



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

Department  
for World Service

# LWF Ethiopia Program Annual Report 2014



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Cover photo: Water collection in Leitchuor  
Refugee Camp, Gambella © Christof  
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*For You have been a defense for the helpless, A defense for the needy in his distress, A refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; For the breath of the ruthless Is like a rain storm against a wall.*

### Dear friends and colleagues,

The South Sudan crisis which began in December of 2013 left an indelible mark on LWF Ethiopia and the region in 2014 -- is the feature of this annual report. What started as a power struggle in Juba quickly turned into a violent conflict with ethnic overtones driving hundreds of thousands into neighbouring countries. Once the refugees found refuge and protection in Ethiopia, unexpected series of crises unfolded making the refugee crisis an unprecedented one in the

country. One of these was the major flooding affected the Gambella region, where all the refugees were coming into, with the ensuing challenges of finding new sites on higher ground for relocation, disease outbreaks and lack of resources to cope with the magnitude of the crisis. Up until the time this report went to press, the refugees, especially those in the 48,000-strong Leitchuor refugee camp, where LWF-Ethiopia is operational, have not been relocated.

With the new refugee influx of nearly 200,000 arrivals from South Sudan, Ethiopia officially became the largest refugee-hosting nation in Africa in August of 2014. At the close of 2014, Ethiopia hosted over 660,000 refugees; 251,000 from South Sudan, 245,000 from Somalia, 35,800 from Sudan, 123,700 Eritreans and 4738 refugees of other nationalities (Kenya, Djibouti, DRC, Yemen).

The South Sudan crisis, its immense impact on Ethiopia and the work of LWF was a major factor in delaying the development of the new six year strategy for the country program in 2015. The strategy 2009/2014 ended in December 2014. LWF-Ethiopia plans to develop its new country strategy 2016-18 in 2015 taking these developments into consideration. However, on the positive side, the end of the LWF country strategy, the 2015 bridging year and the development of the new strategy coincide with the end of the Millennium Development Goals (2015) and the Ethiopia strategy paper 'Growth and Transformation Plan'. It is LWF's hope to align its new strategy with the LWF/DWS Global Strategy 2013-18 and these new global, seminal strategies for enhanced and coordinated impact on the lives of the people we seek to serve.

While South Sudan commanded most of our attention throughout the year, LWF Ethiopia -- with the generous moral, financial and technical support of all of our donors and partners -- implemented a total of 23 projects in 12 field offices in the Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Somali regions (see map on page 7) reaching a total of 465,289 Ethiopians and refugees.


LWF Ethiopia's total income for 2014 was €4,990,408 and the total expenditure was € 4.860,829 (see financial statement on pages 32-34). A total of €1,071,748 (22% of the total income) went to development, a total of € 766,481 (16%) for rehabilitation/resilience building and a total of € 3,022,100 (62%) for humanitarian response, reflecting the geo-politics of this volatile region. Comparing the total expenditure for development versus for humanitarian response in 2014 and 2008 - the year before the 2009-2014 strategy was launched - LWF Ethiopia's programmatic focus shifted dramatically from long term development towards humanitarian response. In 2008, the ratio was 71% of the total LWF Ethiopia turnover for development and 29% for humanitarian response. In 2014, the ratio is 22% for development programming and 62% for humanitarian projects, and 78% if we combine humanitarian and resilience projects together. The new strategy would reflect this reality in view to better position LWF Ethiopia to respond to the felt needs of the region and their effects on Ethiopia.

All the results that LWF Ethiopia achieved during in 2014 could not have been possible without the commitment of and hard work by our staffs and the guidance and support from the LWF/ Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane-Yesus (EECMY) Board, the Office of the President of EECMY, the ACT Alliance Ethiopia Forum, The Ethiopian Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the generous support of donors and partners who supported the humanitarian and development projects across Ethiopia. Our heartfelt thanks go to the hundreds of thousands Ethiopians and refugees whom we are working with and who motivate us daily bringing meaning and sense into our work.

We invite you to read about some of the achievements in selected projects highlighted in this annual report.

**God Bless,**

Sophie Gebreyes  
Resident Representative  
LWF Ethiopia



## *Message from the President of Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane-Yesus (EECMY)*

Looking back on what has happened during the year 2014, we recognize that several changes have taken place. One of the most significant events, in the Ethiopian context, was the overwhelming refugee influx resulting from the crisis in South Sudan. It necessitated the concerted joint efforts of the humanitarian community, including the Lutheran Communion and Ecumenical community.

The joint ACT Appeal ETH141 was launched in 2014 to assist the South Sudanese refugees and affected host communities in Gambella region. We are yet again robustly continuing our work on humanitarian response to man-made and natural disaster-affected populations, building on the strong experiences from the early 1970's and mid-1980's when the country faced widespread famine. To reiterate the beginning of this close cooperation, it was 1973 when LWF first established its presence in the country at the request of EECMY to alleviate the suffering caused by the severe drought in Ethiopia.

LWF Ethiopia and EECMY then strengthened their close cooperation in the 1980's when the challenges of the wide-scale famine in Ethiopia necessitated an ecumenical joint response. In order to respond more efficiently to the plight of the famine victims, EECMY, LWF, Ethiopian Catholic Church and the Catholic Relief Services formed the Church Drought Action Africa, which became in 1985 the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP). JRP exhibited great partnership designed to alleviate socio-economic suffering. It also modeled for future joint cooperation to follow, predating the more extensive international coalitions such as the ACT Alliance International.

In the 1990's, LWF/EECMY provided substantial relief service to war and famine affected population, as founding members of the Joint Relief Partnership, which since 1985 became the leading NGO relief group, distributing life-saving food and supplies to two million famine victims at that time. Thus, having learned from the closely shared challenges of humanitarian crises over the past 40 years, and being part of the ACT Alliance network, LWF Ethiopia and EECMY-DASSC are well positioned to contribute to the current refugee assistance operation in the western Ethiopia.

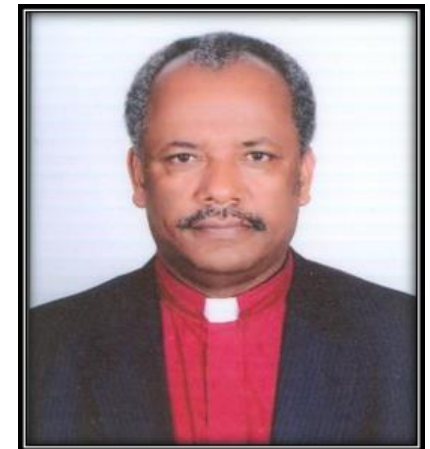
On the affirmation side, it has always been a blessing to witness concrete evidence of positive change in the communities we have the privilege of working with. We have always appreciated the management and staff of LWF Ethiopia Program for their relentless effort to serve the community in a manner that makes a difference. We mutually acknowledge being part of the global communion of member churches, and the shared mission to alleviate human suffering globally and in Ethiopia. Now, as before, we see the need to continue working together, sharing information and even portraying our work and achievements as one family. Just as we joined together 32 years ago to respond in Gambella (then called Illubabor) with the refugees from Sudan pouring over the borders, our efforts are needed there again.

I believe we will continue to support and encourage one another.

As we have joined people in their struggles to help themselves, our achievements have been made possible by the support of donors and colleagues within and outside of Ethiopia. We recognize that along with the individuals and communities we assist, along with the staff of Mekane Yesus and of the other ACT Forum members, and of all the other partners and institutions with whom we cooperate, we are united in a common efforts and respect for dignity of human life. We should never stop learning from the common and challenging processes

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all partners and donors who faithfully accompanied the program for the past years.

Rev. Dr. Wakseyoum Idossa  
President, EECMY





LWF Ethiopia is profoundly guided by the values of:

*Dignity and Justice,  
Compassion and Commitment,  
Inclusiveness and Participation,  
Accountability and Transparency*

### Vision

*People in Ethiopian society meet their priority needs, and improve their quality of life*

### Mission

*Inspired by God's love to humanity, LWF Ethiopia works together with communities for their empowerment, as agents of their own development, to practice their rights, and to live in harmony with their social and natural environment.*

## Who We Are:

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### *LWF DWS -Locally Rooted, Globally Connected*

Department for World Service (DWS) is the internationally recognised humanitarian and development arm of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a global communion of churches.

LWF's global commitment to assist those in the most vulnerable position and adherence to international and local standards has made the organization to be a trusted partner in the communities it operates in and among implementing partners and other related agencies. LWF-DWS is UNHCR's 5<sup>th</sup> largest global partner with an extensive network of agencies. World Service works in 32 countries through its 3 regional, 14 country and 8 associate programs, touching the lives of millions of people throughout the world.

### *LWF DWS Ethiopia*

The LWF-DWS Ethiopia program is one of the 14 DWS country programs, and has been operational in Ethiopia for over four decades. LWF Ethiopia established its presence in 1973 at the request of the EECMY to alleviate the suffering caused by the severe drought in Ethiopia. By 1985, LWF Ethiopia had expanded and become one of the main international organizations providing a large-scale humanitarian assistance to millions of famine-affected people through a Joint Relief Programme.

In four decades, LWF Ethiopia program has managed to execute a sizeable number of relief and rehabilitation projects including soil and water conservation, refugee assistance, and integrated community development projects focusing on resilience building, food security and livelihoods.

Over the years, LWF Ethiopia has expanded its operational areas to strengthen the response to diverse relief and development crises. The LWF Ethiopia program currently implements both development and humanitarian programmes across the country through 23 projects overseen by 245 staff members in 12 field offices and a head office in Addis Ababa. The annual budget of LWF Ethiopia is currently over EUR 5 million.

