

A Personal Story from Ethiopia – July, 2012

Ms. Shewaye is one of the beneficiaries of the new water supply in Goro Buchura Village. She has 5 boys and 6 girls. Recently she has started collecting water from the new water point, which was constructed by the village with donated resources from HORCO and supervision by the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church Development Program. She was asked a few questions by EKHC Staff about changes in her life style after having a new water supply near her home.



Newly constructed family pit latrine



27,000 L reservoir supplying 3 villages

Q: Ms Shewaye, what did you feel about the new water supply near your home?

A: *I am so pleased and I have no word to express. I just want to say thank you so much and may God bless EKHC Staff and the HORCO donors abundantly.*

Q: Where did you collect water from before?

A: *I use to get water from a river about 1hour walk and usually dirty water. People and animals use from the same source. We have not had other options to collect water other than the river. Normally, we collect water 2 times a day with a heavy load on our back.*

Q: What was your contribution to this new water point near your home now?

A: *We have participated in the labor work (digging trench, backfill, fencing) as well as learning about health, sanitation and hygiene promotion.*

Q: What did you learn about health and hygiene? Can you tell us?

A: *Yes, the need for having sanitation facilities near our home, keeping clean our water containers and food stuff, keeping clean our home and utensils and keeping the environment clean.*

Q: Have you had any changes since the health and hygiene education?

A: *Yes, we have made a good progress. We have built pit latrine, cleaning our utensils and others.*

Q: You said you have been using unsafe water from a river far away from your home. What health problems did you face in your community?

A: *The common problems are: typhoid, diarrhea, ameba and others. We have to travel a long distance for medical care and spend time and money.*

Q: What changes have you seen since you have the new water supply closer to your home?

A: *We have recently started using this water and we hope to see a great change in our health. Even at this stage, it is wonderful to have safe water supply in the center of our community. We can use more water and reduce our time and energy.*

On behalf the implementing agency and HORCO, our partner in Canada, we concluded our interview by saying 'thank you' to Ms. Shewaye.

Submitted by Mogus Mehari, Director, EKHC WASH Program, July 2012.