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Water Action update – Health and Sanitation

Sixty per cent of all disease in Ethiopia is caused by dirty water. Children, the elderly and people suffering from other illnesses, including HIV, are particularly vulnerable. But the good news is that this means 60% of disease is preventable! The Water Action project will mean people in Sankura and Wulbareg are getting sick less often, children will miss less school, parents will miss less time working and less of the family income will have to be spent on medicines.

Studies carried out in the early stages of the project found only 12% of people living in the target region had access to showers and lavatories, which is well below the Ethiopian national average. With your help Water Action are turning this around:

- More than 7000 people have already attended health and sanitation training sessions. By the end of the project, in December 2010, 40,000 people will have attended.
- 162 Government officials and village health promoters will have received extensive training, to qualify as Community Health Promoters. They will be on hand to advise the communities after Water Action have left the area.
- More than 200 pit latrines have been constructed and more are on their way.
- Two schools now have permanent health clubs – where children can learn about safe practices and take the information home to their families – 10 more are planned.



Workuha Yeman (pictured) has benefited from a previous Water Action project. She is using a water point specifically designed for washing clothes. Before, when all her water came from the pool, she wasn't able to make this distinction. The same water was used by people and animals, for washing and bathing. Individual points, like this one, will reduce the spread of water borne diseases such as typhoid. Workuha has also received WASH training: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and is delighted by the difference it will make. Soon the people of Sankura and Wulbareg will be enjoying the same benefits.

View from the ground...

The community volunteers have been working hard digging trenches and transporting materials: 2500 pipes have been brought to the site, 800 joints have been welded and 3500m of pipes have been laid.

The local government officials have continued to be actively involved. Now the access roads are almost completed and the spring is being capped (pictures below – direct from Water Action).



As always our deepest thanks for your on-going support.

For more information, resources and where to send your donations, contact: Valerie Geldard, tel: 01727 851748, email: vgeldard@stalbans.anglican.org or see the diocesan website: www.stalbans.anglican.org/mission