LWF has a long partnership with UNHCR in Ethiopia and globally, in addition to having cooperative relationship with local government agencies, including the Administration for Refugees and Returnees Agency (ARRA). In all projects, the implementation is anchored to the collaboration between the LWF headquarters, project offices, related stakeholders such as the governmental agencies and the target population. The core of the LWF Ethiopia program is working with communities with an integrated development approach, emphasizing capacity building in the most remote and disadvantaged areas. In the humanitarian realm, LWF is responding to recurring

droughts and refugee influxes, building in components of disaster risk reduction and livelihood activities alongside the emergency provisions.

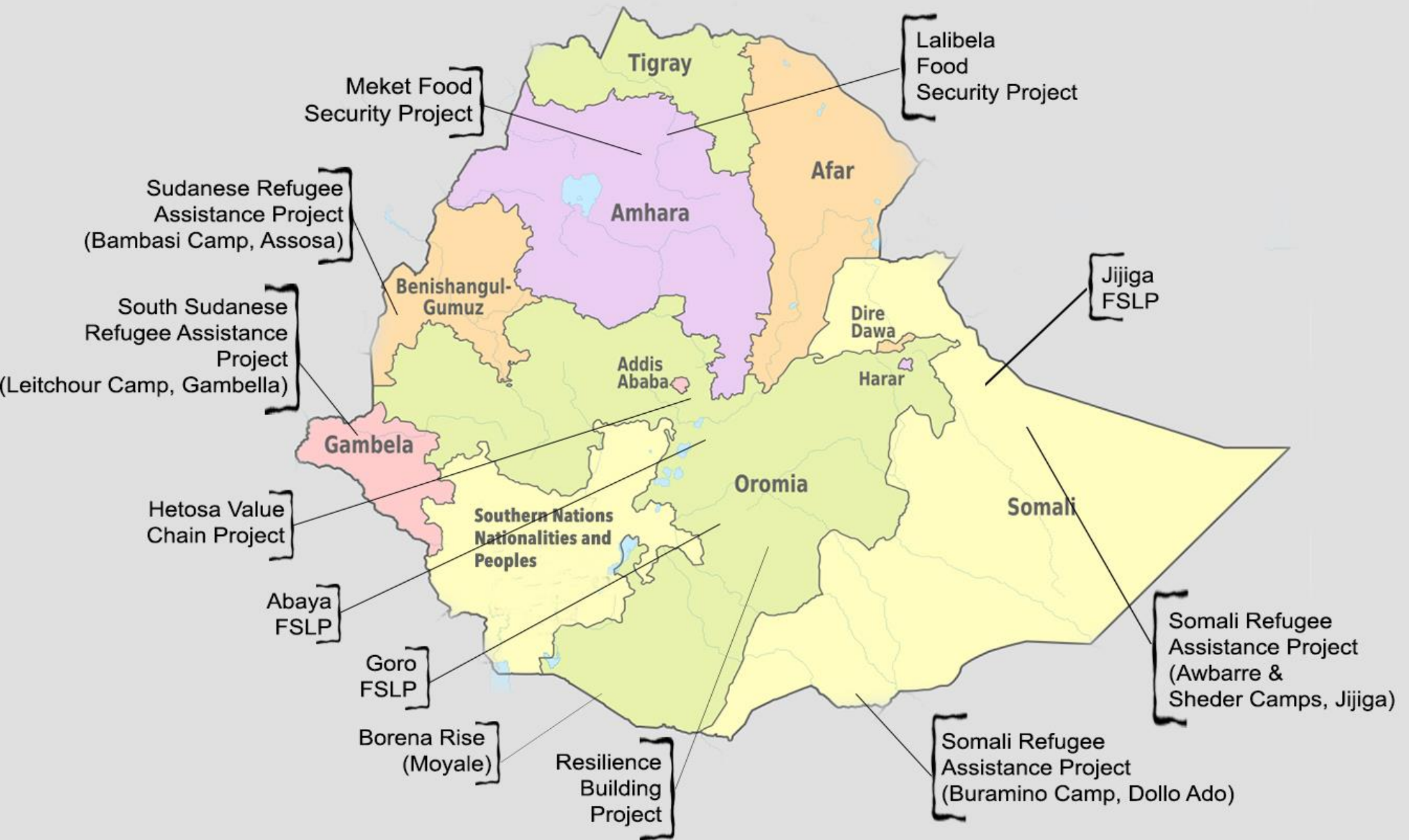
LWF is a Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) certified organization, providing assistance irrespective of ethnicity, sex, religion or nationality and proactively ensuring inclusive and effective participation of traditionally marginalized groups.

The program uses a participatory approach to relief, recovery and development assistance; one that includes target communities at all levels of the project cycle, including program design, implementation and evaluation. In all its activities the program aims to increase peoples' capacity and resources to make decisions about their own lives. LWF also uses the "Do No Harm" approach, ensuring that all humanitarian initiatives include both refugee and host communities to mitigate potential conflicts.

LWF Ethiopia seeks to fulfil its operational responsibilities in a way that ensures that its activities are integrated and aligned with national and local development priorities, as well as the wishes of those who benefit from its assistance. High level of community participation is at the core of the project objectives, as true and lasting development can be achieved only when self-reliance is attained.

*LWF is well-known as a reliable partner in the communities it works with, due to the organization's strong commitment to community participation, ownership, transparency, accountability and long-term engagement.*

# Map of Ethiopia – Location of 23 LWF Projects in 2014



## Building Resilient Communities; Food Security, Livelihoods and Risk Reduction

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### *Securing equal access to food, water and sustainable livelihoods now and for the future*

With the adverse effects of the climate change, the environment is increasingly unpredictable. Erratic weather patterns cause more frequent and intense natural hazards that exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and natural resource-related conflicts. Ethiopia has been exposed to the climate extremes including floods, landslides and droughts, resulting in various mass-scale disasters that have led to millions of Ethiopians dependent on food assistance every year. Ethiopia suffers from recurring famines brought about by droughts which are exacerbated by the farming and living patterns of the people. Despite decades of food aid, chronic food insecurity remains a persistent key challenge in Ethiopia, one of the most food-insecure countries in the world with nearly half of the population undernourished.

LWF's battle against food insecurity in Ethiopia has been an on-going programmatic focus since the 1970s. The strategic objectives have prioritized Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods; Sustainable Natural Resources Management; Emergency Preparedness, Response and Rehabilitation and Capacity Building, with the cross cutting issues HIV/AIDS, Gender and Environment integrated in each project.

### *LWF reaches the poorest in remote areas*

LWF Ethiopia has strong roots in the rehabilitation and resilience programmes; this year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Soil and Water Conservation Programme**, which was established in 1985 in response to the deteriorating drought and famine situation in the country. It became LWF's flag ship in development work, ensuring year-round supply of water for agriculture, livestock and people, and at large, contributing to food security, environmental conservation and self-sufficiency. The projects that focused on constructing micro-dams, hillside terracing, reforestation, irrigation systems and feeder roads were designed as a long-term community development scheme to complement the relief aid. Between 1985-2001 LWF

constructed nearly 150 durable and locally maintainable irrigation facilities using small rivers, springs and rainwater harvesting structures such as micro earth dams, river diversions and dams. They enabled farmers to conserve the existing soil and to practise irrigated agriculture on over 32,600 hectares of farmland to achieve food security of 165,067 households all over the country.

### *Communities spearhead their own development*

As the focus shifted from infrastructural developments to a more integrated approach, LWF launched the **Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP)** in 2004 in Chifra and Chinaksen, followed by Abaya, Goro and Jijiga districts some years later.

The subsequent **Food Security and Livelihood Project (FSLP)** approach was developed and piloted in 2011 in the same districts. In 2014, the development projects included Rayitu DRR/ Resilience Building, Hetosa Value-Chain and Market Linkage, Meket Food Security Enhancement, Lalibela Food Security, and Moyale Rebuilding Initiatives for Sustainable Pastoralist Livelihoods.





**Reliable supply of water, improved agricultural techniques and introduction of high yielding varieties enable the farmers to produce wider variety of crops, more times a year, enabling them to have a more balanced diet, earn income from the sale and shorten the gap between harvests.**

**The extra income incurred from the sales allows the households to cover schooling expenses of their children, and purchase of agricultural inputs to further maximise the use of their land and labour resources.**



The objective of the programme is to contribute to food security and improved livelihoods of the target communities, by ensuring household food self-sufficiency and reduced vulnerability on a sustainable basis. This is achieved with:

- Sustainable development of the agriculture sector and increased production and productivity of the crop and livestock sector
- Enhanced natural resources conservation and management through introduction and strengthening of viable biological and physical measures, as well as better practices in resource management
- Small holder farmers' income enhanced through improved access and linkages to market outlet
- Improved access to potable water supply for human and livestock use
- Enhanced women's empowerment and participation in development
- Improved collaboration and capacity of the local government and the target communities in project implementation and management of project results

## *Voices from the Field: Case Story Abaya FSLP*

The project area is located in Borena, Oromia Region, on the southern lowlands right at the tumultuous border with Kenya. People practice mixed farming but crop and livestock production is adversely affected by erratic rainfall, high environmental degradation and a lack of basic services. LWF Ethiopia's presence in the area dates back to 2006 and the project is now in its 3rd and final phase. In its 11 target kebeles, 66,340 rural people, who suffer from low agricultural productivity and food insecurity, have been part of the community-led development project. With enhanced capacities and participation, the target communities are equipped to manage and spearhead the development process in their area –increased ownership translates into increased wellbeing.

