jan 2019)

job, she had been paid 50 cents from each household per month. In the middle the payment increased to 1 Birr per household per month. By now each household pays 2 Birr for the guard monthly.

### **EXPENSES**

The committee has paid 3,500 Birr for maintenance repairment during 12 years operation period. The scheme has been repaired three times during 12 years span of life so far. The committee has today 7,000 Birr in cash and 4,000 Birr in bank. It is the local artisan who is repairing the scheme when there is breakage or need of maintenance. The artisan is one of the spring beneficiaries. One time, he was paid 150 Birr, the other time he was paid 300 Birr and rest of repairs he did it for free as he is also utiliser of the water scheme. If all the precautions and lesson learnt are properly taken, this is a physical proof that such scheme can serve for long term and address the need of the community. This is also another witness that Community Managed Project is still an effective and sustainable project approach that promotes local ownership and development of capacity at the grass-root and community level. COWASH takes pride in facilitating this process to the rural community.