

peacemail

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 7

POSTAGE PAID
OFF PEAK
AUSTRALIA

act for peace
reduce poverty | protect refugees
prevent conflicts | empower communities



The Ethiopian Orthodox Church's Development and Inter-church Aid Commission (DICAC) is our partner in the ancient land of Ethiopia, where over 60% of the population are Christian. There is deep rooted poverty, especially in rural areas where drought, famine, internal and external conflicts, high rate of illiteracy, HIV/AIDS and old agricultural practices need to be overcome.

DICAC's Integrated Rural Development Projects tackle several cross-cutting issues simultaneously including:

- *Water, Sanitation & Hygiene*: health education, digging wells and safe waste management
- *Income Generation*: Animal breeding, vegetable production, sewing and milling
- *Gender & Development*: Gender Analysis, women's associations and activities to enhance women's participation in society
- *Food Security*: Agricultural skills improvements with subsistence farmers

\$20 can educate and provide seeds to farmers, who then return to their community and work to improve the skills of their neighbours.

\$67 can provide a five day health training course.

\$1000 can provide a hand dug water well which will benefit the entire community.

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA).

actalliance



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THANK YOU Partners for your commitment to Act for Peace through your prayers and regular gifts. Through your generosity, we are making a real and lasting difference to the lives of many people affected by conflict or extreme poverty.

If you would like to upgrade your regular gift, simply free call Howard or Sarah on **1800 025 101** or email hgraham@ncca.org.au. Also, all feedback and suggestions are welcome, as we love to hear from you and to pass on comments to project partners.

On the other hand, if you are not yet an Act for Peace Partner and would like to be, or would just like to help this project, your call or email will be welcomed! *All gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.*

Improved Water and Sanitation in Rural Ethiopia

Dear Act for Peace Partner,

Selam. My name is Yesayu Damo and I live here in the Amhara region of Ethiopia with my two daughters. Last year, our community built a well using the training and support from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church's Development and Inter-church Aid Commission (DICAC). I, along with the rest of the community, recognised a need for a well to access fresh and clean water.

Previously, I would walk 1.5 kilometres to a spring to collect water. In our community, we carry water using large clay pots roped to our backs, which weigh more than 12 kilograms when full. It would take half of the day just to get water for my family. Now, I live right next to the well and have so much more time for other tasks.

Recently, I was elected to the Community Water Committee. The Water Committee has seven members. When electing the committee, we ensure that at least three members are women.

I coordinate sanitation and ensure that the well area stays clean. In our community, we have a roster and every person must take turns removing mud and excess water. We do this to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. A few years ago, malaria severely spread throughout our community.

We also have a water schedule. Every family member that is assigned to collect water is scheduled to collect from the

well at a specified

time between

6-10am and

3-6pm. This practice ensures that we

keep well levels high and that we fairly distribute the water through the community.

To ensure the sustainability of our well, every community member contributes one dollar per year for maintenance, and the Water Committee saves this money in our local Rural Financial Institution.

Amasegenalhu (Thank you), Act for Peace Partners. Your support has helped to empower our community to improve our quality of life. Thanks to you, I hope that I can be a positive role model for my two daughters.



Women no longer have to walk 1.5 kilometres to the spring to collect water thanks to their new hand dug community well.



Yesayu and her two daughters

Partner's Prayer Points:

Give thanks for those who work for improvements in basic needs in Ethiopia.

Pray for those still suffering from high rates of disease and hunger.

Yesayu Damo