The FSLP aims to assist households to achieve sustainable food security through improved agricultural production and livelihoods, which go hand in hand with ecological management of the natural resources and community empowerment. This is achieved by promoting crop and livestock productivity through provision of improved inputs and agricultural technologies, small scale irrigation systems and value chain, environmental

conservation practices, in effect enhancing the capacity and resilience of the target population facing the effects of climate change.

### *Success Story of Roba*

With a calm smile as if to underline his relief, Roba Umbullo shows off his crop of maize that grows taller than the man that tends to it daily. On his small plot of land, sugarcane and sweet potato also thrive in abundance, providing for local market and for the family's consumption. In this drought-stricken landscape of Ethiopia, his lush garden is like an oasis.

The 35-year old small-holder farmer is growing vegetables in the lowlands of Oromia, in the region depicting most persistent poverty in southern Ethiopia. Previously, the traditional pastoralist way of life provided an uncertain livelihood for him to support his family with.



Raising livestock is a risky business in a fragile environment frequently plagued by drought and livestock disease. Across the nation, 3,2million people are estimated to be in need of food aid.

According to Roba, when there is drought, incidence of livestock disease becomes high. *"This in turn leads to emaciation of the animals and reduced milk yield. In these punitive climate conditions, live animals have no market and our only option is to rely on food aid, if any"*, he explains. Roba recalls the desperate situation in 2009 when he lost more than ten of his cattle, there was no milk and no market for livestock, and his previously self-reliant family became dependent on relief food aid.

Roba is one of the 450 household heads who have been provided with improved seeds along with the appropriate trainings, and irrigation structures, as part of the LWF-FSLP. The project has introduced sustainable agricultural technologies, which in the hands of these motivated farmers have subsequently provided better harvest yield than before and narrowed down their annual food gap from 6-9 months to less than 3months.

## *Strengthened equality, strengthened livelihoods*

LWF Ethiopia FSLP works towards gender equality and capacity building by training and organizing women's local savings and credit groups. The registered micro credit unions, with 381 members, are a powerful tool for strengthening women's empowerment.

In 2014, their savings capital reached the equivalent value of USD 70 for each member. The cooperatives disbursed loans worth of USD 16,375 to 223 members, increasing the volume of their businesses and diversifying their livelihood. The rise in household income improves food security of the families, thus detaching them from dependence of relief food aid. It is also used for sending the children to school.

The project has learned over the years that provision of goats, poultry, vegetable seeds and cash credits to female-headed households and women in general yields better results due to the more efficient use of the resources and asset creation, than when provided to men. Engaging women in alternative income generation also empowers them to take actively part in the decision making on household resources.



Credit  
beneficiary  
Aregash with  
her business

### *Aregash's Story*

27-year old Aregash Berhanu is a mother of three, and a business woman. Prior to the LWF microcredit and savings intervention in her community, Aregash's annual capital was below USD10, with no access to credit. Meeting the basic needs of the family was a struggle. Children were not going to school as there was no money

to buy them clothes, stationery materials - sometimes even food.

In 2011, she took part in a community meeting organized by LWF, attended the training and became a member in the Negelle Women's Saving and Credit Cooperative, providing her access to a loan of USD 50, which she invested in a small tea shop. After a year, she paid back the loan, using the rest of the profit to provide for her family, and to buy a heifer.

Her business and subsequent net earnings are improving, along with the living standards. *"Currently we have upgraded our housing from grass thatched hut to a corrugated iron sheet roofed one. I am sending two of my daughters to school which was constructed by LWF in our village. Unlike before, I now equally share every decision with my husband"*, Aregash explains.

*"Me and my husband, we are working hard to escape from poverty and lead a better life. In addition to accessing credit which helped me earn those profits, I saved ETB 700 at the cooperative. The heifer I bought will now give me a calf and milk for my children. I am leading a good life and I have gained respect from the community"*, she concludes.

## World Environmental Day 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014 Celebrations in Abaya

The annual World Environment Day was held to raise global awareness, to take positive environmental action and to protect nature and the planet for the 42th time. With extensive environmental efforts over the past 9 years, the Abaya Food Security and Livelihood Project has enhanced sustainable management and use of the natural resources through adoption of improved conservation practices. To celebrate the achievements of the project, and to contribute to the efforts already made, an Environment Day was initiated by LWF Ethiopia at one of the project intervention kebeles called Wadeyi Qajima. As part of the celebrations, more than 5000 trees were planted on deforested land to further raise community awareness on environmental conservation. Environmental protection was advocated using poems, music and speeches by elders and officials. During the day, more than 1500 community members, 40% female, took part in the festivities.

Students, local community, district officials and religious leaders from seven project intervention kebeles participated in the festivities acknowledging the efforts made in increased forest coverage, alternative water sources and the capacity of communities to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.



## LWF Ethiopia Refugee Programme

Displacement has become a global condition for millions of people, and increasingly, displaced people remain in exile for years, even decades. Ethiopia has seen its unfair share of protracted crises, and striven to respond to the mass-scale displacements in the wake of them.

Despite limited resources and chronic food insecurity, Ethiopia has been hosting in all corners of the country refugees escaping from conflict and instability for over 40 years. The mass movement of people within the Horn of Africa, host to some of the world's deadliest conflicts and precarious environmental conditions, is hardly a new phenomenon.

However, the past four years have seen a sharp increase in refugee numbers; compared to the 154,000 refugees in Ethiopia in 2010, the increment is over fourfold. There are currently 670,000 refugees in Ethiopia, which in August 2014 became the largest refugee-hosting nation in Africa. While the majority of the refugees are from South Sudan (39%), there are large numbers of Somalis, Sudanese and Eritreans, hosted mainly in 23 refugee camp sites allocated by the Ethiopian government. 57% of all refugees are under 18 year-olds.

LWF first came to Ethiopia in 1973 to respond to the widespread drought and famine. A decade later, a Joint Relief Operation with EECMY was initiated. Prior to these difficult years in Ethiopian history, LWF was primarily engaged in Rehabilitation and Returnees/Refugees projects.

Acknowledging the interlinked nature of relief and rehabilitation and recognizing that in order to fully address the challenges affecting refugees' welfare, LWF's interest and involvement was focused on bridging the gap from relief assistance to sustainable development. Considering the recurrent climate change induced natural disasters within Ethiopia, and the frequent cycles of refugee influxes resulting from reigniting conflicts in neighbouring countries, LWF Ethiopia remains committed to resilience building and emergency response with humanitarian assistance to disaster affected populations.

Exile can be such a devastating experience for most people, that few would undertake it except in the last extremity of need. Considering the uprootedness resulting from mass displacements, LWF Ethiopia strives to offer comprehensive and coordinated assistance that contributes towards

### LWF Ethiopia works in 7 camps

- WASH
- Livelihoods
- Environmental Protection
- Psychosocial Support

dignified life at the refugee camps. In 2007, LWF expanded its emergency response to cover also

refugee assistance, responding to the Somali refugee crisis in the eastern parts of Ethiopia, notably in Teferi Ber (Shedder, AwBarre and Kebribeyah camps). The Somali refugee

program was extended to Dollo Ado (Helyweyn and Buramino camps), following a massive influx of Somali refugees during the 2011 drought crisis in the Horn of Africa. Same year, the conflicts in Sudan forced more Sudanese to seek safety in the western parts of Ethiopia, necessitating LWF's refugee operation to cover also Assosa (Bambasi camp). In 2014, LWF Ethiopia extended its operational area to Leitchuor camp in Gambella, following the overwhelming influx of nearly 200,000 refugees displaced by the conflict in South Sudan.

In 2014, LWF was working with Sudanese, South Sudanese and Somali refugees in seven refugee camps (Bambasi, Leitchuor, Tierkidi, Buramino, Awbarre, Shedder and Kebribeyah) providing WASH, Livelihoods, Environmental Protection and Psychosocial Support, including host communities also as beneficiaries of refugee assistance projects.

## Achievements in 2014

In the refugee operations, LWF has been a major actor in water supply services, providing potable water to 200,000 refugees in total last year. LWF is UNHCR's implementing partner in water provision in Shedder and Awbarre camps, and both water provision and hygiene promotion components are implemented in Buramino, Bambasi and Leitchuor camps. Many achievements were reached in 2014 despite the massive influx from South Sudan, necessitating concerted efforts in Gambella in terms of pooling for financial and human resources at the field level. LWF's main achievement in the Shedder and AwBarre camps has been the installation of water supply systems serving both refugees and host communities. In these camps water supply had previously been ensured by the expensive and non-sustainable practice of water trucking.

At Buramino camp in Dollo, the service provision improved in 2014; LWF provided 17 litres of water per person /per day for 44,471 refugees. The water supply, which ensures access to safe and potable drinking water for both refugee and host community members, was improved by strengthening the equipment and infrastructure, and monitoring the water distribution. Accessing sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion helped refugees to live in more sanitary environment.

School sanitation was previously overlooked in Dollo. With a new intervention funded by Musichjalpen/Church of Sweden, LWF targeted both refugee and host schools by building water points, managing solid waste, and supporting school clubs for increased ownership through capacity building. Constructing sex-segregated latrines was designed to contribute towards child friendly school environment, as well as increased girls' school enrolment.

