

# Capacity building to couples for community and women empowerment and effective and efficient implementation of WASH approaches

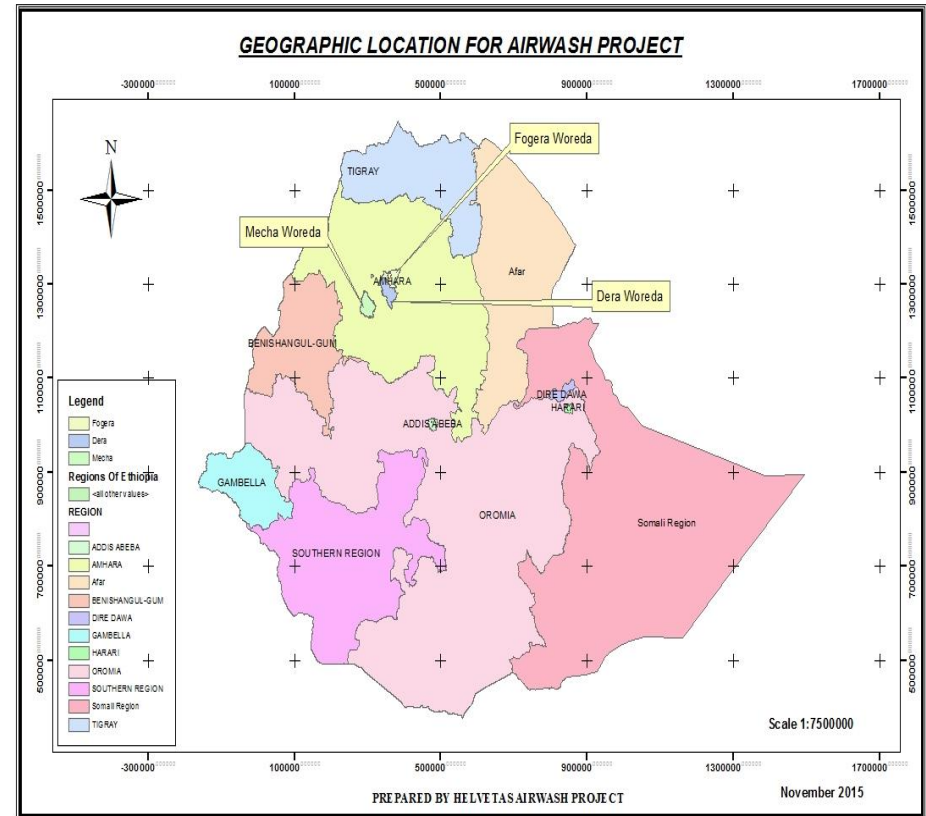
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**Capacity building to couples for community and women empowerment and effective and efficient implementation of WASH approaches the case of AIRWASH, by Nigussie Mihretu, Ewnetu Gedif, Felix Bachman**

# 1: INTRODUCTION

- Ethiopia has low WASH coverage
  - ❖ Rural 49%;
  - ❖ Urban 93%;
- AIRWASH project is under implementation in 3 districts of North Western part of Ethiopia;
- The couple capacity building enhanced gender equality, full implementation of WASH approaches.



## 2.Objectifs / Objectives

- To change the patriarchal attitude which restricted women's active participation;
- To empower women and the community by accessing information about WASH;
- To fully implement WASH approaches by building the capacity of households rather than individuals.

## 3: Contexte / Context

- In this village women had drudgery of fetching water;
- Community suffering from sanitation and hygiene related diseases;
- Domestic violence was common;
- Relatively married women had less access to WASH related information

## 4. Méthodes/Methods

- Couple training & monthly community discussions;
- Exchange visit of couples to a village known for ensuring gender equality;
- House to house visit by all users & active role of promoters.



## 5. Résultats / Results

- Mutual understanding between husbands and wives increased;
- Women's awareness about their rights related to WASH raised & domestic violence avoided;
- Men understood gender division of labour as socially constructed and helped wives in household chores;



## 6. Analyse / Analysis

- The root cause of women's work burden and absence in WASH decision making is patriarchal;
- This capacity building broke the glass ceiling and helped husbands and wives to discuss about gender division of labour;
- As married women got WASH related information sense of ownership enhanced.

## 7. Discussion

- Since the village was with low WASH coverage, high burden on women and girls;
- Involving the main WASH actors, women is an important ingredient for WASH sustainability;
- The participation of couples in capacity building activities eased implementation of WASH approaches



## 8. Leçons apprises / Lessons Learned

- Couple capacity building interventions enhance mutual understanding at HH level
- Time and place is important for women's full and active participation in WASH activities;
- Sense of ownership increased as married wives actively participated in couple capacity building activities

## 9. Conclusion

- Women especially married ones less informed about WASH related diseases, decision making, gender division of labour;
- The couple capacity building broke the glass ceiling and brought women as main WASH actors;
- This approach could scale up in other parts of the country.



**Remerciements / With thanks to**

**AIRWASH Team, Helvetas Ethiopia, Helvetas Head Office, MWA  
Ethiopia, SWSC**