

Partners in the Horn of Africa is addressing the problems of Ethiopia and follows two unique principles:

- 100% of all donations go directly into projects in Ethiopia. Our Board members work voluntarily and cover all operating costs.
- Each project has an Ethiopian "partner" who contributes 15-20% of the project cost, usually in the form of labour.

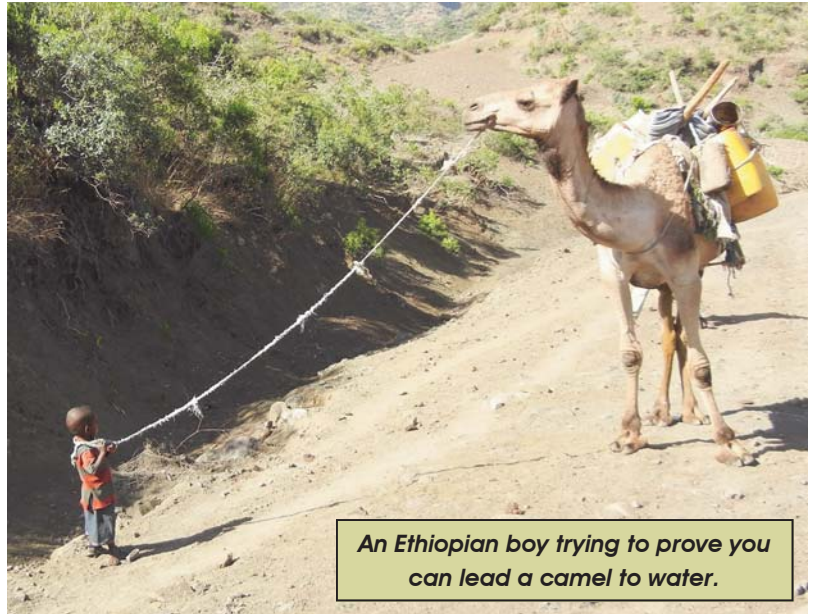
The Dilemma of Clean Water

Water projects are among the most important and the most challenging for international charities. That certainly has been the experience of *Partners in the Horn of Africa*.

The need for clean water in developing countries is basic and pressing. In rural Ethiopia only 26% of the population has access to clean water; one of the lowest rates in the developing world. This shortage has a profound effect on its people: water borne diseases, particularly diarrhea in infants, cause unnecessary deaths and personal hygiene is seriously compromised. Young girls who should be in school spend hours lugging water great distances.

Solutions are hard to come by. Most Ethiopians live "off road" in extended family clusters, far from water mains. Electricity is usually not available to operate pumps and drilling rigs cannot easily access off-road sites. Maintenance is also a problem. It is estimated that 30% of hand dug wells in sub-Saharan Africa are not working 2 years after installation. Investing donations into providing clean water is a risky proposition. For that reason many charities invest in "safer" enterprises.

The future of developing countries ultimately depends on their economic growth, but that growth will only come about when people can live safe and healthy lives. That requires clean water. *Partners in the Horn of Africa* is committed to providing clean water despite the risks.



An Ethiopian boy trying to prove you can lead a camel to water.

His parents can now trust the water at a Partners' protected spring.



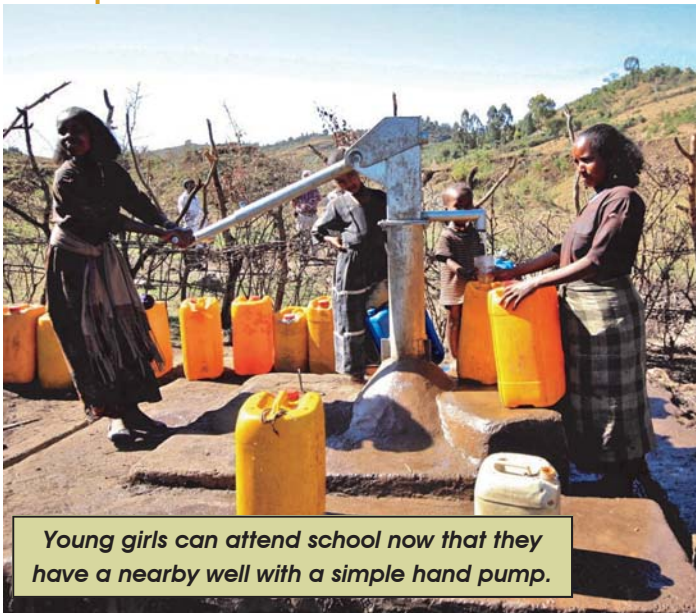
"It's so nice to be able to drink water from a glass. Before, we always drank from gourds so we wouldn't have to look at the dirty water."