These achievements were especially appreciated due to the increasingly challenging working environment in Dollo. With the continuing refugee influx to the camps established in 2011, and the severe security threats, Dollo demands particular efforts from the humanitarian community. In 2014, UNHCR and ARRA planned to close the camp and agencies began to evacuate their staff due to the major security risks that materialized as a result of the infiltration of Al-Shabab around the project area. This also meant that all agencies were asked to suspend any implementation of new activities and only provide basic services with the existing system for three months. Although the camp was reopened and all activities resumed, this put a huge pressure on LWF to implement.

**Investing in people's livelihoods  
builds a platform for a better  
future**

Despite the challenges experienced in Dollo, LWF managed, with immense efforts from LWF staffs in the field and in Addis, to negotiate and maintain the most critical activities.

LWF Ethiopia is also major partner in the livelihoods sector in Bambasi and all the 3 camps in Jijiga, where the continuing livelihood interventions led to an improvement in the food security situation of refugees. In the Shedder and AwBarre refugee project, a nutritional survey by UNHCR and WFP demonstrated that after LWF began implementing livelihood support to refugees (consisting mostly of poultry production and vegetable gardening) the cases of malnutrition within the camp decreased significantly. With income generating activities such as fruit and vegetable growing, beekeeping, fish farming and poultry rearing, LWF promotes increased food security and community mobilization. Additionally, the on-going livelihoods programs with vocational and skills training, small-scale trade and provision of agricultural inputs have improved household economy and self-sufficiency in Bambasi, Awbarre, Kebribeyah and Shedder camps. Many of the beneficiaries have been able to invest the income from the first year of drip irrigation or poultry production into other businesses, such as opening shops or restaurants, and buying goats, thus enabling them to diversify their livelihoods.



## *LWF promotes self-sufficiency in Jijiga refugee camps*

Drip-irrigation has given refugees in Jijiga more opportunities to produce their own food instead of simply waiting for monthly food distribution. This has minimized the cost of buying vegetables, usually done by selling some portion of the food ration. Additionally, the drip-irrigation beneficiaries in Awbarre and Shedder camps collected a total of 257.92 quintals of vegetables in 2014. Out of the harvest, almost half was sold in the local market; the beneficiaries have collectively earned a total of ETB 218,190.

In addition, beneficiaries from backyard gardening activities have harvested a total of 4 quintals of vegetables in Awbarre, while beneficiaries in Shedder harvested 2 quintals. The harvested vegetables were mainly used for household consumption.

Most of the livelihood beneficiaries are female-headed households and households with large family sizes. In focus group discussions, the beneficiaries of the project have reflected their sense of dignity when they collect vegetables from their own farm as opposed to general food distribution.

Many have been able to invest the income from the first years of drip irrigation or poultry production into expanding to other businesses, such as opening shops and restaurants, and buying goats, thus enabling them to diversify their livelihoods.



## Livelihoods and Income Generating Activities

Although livelihoods and vocational trainings aim at equipping the refugees with skill sets that ease their repatriation upon returning to the country of origin, it is also essential in protracted refugee situations to ensure a degree of self-reliance among the refugees residing at camps in Ethiopia.

In addition to avoiding the 'dependency syndrome', it is also a matter of dwindling funds. With declining levels of funding for relief operations available to refugees in many parts of the world, especially Africa, it has become increasingly clear that in the numerous long-term camps in Ethiopia minimum standards cannot be met with emergency assistance programmes. More sustainable strategies that also emphasize the productive potential of the refugees are required to reduce the burden on host country and related expenditures. Although fleeing usually entails leaving your belongings and means of livelihoods behind, forcibly displaced people always carry with them invaluable assets: their knowledge, skills and experience. These attributes are the greatest resources on a path to becoming self-reliant while displaced.

**Self-sufficiency restores the dignity of individual refugees and empowers communities to rebuild their lives.**

LWF Ethiopia works in close cooperation with the representatives of both refugee and host communities in planning, designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all activities. The existing structures like the Refugee Central Committees, Women's Associations and Youth Groups are consulted during project planning, as LWF acknowledges that the participation of people of concern and capacity building of community committees strengthens the sense of

ownership and ensure the sustainability of all projects. Thus, supporting the initiatives taken by the refugees themselves to improve their own livelihoods promotes a stronger impact on food security and

community empowerment. LWF Ethiopia seeks opportunities to explore the refugees' capacity and potential in order to design livelihood interventions based on already existing knowledge and strengths.

Most importantly, in longstanding refugee situations, dignified living conditions and general wellbeing are anchored to meaningful everyday life with a potential to provide for one's self and loved ones.

LWF approach to providing a holistic model of livelihoods support prioritizes the most vulnerable households within a community, aiming to enable

them to meet basic needs. As a tool to build resilience, the income generating activities also develop entrepreneurial abilities, and assist families to plan their livelihoods and transfer their productive assets. Skills training leading to material production or service provision can boost income, and subsequently foster stronger links between refugees and host communities by encouraging business exchange and trade.

Environmental interventions are interlinked with the livelihoods activities, food security and do no harm principle. By rehabilitating degraded environments and promoting water management, LWF Ethiopia projects aim to facilitate more harmonious relations between the host and refugee communities while producing a conducive environment for various livelihood activities. Conflict over natural resources is the main reason for tensions between refugees and host communities. Growing of trees has the dual advantage of producing food for human and animal consumption, and of increasing soil nitrification. The keeping of bees and poultry has a direct link to environmental preservation, and the income generated from the sales of honey and eggs boosts income and diet diversification. LWF is also piloting the use of biogas, which efficiently saves energy and addresses protection issues in areas where women generally carry out the hazardous chore of firewood collection.



## WASH

LWF Ethiopia's long WASH experience in Ethiopia originates from 1978, when LWF began water and soil conservation activities in Kambatta Hadiya. As a result of the well-established WASH expertise, LWF is the leading partner in water provision in Awbarre and Shedder refugee camps, as well as the WASH lead in Bambasi, Leitchuor and Buramino camps.

In the refugee operations, LWF has become known for its expertise implementing emergency water supply activities, constructing permanent water systems and promoting hygiene and sanitation. The comprehensive WASH programmes are designed to create and maintain healthier camp conditions with equitable access to potable water. Addressing the needs for water and sanitation requires a range of services, facilities and support in terms of borehole drilling, drainage and pipe network systems, safe water handling and storage, awareness raising, constructing /rehabilitating /decommissioning of latrines, solid waste management and community mobilization, to name a few.

In all its WASH interventions, LWF incorporates a participatory element and reinforces the community-based water management system to strengthen the ownership of the refugees' own water supply. LWF works in close collaboration with the community structures to ensure smooth transition and exit strategy. Refugee Central Committees, Parent-

Teachers Associations (PTAs), School WASH Clubs and WASH Committees (WASHCO) are involved in the implementation of camp WASH activities. Capacity building through training of WASHCOs, School Clubs and Community Health and Hygiene promoters is designed with the handing over of WASH facilities to the schools and community in mind. The WASH School Clubs are disseminating the knowledge they have acquired from various trainings to the school community, and they are closely linked to the WASH committee in the camp. Essentially, the projects equip school children with knowledge and skills on WASH issues so that they can act as agents of change.

## Community-Based Psychosocial Support

Major events, such as conflicts and wars often result in displacement, loss and separation, leading to social and psychological repercussions that can destabilize people's capacity to manage their lives. In order to respond to the psychosocial needs, diverse set of support is required to address the individual, family and community needs. The foundation of all community based psychosocial (CBPS) work is in the recognition of the affected community's capacity for recovery, resilience and future rebuilding and development. It is important to foster capacity building towards self-governance and collective decision making, as all communities and individuals have resources and strategies for dealing with difficulties, illness and distress. It is the

responsibility of humanitarian workers to respect, understand, and enable the community and individuals in their own recovery.

LWF Ethiopia recognizes that in order to fully meet the challenges affecting refugees' welfare, a more comprehensive, multi-sectorial approach to refugee assistance must supersede the more traditional models of aid. One aspect of LWF's programming which highlights the holistic nature of its services is the CBPS, designed to empower refugees through means of education, income generating opportunities, conflict resolution, cultural events and mobilizing refugee self-help structures. The ultimate goal of the programme is to promote self-reliance and to foster positive relations among the community members, as peers.



## **'The model camp' -Emergency response for Sudanese refugees in Bambasi camp and host community**

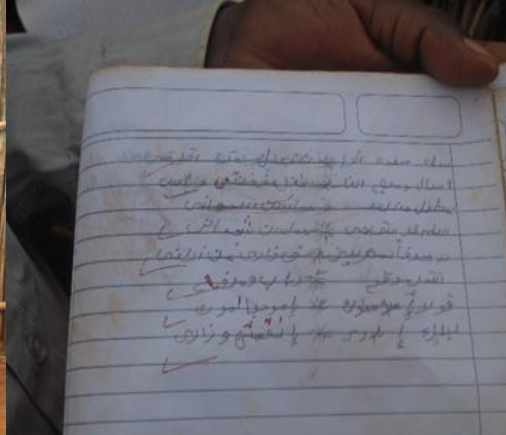
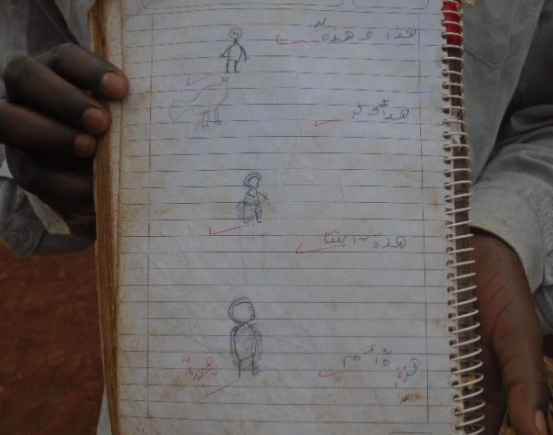
Benishangul-Gumuz region in western Ethiopia is home to around 45,000 refugees, residing in the region's 5 locations allocated for refugees. The most recent mass movement out of Sudan resumed in September 2011. LWF Ethiopia has been operational in the 14,000 refugees' strong Bambasi camp since June 2012 and is responsible for providing WASH, livelihoods, environmental protection and psychosocial support activities for the refugees in the camp as well as the host community.

