



Dagim visited 2012 and 2013 HORCO work sites in the Gimbichu District during April and May. This is a region about 80 km east and southeast of the capital city, Addis Ababa. There are about 90,000 people living in this rural area, representing some 15,000 families, most of whom live on small subsistence farms. The available stats for rural Ethiopians suggest that 56% of people lack access to safe water and 79% lack access to improved sanitation. Access to electricity is also limited. There are no other NGOs working in this District at this time.

2012 Project Sites – work completed

In 2012, working through our affiliated NGO in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church (EKHC) Development Office, HORCO was able to assist 4 communities in the Gimbichu District with development of improved water sources and effective sanitation practices. That represents about 5,800 adults and children, or 1,000 families, who have never had ready access to safe water before and who have been practicing open defecation for generations. Expected outcomes include: no more walking to fetch water for an hour or more by women and children; no more contamination of the environment;



**Fencha Village Water Point
(supplied by protected spring)**

no more water-borne diseases. Kids will be healthier and have time for school. Moms can be more productive. Families will have fewer medical expenses. It's amazing what can be done by helping people develop safe water and effective sanitation practices, things that we take for granted. The cost for HORCO to accomplish this in 2012 worked out to be less than \$40 per family!

Below is Dagim with members of the EKHC Team in front of the 27,000 liter reservoir supplying the Villages of Goro Buchara and Dibdibe with unlimited clean water, 24/7. From left to right, Yohannes Demisse (Water Engineer), Ezra (Project Site Manager) and Mogus Mehari (WASH Program Director).



Dibdibe Village Water Point



Goro Buchara Village Water Point

Right: Dagim and his sister try out the **Riqete Village Water Point**, which is supplied by a direct connection to the Gov't pipeline that provides water for the reservoir pictured above.



2013 Project Site – work ongoing

The ongoing work in Kersa Kebele ("county") involves 3 villages, Kemisie #1, #2 and #3, plus an elementary school with an enrollment of 800 students. In early April, Dagim saw that all materials and supplies had arrived at the site, and villagers were actively involved in digging trenches for laying many kms of PVC pipe which will distribute the water to the 4 water points. The source of the water is a well which is presently serving another group of nearby communities. In discussion with District Water Authorities, EKHC and all communities involved, it was decided that the well had sufficient capacity to also supply water for the Kemisie Villages plus the school. All communities will contribute to maintenance of the pump and well.



While trenches were being dug, EKHC technicians and selected villagers were busy constructing a second large reservoir to service the new communities. This will be filled daily using a kerosene-run pump located in the well. Water will then flow by gravity to the water points. In late May, when Dagim returned to the site, the

reservoir was nearly finished and a water point was completed for village #1. The people were quite excited and had lots of praise for EKHC and HORCO. One of the village leaders commented that, *"Because we do not have safe water, we can't keep teachers for our school. Teachers get sick and leave. Now we can have teachers that will stay to teach our children. We hope to get electricity next."*



Ezra and Mulu (Project Social Worker) stand beside the water point for the Kemisie Village #1. Mulu is an important person on the EKHC Team,



who basically lives with the communities for 12 months, organizing them into healthcare groups and teaching them about sanitation and hygiene. This is brand new stuff for these folks, and behavioral change takes time! (*For those of you who have experience with kids, how many times did you have*

to remind them to wash their hands, etc.?) Mulu, a new Mom herself, is highly committed to the communities she works with, encouraging them and instructing them in life-changing behaviors. Each family is expected to construct and use their pit latrine. *No more open defecation!* The outcomes will likely not be 100%, but along with safe water it is a start toward developing a healthy community that can begin to lead people on a road out of poverty.

EKHC hopes to complete the water work with the remaining two Kemisie Villages and the elementary school by the end of June, when the rainy season starts in earnest. Roads will then be impassable for the next 2-3 months.

Looking ahead ... Saturday, November 9th

HORCO will again be hosting our annual "***In Celebration of Clean Water***" fund-raising dinner, featuring the famous **Ethiopian buffet**, our good friends in the **African Women's Choir**, and back by popular demand, **Denise Pelley and Stephen Holowitz**. You don't want to miss this event - it's a party with a purpose! Invite your friends. It is our only fund-raising event of the year. We'll give you more details in September.

Our mailing address is:

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