

Personal Story and Impact of HORCO's Work with Riqete Village

As told to Mogus Mehari, Director of EKHC's WaSH Program

Ms. Sisay is a 65 year-old married woman who has 3 boys and 9 girls and grandchildren. She and her family normally travel about 2 hours to fetch water from an unprotected source every day. Sometimes she sends one of her granddaughters to collect water for her. One day the granddaughter went to the river source to fetch water and while she was trying to get water there was a very heavy rain on the upper part of the river which produced a sudden flood. She almost lost her life by the flood. However, her life was saved by other people who were nearby and pulled her out before she was trapped by the flood. [Fetching water can sometimes be dangerous!]

Ms. Sisay also told us about the Gimbichu–Fentale Water Supply project implemented some 8 years ago by the Government. A large size of pipeline passed near her home, carrying mountain spring water to a very dry part of the country some 200 km away. At that time she asked the project workers if the project will benefit her grandchildren, and she got the reply that it will provide service to her by the end of the project. Unfortunately the project was completed and she never did receive access to the new water supply. Instead, it just bypassed her village.

"In 2012, a water team from Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church Development Programme came and started to help us construct of a water supply for our community. Then, I started to go every day and visit the team and talk to them and encourage them. Slowly they have done the work and the water started to flow like a fountain in the center of our community. I kissed the EKHC water team one by one and showed my love and appreciation. I started to drink the water now and enjoy the clean water. I compared the dirty water that I use to drink before. Now I praise God and give many thanks and blessings to EKHC."



Ms. Sisay expressing her appreciation to Mr. Kurkura Waffo (Deputy General Secretary for EKHC Development Programme) during the inauguration day celebration, December, 2012.