Bambasi Refugee Assistance Project was awarded Certificate of Recognition for its livelihood component as one of the Best Practice projects from 14 projects supported by its long-term partner, DanChurchAid. The project was commended for its merits in sustainability, replicability, affordability of the technology, effectiveness and efficiency.

With all the diverse interventions, it is the mutually supportive elements of environmental conservation, WASH, livelihoods and CBPS that make a successful programme. The multi-sector programme is designed to ensure a holistic approach, enhancing protection, cohesiveness and the well-being of the communities.

Following the 2014 mid-term review by UNHCR, ARRA and implementing partners, the LWF Bambasi operation was rated as an exemplary model operation, which can be used as an example also for other camps with visible and tangible results.





***“Now I can help my children with their school assignments!”***

Church of Sweden has been funding the Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPS) in the Sudanese Refugee project at Bambasi since 2012 in order to address the psychosocial needs of the refugees through various psychosocial activities, e.g. sport and recreation, community coffee discussions, providing Psychological First Aid, capacity building workshops, self-help groups and adult education. Among these activities adult education is one of the empowerment tools to take collective action along with developing the numeracy and literacy skills of 300 adults. This programme helps the communities to identify and gaps and capacities, assets and resources to tackle the existing challenges in the camp and develop their self-resilience.

Omalhassan Madin is one of the participants of adult education. She lives with her husband, two sons and four daughters. *“Through the adult education project, I have been given the opportunity to learn to read and write. My entire adult life, I had no experience of these*

*skills, but now I am able to read and write my own name, along with other words in Arabic. Moreover, I have mastered basic mathematical skills such as addition, multiplication, division and subtraction”,* Omalhassan responds to the question of how she is benefiting from the CBPS project.

As a woman who never attended a school, Omalhassan understands the importance of ensuring her children receive education. *“LWF has helped me understand the value of education, of which I had limited information previously. Before I attended adult education, I was not interested in sending my children to school. But now, I understand the value it has, and I seriously encourage my children’s school attendance. The classes I take also enable me to help them in their regular school assignments. This programme equips me also with better knowledge regarding sanitation and hygiene; I take these lessons to my home and I participate in community cleaning campaigns”* she explains.

Many fragile states, from which refugees flee from, are often depicted by structural poverty, crime and lack of democracy and access to education. Education aims to increase skills and access to income, ultimately contributing to enhanced equity, peace and individual well-being. For Omalhassan, learning has a socially empowering effect; *“Education has helped me improve my social relationships and status within the community. In addition to the literacy and numeracy skills, we have developed good relationship among ourselves; we consult one another regularly, we go to different social occasions such as visiting the sick, we attend funerals and celebrate wedding ceremonies together. I feel that the adult education programme helped me to have self-confidence in myself and feel empowered, compared to my previous life of illiteracy. I was ashamed when I was asked to write my name in front of people, but now I am able to write my name and I am proud of it. I thank LWF and God for giving me this chance, to open my eyes to the world through education.”*

## Gambella –refuge from crisis in South Sudan

For the East African region, year 2014 was deeply imprinted by the bitter and destructive civil war in South Sudan. For the local and international humanitarian community, as well as the Ethiopian Government providing protection to those seeking refuge on its territory, the overwhelming volume and speed of the migration of refugees to Gambella region became the centre of focus. This marginalized region was in a state of turmoil, as it became the stage for a massive humanitarian operation.



## Refugee Programme in Gambella

### *Background of the crisis:*

In December 2013, South Sudan descended into an armed conflict, resulting from a power struggle between the two men who tore the newly born nation apart. As in so many wars, civilians are bearing the brunt of the conflict; during 2014, the conflict claimed an untold number of lives, forced around two million people to flee their homes, and led to millions of South Sudanese suffering from starvation, violence and disease.

After a year of catastrophic warfare and many failed peace deals later, Ethiopia, among other neighbouring countries, is also shouldering the burden. By alleviating the suffering of the hundreds of thousands of people fleeing violence and famine, Ethiopia is exemplary in its efforts to share the burden of the refugees –not of, but with the refugees, who have paid the ultimate price of the conflict with lives, belongings and potentially, a future of one generation, lost along the way to safety.

Nearly 200 000 South Sudanese fleeing the violence moved en masse eastwards across the porous borders of western Ethiopia, into Gambella Region. The humanitarian community rushed to respond to the needs of the overwhelming influx of refugees, vast majority of whom were malnourished

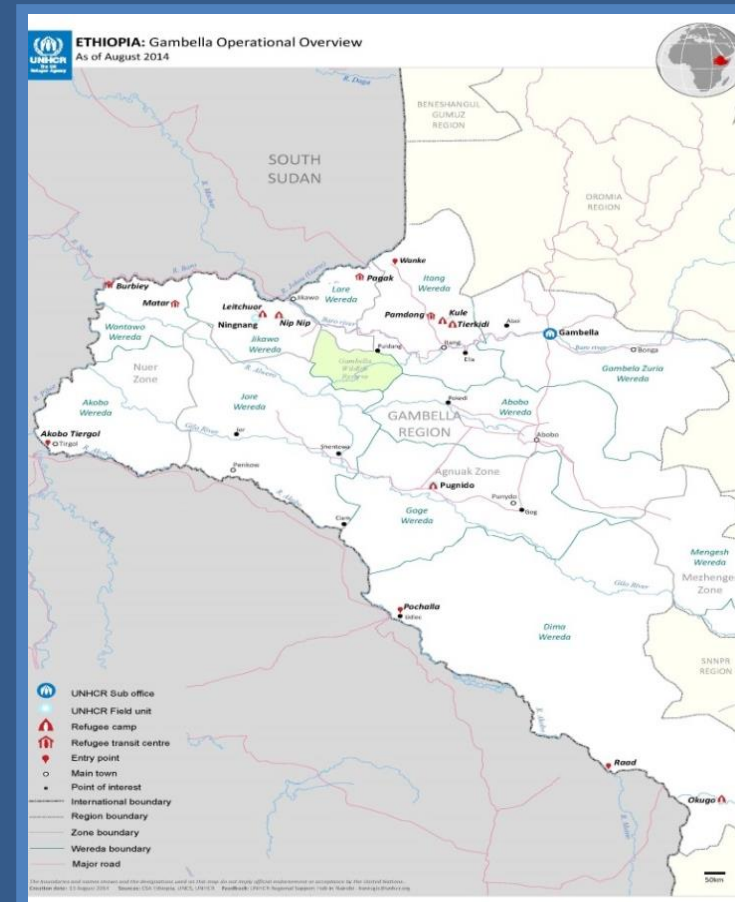
women and children; 1 out of 3 children suffered from acute malnutrition. Their poor health resulted from the gruelling journey with little food or water they had to undergo the escape the dangerous situation at home, yet again.

One factor further perpetuating this increasingly silent tragedy is the looming famine, resulting from the planting season disrupted by fighting. Thousands of farmers fled their fields and with the volatile safety situation, those left behind fear for warfare forcing them to abandon their plots as well.

### *LWF Ethiopia provides WASH services in Leitchuor refugee camp in Gambella*

Once the refugees arrived at Leitchuor camp, first of the four new refugee camps established to host the arrivals, they faced new struggles; the camp, initially designed to accommodate 20,000, became overcrowded with 48,000 refugees. South Sudan's crisis is swelling refugee camps like Leitchuor beyond their maximum capacity due to the overwhelming influx and lack of land.

To respond rapidly to the call for establishing services at the camp, which was at level zero in February 2014, LWF Ethiopia immediately deployed a project coordinator from the headquarters to initiate the feasibility studies and needs assessment, and based on those, seconded more technical personnel from other LWF projects while



## SOUTH SUDAN CRISIS

- ◇ Began in mid-December 2013
- ◇ 2 million people displaced
- ◇ With over 195,000 asylum seekers, Ethiopia received the largest influx of South Sudanese refugees.
- ◇ Over 90% of the newly arrived refugees in Gambella are women and children of Nuer ethnicity.
- ◇ Only 33% of requested funding received for the ACT Appeal ETH141

recruitment was on-going. With the rapid resource mobilization through ACT Appeal ETH141, the funding from ACT Alliance members enabled the LWF team to commence WASH activities among the first actors. In the course of six months, LWF managed to build a robust hygiene and sanitation team on the ground, in addition to the WASH experts and support staff coordinating the interventions in both the camp site and Gambella, some 128 km from Leitchuor. With the incentive workers, recruited from the refugee population, variety of hygiene and sanitation related activities were conducted; from daily tent-to-tent visits to mass campaigns, awareness regarding safer hygiene practises and knowledge among the refugees was raised.

