

## **STORY FROM BACH DIMESSA KEBELE, AMHARA REGION**

The shallow well in village Mender 4 is one of the newly constructed water points in Bach Dimessa Kebele, Dangila Woreda of Amhara Regional State. Mrs. Semegn Muluneh, 58 a mother of 4, and leader of her household, is one of the WASH-Committee members who contributed a lot for the accomplishment of the project activities. She is a role model to her community in her day to day sanitary and hygienic way of life



Semegn, 58, collects water from the developed water source in Dangila Woreda

During our conversation with her, Mrs. Semegn responded that “the life of my family has changed and we are very happy due to the availability of adequate, safe and potable water supply in addition to a healthy environment clear of human waste”. Acute Watery Diarrheal Disease is one of the most dangerous water-borne diseases of which most of the community is suffering from. However, our village community is safe from it.

Before the implementation the water program, there were serious problems in the community due to inadequate potable water, poor hygiene and sanitation practices. Moreover we were getting dirty water 3.5 km from my house. This water source is not only contaminated, but also insufficient for household consumption. From the month of April and onwards, the contaminated spring dried up and we had no more water.

Semegn continued her explanation by saying “let me tell you what had happened in my family before, one of my children was always sick and I brought him to a traditional healer. Due to this, I noted no progress on his health but only a loss of time and money. I finally decided to take him to the Dangila Health Center and the health professionals had him take a stool examination. It was then confirmed that he was attacked by an amoebae, which is one of the waste and water- borne diseases. The medical person advised me to have my child treated clinically. He further admonished that in the future, all my family members should drink water by either boiling it or buying from a protected water source such as bottled water”.

Semegn added that “in addition to the reliable medical advice I received from the medical person, and WASH-CO gave me full information on how to use the potable and adequate water supply they provided. I have learned how to handle of water from the source and manage its consumption in addition to knowing and implementing the health extension package at home and in the environment. This has all dramatically changed the life style of my whole family”

She concluded the benefit that she gained from the WASH service by saying that “today, my family and I enjoy the benefits of Food for the Hungry project activities implemented in our village. This holds true for our domestic animals as well. Finally, I can assure you that our life has completely changed! We don’t suffer from water and waste born diseases anymore. These are now forgotten and I can freely use the latrine. No more waiting from darkness and rain as a shield for my privacy.”