



Ethiopia Drought Response FAQs

What is happening in Ethiopia?

- Four successive seasons of poor rains have resulted in water shortages, harvest failure, and deteriorating livestock health in Ethiopia's rural northeastern, central, and eastern regions. The drought extends over much of the Horn of Africa and is affecting an estimated ten million people.
- The United Nations reports that this is the worst drought to hit Ethiopia since the 1950s and should be addressed through immediate humanitarian assistance. More than three million Ethiopians are suffering due to the drought, and hundreds of thousands have already been forced to leave their homes.
- Lifewater staff in Ethiopia report that project areas are becoming parched landscapes littered with dead and dying cattle. Livestock death represents a nearly total loss of household income and often forces families to migrate in search of sustenance.

How is Lifewater helping?

- Lifewater is contributing to relief efforts by accelerating its work installing safe water systems and repairing existing systems that are damaged. Current projects include installing hand-dug and shallow wells, capping springs, rehabilitating damaged community water points, and constructing reservoirs at schools.
- Lifewater is also working with other humanitarian organizations to identify effective responses to the crisis. Efforts being considered include mass distribution of water purification kits, food packets, and sanitation resources.
- As part of every project, Lifewater trains and equips local communities to maintain and repair their safe water systems.
- Lifewater has been working in Ethiopia since 2005. Because of Lifewater's work, thousands of people in drought-stricken areas are better prepared for such conditions. While lack of rainfall is reducing water replenishment, all of the systems that Lifewater has installed are functional and most are providing at least some water. Last year, Lifewater provided safe water to nearly 40,000 people in Ethiopia.

What can I do to help?

- Those wishing to contribute to Lifewater's work in Ethiopia can donate by calling 1.888.543.3426 or by giving online at www.lifewater.org/donate, noting "Ethiopia Drought" in the memo section of the online donation form.