In March, two 120metre deep boreholes were drilled, revealing a yield of 15-18litres/second. With the capacity to cover the water needs of the entire camp, the boreholes became immediately utilized by the partner responsible for emergency water provision to cut down the costs of trucking, as well as to use the clean ground water instead of the river water. Subsequent water supply system designs were completed several times to accommodate for the repeatedly changing camp lay-out. In the

#### Leitchuor Camp Profile

Established: 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2014

Population (26 Dec 2014):  
47,726, 72% children

Regions of origin: South  
Sudan's Unity, Upper Nile  
and Jonglei states in  
eastern South Sudan

Main occupations: Primarily  
farmers and pastoralists

Water provided:  
17l/person/day

following months, solid waste barrels were distributed, water points were constructed, training centre for refugees was established, and LWF temporarily took over the emergency water kit at the near-by entry point.

Despite the heroic efforts of ARRA, UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies working to provide basic services at the camp, the situation became exceedingly dire at the onset of rains.

#### *Emergency within an emergency*

The lowlands of the Gambella region are flood-prone, and people living along the river banks are susceptible to yearly flooding, as excessive rains cause rivers to overflow. The catastrophic flooding in August and September 2014 in Western Ethiopia thus further worsened the situation for the 48,000 South Sudanese refugees in Leitchuor camp, which became inundated and a breeding ground for vector-borne diseases.

Torrential rains, complicated coordination, constantly changing crisis context with logistic challenges and chronic funding gaps exacerbated by massive, rapid movement of the refugees

created an extremely complex and demanding emergency environment. With the heavy rains engulfing most areas in and around Leitchuor refugee camp, the permanent water supply work had to be discontinued, as the camp was declared unsuitable for refugee settlement. As all permanent structures were halted, LWF Ethiopia needed to shift its focus of intervention to life-saving assistance. In order to enable immediate survival of flood-affected populations and to halt the 'emergency within an emergency', LWF redirected its attention and resources to strengthening the hygiene and sanitation services and promotion, including the distribution of WASH NFI's, all geared towards safe water chain and ultimately, combatting disease outbreaks that often accompany unhygienic camp conditions.

Due to LWF's long-term commitment to the suffering refugees, and despite the immensely challenging operational conditions, LWF persevered and continued to work in the flooded camp. At the end of the rainy season, some encouraging signs indicated the importance of the relentless WASH efforts; compared to other camps, Leitchuor camp hygiene and sanitation standards had significantly improved. This was especially noteworthy as Leitchuor was the most effected by flooding, which usually renders the areas susceptible to deplorable conditions.

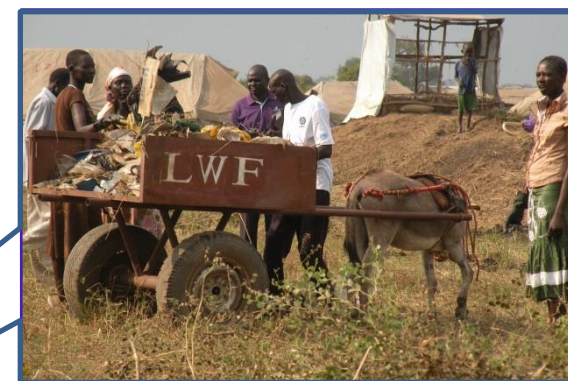
## LWF's key activities during 1 year of emergency assistance in Gambella:

- 3 operational areas: Leitchuor and Tierkidi refugee camps, Burbiey transit centre
- 2 deep boreholes drilled, developed and utilized for emergency water supply in Leitchuor
- 570,000 lit of water distributed in Burbiey transit centre
- 14 water points constructed
- Conducted and participated in 10 needs assessments surveys, feasibility and hydrogeological studies
- 39 incentive workers recruited from the refugee community (latrine attendants, solid waste collectors, community outreach agents, complaints handling focal person)
- Waste management; 8 donkeys and 800 half barrels procured, with 602 placed in the camp, 14 waste pits excavated and fenced
- 96 environmental cleaning, hand washing, jerry can cleaning and mass education campaigns carried out
- Approx. 12,000 tent-to-tent visits conducted
- 325,000 m2 open defecation field disinfected
- 85,000 sachets of water purification chemicals, 14,500 jerry cans, 72,800 soaps, 15,000 reusable sanitary pads, 10,800 underwear, 1289 basins, 9149 buckets, 1300 sanitation tools, 78 safety shoes and umbrellas distributed
- 6 institutional water yards with roto tanks constructed
- 30 latrines decommissioned, 15 rehabilitated and maintained
- 25 hand washing facilities established
- 3 office/guest house, multipurpose training centre, storage structures built
- 5 monitoring visits by donors hosted



*After the flooding, LWF concentrated on immediate life-saving activities such as distributing WASH items, to replace those lost in the floods, and to curb water-borne diseases. The assistance to the most vulnerable was prioritized; jerry cans, buckets and basins are provided to also ease the burden of water collection and storage.* 23

The South Sudan crisis has also highlighted the need for enhanced level of coordination and cooperation within the humanitarian aid realm for all humanitarian actors in Ethiopia, as well within the ACT Alliance family in the country and region. In 2014 ACT Alliance Ethiopia Forum was striving to respond in Gambella as a diverse but complementing coalition. This is not the first time that ecumenical commitment has led us to implement relief assistance jointly in Ethiopia; the roots are found in the establishment of Joint Relief Partnership between EECMY, LWF, Ethiopian Catholic Church, Catholic Relief Services and Ethiopian Orthodox Church in the mid-1980's –a leading NGO relief group at the time providing service to war and famine affected population.



### LWF Ethiopia Emergency WASH team in Leitchuor:

In addition to the WASH and support staff, LWF has recruited assistants from the local community as well as incentive workers from the refugee population. LWF Ethiopia thus has a robust hygiene and sanitation team on the ground in Leitchuor and Nyine-Nyang, comprising of community outreach agents, sanitation workers, latrine attendants, solid waste collectors, donkey caretakers, as well as a complaints handling focal person.

Their vast responsibilities include awareness raising, data collection, communal latrine and environmental cleaning, managing waste disposal, conducting mass campaigns and visiting tents to inform refugees about various hygiene related practises. Before and during NFI distributions, they inform people about their entitlements, guide in the use of the items they distribute, identify, verify and register beneficiaries as well as take upon crowd control and complaints handling duties.





### ***History repeating itself - Sudanese refugees have settled in Gambella since the 1960's***

According to UNHCR, Ethiopia will continue to receive asylum seekers from neighbouring countries struggling with droughts, political events and civil wars due to its geographical position. In 2014, Ethiopia became the biggest host country for South Sudanese refugees fleeing violence back home. It is not the first time. Some of the arrivals are third generation asylum seekers, repeating a tragic cycle that began already in the 1960's.

The first Sudanese civil war began in 1955, and after just 11 years of peace, the second one raged from 1983 until the peace deal in 2005, paving the way to South Sudan's independence in 2011. Thus, after half a century of frequent war and displacement, this newest outbreak of hostilities has led to the third wave of mainly Nuer people fleeing to Ethiopia. Generation after generation, families fleeing conflict and trying to rebuild their lives, only to be uprooted again by war.

The southern Sudanese fleeing to Gambella in 1969 settled in the area, with successive influxes following in 1983, 1987 and early 1990's. In the 1980s the area hosted over 200,000 Sudanese refugees displaced by the civil war, necessitating the establishment of five refugee camps in 2 regions bordering the war-torn Republic of Sudan; Dimma and Pugnido in Gambella still remain.

For LWF Ethiopia, the current humanitarian intervention in Gambella is a blast from the past; the LWF Ethiopia 1983 Annual Report describes how *"in April 1983, LWF-DWS began an intensive relief operation to provide the necessities of life to displaced, hungry and destitute Ethiopians. In Illubabor [previous name for Gambella region], the native peoples' lives are being disrupted and their local economy is being upset by the influx of approximately 25,000 Sudanese refugees. The Sudanese are from the South of their country who fled after the introduction of political changes they feel put their lives in danger. This is the latest emergency situation to be dealt with, in part, by LWF and its member churches. Under the Provision For New Emergency Situations, we help both the Sudanese and those displaced by their sudden arrival"*. History tends to repeat itself; just like 32 years ago, Gambella is experiencing an influx of refugees, but this time, in ten-fold. The area has yet again become the centre of a major humanitarian operation for South Sudanese refugees.

### ***The effects on the fragile refugee hosting region Gambella***

Gambella is remote, politically charged and poor; its harsh climate and lack of basic facilities are just few contributing factors to its marginalization. With the perpetuating conflicts in southern Sudan spilling over the borders in the past 50 years, every influx of

displaced people will prolong its instability and stunted development.

The recent influx in Gambella was received with apprehension; the refugee phenomenon has been an essential part of regional politics since the 1960s, to the extent that it has radically altered the demographics of the region. The refugee influxes have created an enduring and highly challenging situation partially due the magnitude – for example, by 1991 the Itang camp in Gambella had reportedly become the largest refugee camp in the world. When the number peaked in the 1990's, the Sudanese refugees outnumbered the local population by a ratio of about 3:1. Although the host communities of similar ethnic background share their meagre resources with the arrivals, the current influx has been seen not just as a humanitarian emergency, but also as potential source of resource-based ethnic clashes.

The unpredictability and fragility of this marginalized region complicate the space of humanitarian action in general, and working conditions of the implementing partners in particular. The hazardous, volatile working environment has not, however, deterred the committed LWF Ethiopia field staff working relentlessly to respond to the call of the women, men and children amidst this extreme poverty and harsh conditions.

Over 90% of the refugee arrivals are women and children.



