



## The Libo-Kemkem, Ebinat, Gaynt & Simada WASH Promotion Program (LEGAS)

### About LEGAS

Shortage of safe drinking water, scarcity of water resources, limited sanitation services and poor hygiene are all pressing issues in North Western Ethiopia. CARE initiated the LEGAS WASH promotion program in 2011 to address these issues. The program targeted 250,000 men, women and children in five districts of the region with interventions focused on improving access to safe water supply and sanitation.

The interventions also focused on women and children, improving their hygiene standards and ensuring their safety and security. Specifically, this program worked to improve the status of women and girls engaged in water collection through strengthening their representation and decision making power. This ultimately led to better overall health among community members through better and safer access to clean drinking water and hygiene.

### OBJECTIVE

The core objectives of the program were to:

1. Improve the health status and gender equity among disadvantage communities.
2. Reduce morbidity and mortality rates and improve the status of women and girls who are most engaged with water collection and management.
3. Improve the situation of beneficiaries in terms of access to safe water supply and sanitation, hygiene practices, and health.
4. Establish strong and viable community structures and build responsive government service delivery.
5. Reduce incidence of diseases related to water and sanitation.
6. Improve proximity of safe water sources, increase per capita water consumption in targeted regions.
7. Ensure behavioral changes in using hygiene and sanitation facilities certified as Open Defecation Free (ODF)

### STRATEGY

CARE believes in the capacity of the end users to initiate, contribute, implement and monitor their own development agendas, ensuring community participation and involvement. Additionally, the program strategy is complemented and formally linked with the respective Woredas (third-level administrative divisions of Ethiopia) development initiatives which align with the government's strategic plan, interest and priorities.

**Program Name:** The Libo-Kemkem, Ebinat, Gaynt & Simada (LEGAS) WASH Promotion Program

**Program Country:** Ethiopia

**Timeframe:** Aug. 2011 –Dec 2015

**Budget:** \$3,362,570

**Donors:** European Commission (EC) & Amhara Regional State Government.

#### Beneficiaries:

More than **296,000** people have access to a safe water supply.

More than **82,000** households have access to improved pit latrine facilities.

More than **245,000** people accessed basic sanitation hygiene promotion.



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*“The water supply schemes constructed in the area by CARE has enabled school-aged girls to attend schools and improve their school performance by decreasing the time spent to fetch water dramatically.”*

*– 2014 school age girls in Libo-Kemkem woreda*



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*“The CARE LEGAS WASH Promotion program shows the way with its approach on how to initiate and then how to sustain personal and environmental hygiene and sanitation.”*

*- 2014 a chairman in one of*

The program used low cost, community managed and simple technology that can be easily operated and maintained by users. Furthermore, it created local ownership by training local artisans selected from the communities to construct water schemes and household latrines. The program utilized the influential stature of religious leaders in the community by training and involving them as **sanitation and hygiene promoters**. Another strategy adopted by LEGAS was to establish WASH clubs in schools and mother to mother discussion groups to raise awareness among youth and women about sanitation and hygiene.



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## Results

- More than **246,285** people accessed basic sanitation hygiene promotion
- More than **82,318** households have access to improved pit latrine facilities
- Women in WASHCo comprised **58%** and hold **65%** of decision making/leadership positions in water resource management committees
- Increased access to and used of improved potable water supplies for domestic and productive use.
- Improved access and behavioural changes in using hygiene and sanitation facilities at community and public services (school, health facilities and community centres).
- Cases of diarrhea and mortality of children under five reduced significantly in the target areas.
- Significant increase in girls’ school attendance due to the availability of separate latrines for girls and boys in schools.
- Improved government support mechanism through working through joint steering committees and achieved **25%** cash government contribution for the program activity.
- Safe water access improved by **33 percent** from the baseline value of 25 percent; **271,336** people have access to safe water supply

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