# TIMELINE: LWF interventions in Gambella in 2014



**JAN FEB MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE**

- Leitchuor refugee camp is opened with a capacity to host 20,000 people.
- ACT Appeal ETH 141 launched
- LWF establishes its field offices in Gambella and in Nyine-Nyang, near Leitchuor camp.
- LWF conducts feasibility and hydrogeological studies, drills and constructs 2 boreholes, which are used for emergency water supply.
- The design for a permanent water supply system is completed, after several changes to the camp layout.
- LWF takes over the water treatment kit from UNICEF in Burbiey transit centre.
- With 47,000 refugees, Leitchuor camp exceeds its intended maximum accommodating capacity of 20,000.

**JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC**

- Hepatitis E outbreak and increase of malaria; LWF responds with strengthened hygiene and sanitation efforts.
- Kremt, the rainy season brings added misery to Gambella. Leitchuor and NipNip camps become submerged by mud, and the flooding cuts off the area, destroys the infrastructure and forces the refugees to evacuate to scattered higher grounds.
- Revised ACT Appeal ETH141 launched, after the decision to suspend all construction of permanent structures in Leitchuor, deemed as unsuitable for settlement.
- With 630,000 refugees, Ethiopia becomes the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa.
- LWF focuses on life-saving services, distributing WASH NFI's and hygiene and sanitation promotion to the flood affected populations.
- LWF enters Tierkidi camp to construct permanent water supply structures at schools, nutrition centres and hospitals.

## World Water Day Celebrated Colourfully at Buramino Refugee Camp

World Water Day on 22 March represents a day to celebrate water; raising awareness of how access to safe water is life-sustaining right for all, yet millions of people around the globe suffer from lack of water due to natural disasters and poverty. The event, established by United Nations in 1993, is observed around the world, shining the spotlight on key role that water plays in economic development, eradication of poverty and human well-being.

The adverse effects of climate change and growing demand for natural resources are hastening the water crisis that has detrimental effects on the poorest, most marginalized populations. It has been estimated that over half of the Ethiopian population live without access to drinking water sources.

In developing nations, the daily responsibility for collecting water, and risks related to it, fall disproportionately on women and children. Providing equitable access to safe water is about improving maternal health, preserving the environment and enabling girls to attend school instead of spending hours fetching water.

World Day for Water aims to focus public attention on the critical water issues of our era, and encourage people to raise their voices to work in a spirit of cooperation. LWF Ethiopia has been committed to providing access to potable water for over four decades, particularly to impact the lives of the most disadvantaged groups. The World Water Day 2014 was celebrated in the Buramino refugee camp for the first time with a motto **“Attention to equitable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.”** Buramino is one of the five Somali refugee camps in Dollo Ado, Somali Regional State, where LWF Ethiopia is providing hygiene and sanitation services along with water supply to the refugee and host communities living in Bur and Amino Kebeles.

The LWF Dollo Ado Project was pleased to celebrate the Water Day together with refugee students, refugee community leaders, host community representatives, partner organizations, ARRA and UNHCR. During the event there were over 20 representatives from IPs, and more than 150 children and youth and 200 adults attended the celebration. The aim of the event was to create awareness, and to ensure that the community understands the importance of water and their

responsibilities. Thus the key messages of the promotional campaigns, translated into Somali language and delivered during the day were:

- ✚ Equitable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation
- ✚ Increased participation of refugee as well as host communities in WASH activities
- ✚ Water is life!
- ✚ No water no life!
- ✚ Use water and sanitation facilities properly
- ✚ Don't waste water!

The day was welcomed by the community with dances, drama and poems to mark the acceptance and ownership of the WASH facilities. Cultural and modern songs were presented by school WASH club members and refugee members, and dramas were performed by the LWF Community Health Agents. The songs and the dramas were designed to entertain as well as to pass crucial messages related to water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH). Panel discussions WASH was conducted, with selected panelists from refugee central committee and block leaders, host community leaders, and camp management representatives leading the discussion. During the panels, it was noted that in the camp, which has grown by more than 15,000 refugees, additional latrines and water containers are required. All parties committed to finding ways to intensify the level of participation of both refugee and host communities in order to increase the sense of ownership and shared responsibility.



# LWF Ethiopia WASH manager awarded as a Humanitarian Hero!

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On 19 August 2014 United Nations celebrated the annual World Humanitarian Day. This year's campaign theme was: "The World Needs More Humanitarian Heroes". On this day, the world commemorates those who have lost their lives while serving others in emergencies, and celebrates the humanitarian spirit by spotlighting humanitarian aid workers in the field and telling the story of their heroism. A story of selflessness and of sacrifice for humanity, often times in the line of fire. The campaign aims to reach out to a global audience, raise awareness about the humanitarian state of the world and increase fundraising for the forgotten emergencies. Aptly, this year, Alemayehu Godebo, the WASH manager working for LWF Ethiopia in Gambella with the South Sudanese refugees, was awarded for his efforts in the emergency that captured the attention of the entire humanitarian community in Ethiopia. His passion, and compassion in his work towards upholding the rights of the poor and oppressed are a great expression of the commitment of LWF Ethiopia programme in general.

In his interview, Alemayehu explained that *"Throughout my career, I've been interested in helping people who are at a risk and in need of assistance. Thus humanitarian work is both my passion and my livelihood: I am lucky to be able to support myself by doing what I love –helping others. I believe that in this line of work, my qualifications can make a difference in human life. One of the most rewarding aspects of my work is being part of a humanitarian project that quickly and efficiently provides assistance to people in need. My personal foremost success as a WASH Officer has been the completion of permanent water supply system in Bambasi refugee camp in 2012. In a very short period of time our team of just two technical persons designed and constructed a massive water system with a capacity*

*of supplying potable water to forty thousand refugees, reducing the incidences of water born disease in the refugee camp."*

He admits, however, that field work can get overwhelming; *"In humanitarian assistance, the challenges facing in refugee camp settings are gargantuan. I think most people in this sector have become at times overwhelmed by the human suffering and the urgency of lifesaving response in escalating humanitarian crises. The sheer scale of the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan and the consequent refugee situation in Ethiopia has been an overwhelming experience for the entire humanitarian community struggling to provide the basic services. The most gut-wrenching moment in my working life was when I was working in Gambella refugee camp reception centre. I saw a mother who had just arrived to the centre; she was visibly famished, traumatized and exhausted after the long journey she had undergone without food. Weakened by the ordeals of fleeing to safety, she was not even able to cry or to care for her three month old baby, whose face was covered by flies. She had nothing to feed or dress her child with."*

The LWF Ethiopia programme appreciates this award as an acknowledgement of great courage and commitment of not just one individual, but of all of LWF staff members who persevere and provide good quality service in the challenging working environments of humanitarian realm. It is truly a great encouragement to us all. To receive this honour is a confirmation and celebration of all staff that in one way or another have contributed towards the successes in 2014.

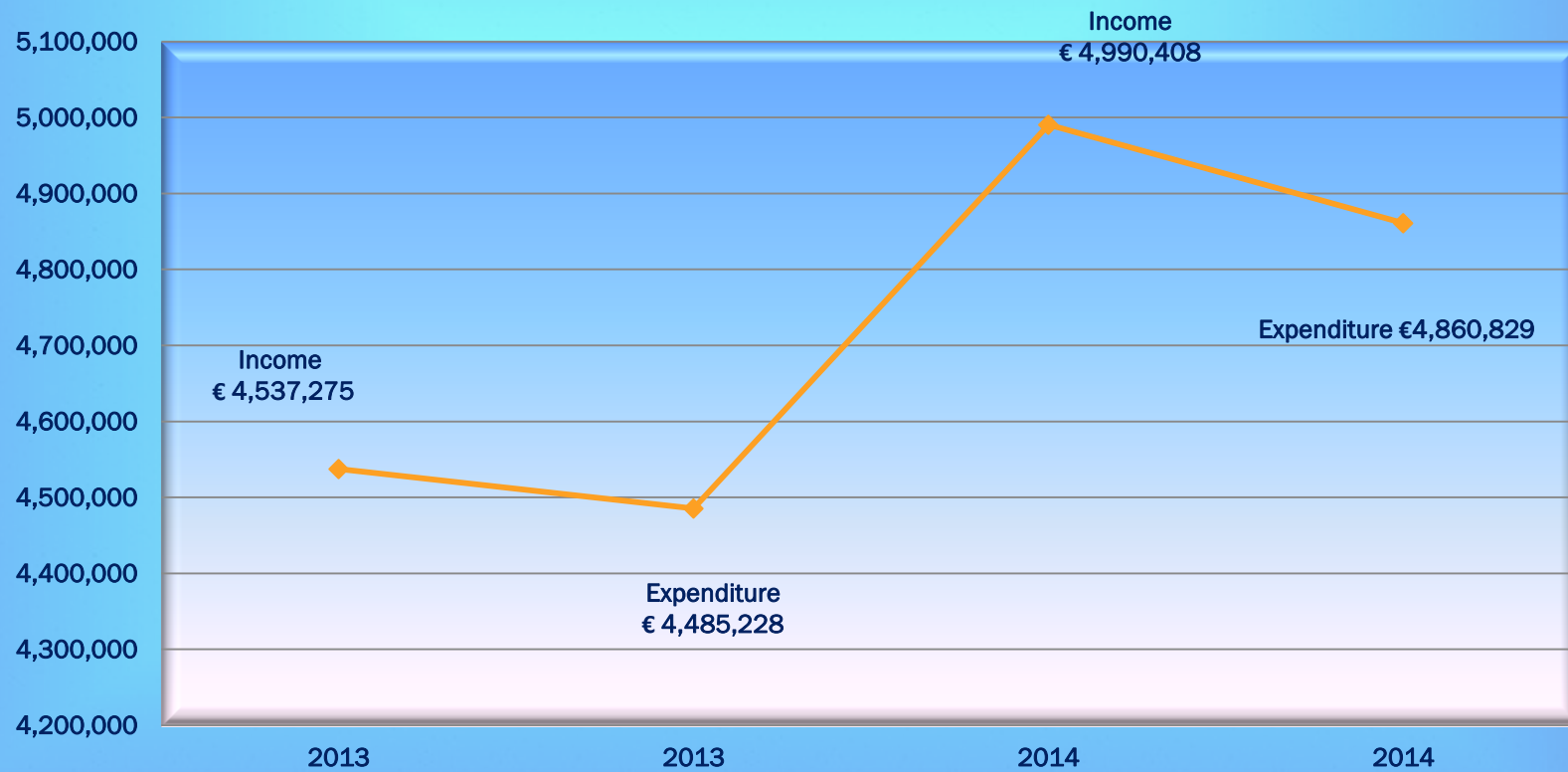
We rejoice these important achievements together and thank for all of your strong commitment and hard work!

Alemayehu, LWF WASH manager, doing his daily rounds at the camp. He was chosen by UNOCHA as a Humanitarian Hero on World Humanitarian Day 2014.



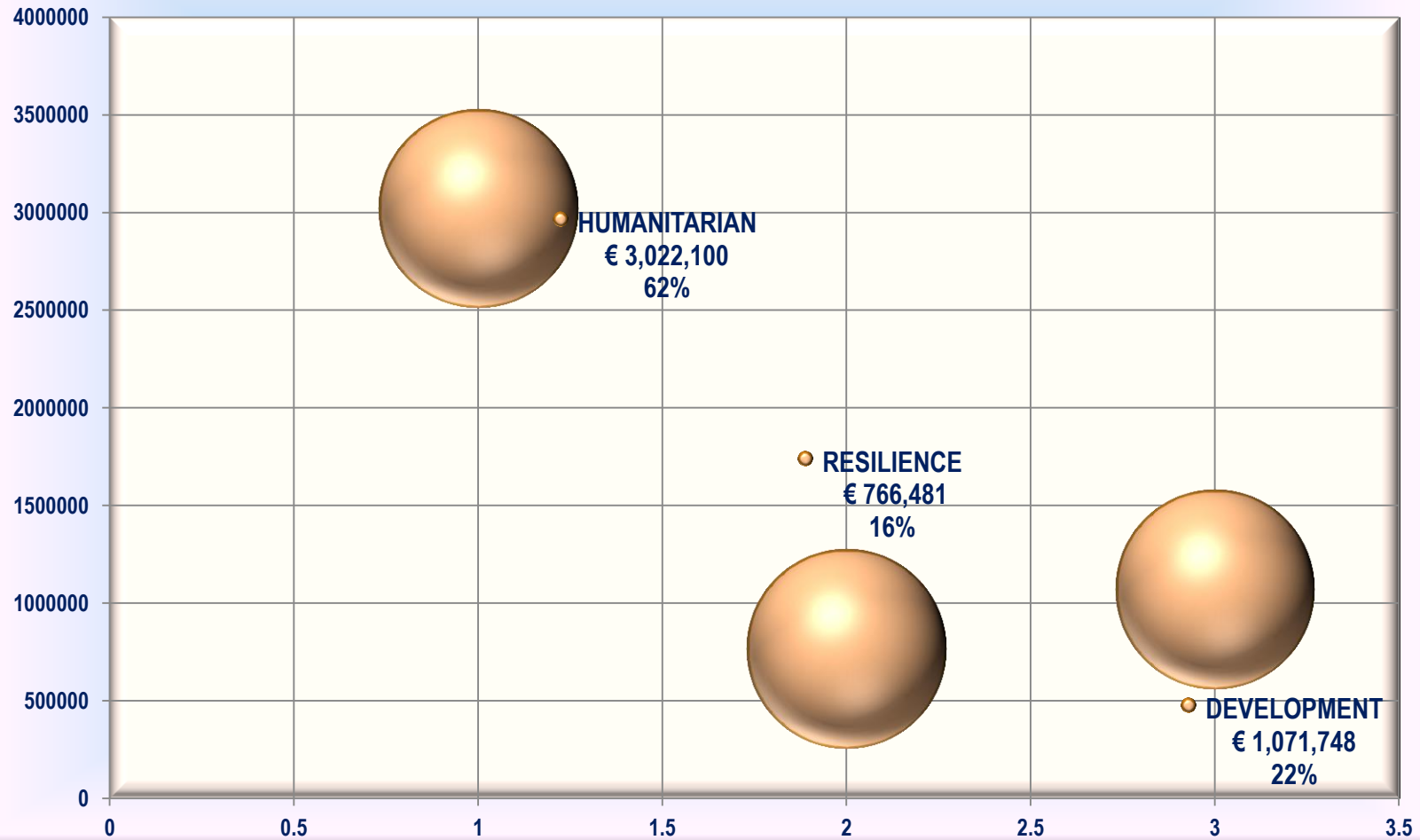
# 2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## LWF ETHIOPIA 2013 - 2014 TOTAL INCOME- EXPENDITURE COMPARISON CHART IN €



# 2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

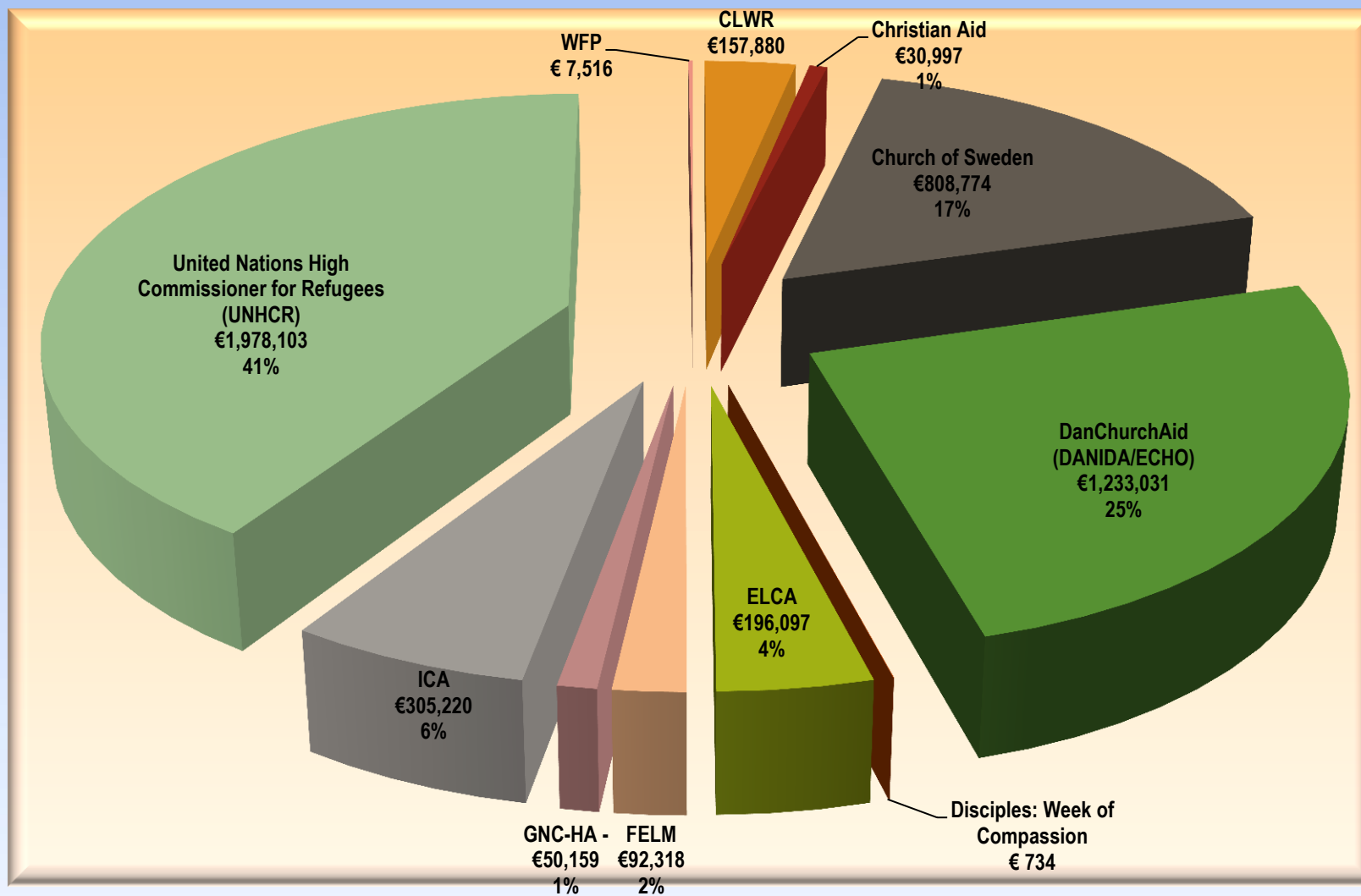
## 2014 LWF Ethiopia Total Income & Distribution by Sector in €





# 2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## DISTRIBUTION OF 2014 INCOME BY FUNDING SOURCES





Humanitarian Aid  
and Civil Protection  
**DAN CHURCH AID**



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