- An elderly woman about the new clean water from a *Partners'* project

A Special Thanks

Again this year, **Disney's Club Penguin** has provided us with \$250,000 to build nine elementary school libraries and an entire high school in rural Ethiopia and to continue sponsorship of a kindergarten and home for street kids in Adet.

And **EBA, A Tetra Tech Company** is in the 5th year of a ten year commitment to develop 10 new water projects each year in rural Ethiopia.



Young girls can attend school now that they have a nearby well with a simple hand pump.

The surface area is cemented over and elevated so that water containers can be filled and transferred to one's back at a manageable level.

Springs are enclosed with a concrete collection box that protects the "eye" of the spring from erosion, runoff and farm animals. Water flows by gravity from the collection box, to a distribution spot accessible to the community.

Protected springs have several advantages over wells. They don't require a pump or faucets that might break; water simply moves 24/7 to the distribution point in a constant stream.

And because protected springs move water by gravity they can power simple showers. But protected springs are not always an option. If there is no spring in the area, a shallow well is the only solution.

Partners' water projects give the community a major stake in developing and "owning" the project. They are simple and inexpensive and built with manual labour under the direction of a community water committee. Using local labour fits nicely into **Partners'** principle that each project must have an Ethiopian 'partner' who contributes a minimum of 15-20% of the project cost.

Local water committees oversee selection of sites, construction and ongoing maintenance. The committees collect a small amount from each

Partners' Water Projects... Simple and Inexpensive

Partners and the communities we work with dig shallow wells (up to 20 metres deep) and develop distribution systems for existing springs. In the last 10 years we have dug 47 shallow wells and protected 20 springs. A well or spring typically provides clean water for 300-500 people. **Partners'** water projects have brought clean water to approximately 30,000 people.

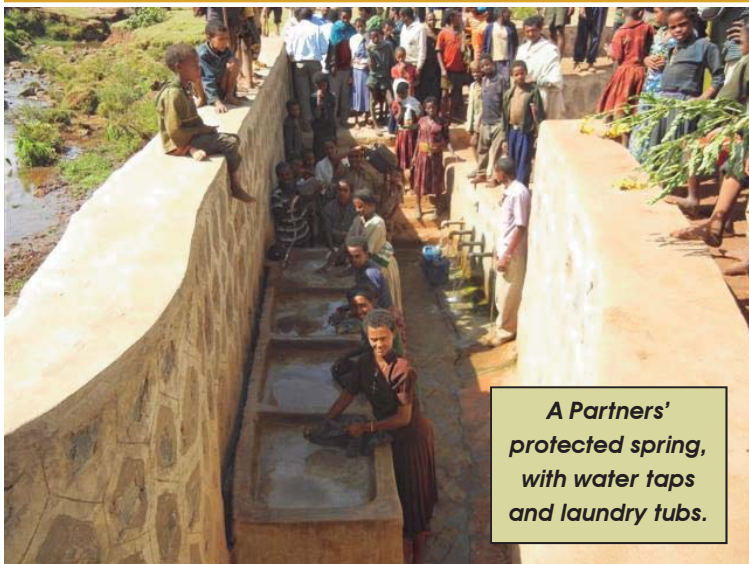
Shallow wells are one metre in diameter and hand dug by the community. When water is reached the well is lined with concrete rings and a hand pump installed.



Household water source before a Partners protected spring project.



Cattle watering can now be separated so water quality is protected.



A Partners' protected spring, with water taps and laundry tubs.

household to pay for a guard who is responsible for opening and closing the site at times set by the community. At other times the facility is under lock and key, invariably behind makeshift fences that protect the project from animals and adventurous kids. A community lucky enough to have clean water takes extraordinary steps to protect it.

Risk/Reward... Revisited

A community without clean water invariably makes this its first priority when aid is available...before schools, health clinics or any other project. That is telling for an organization like **Partners**, which accepts that a community is the best judge of its needs. Still, the failure rate of water projects is high. The most careful planning and intense community involvement cannot dig through bedrock and pumps fail over time...often long after the aid providers have gone and when money is not available for replacements. That is why it is essential to establish local water committees and transfer to the community the responsibility and ability to maintain the structure for years to come.

Despite the risks, clean water is too important to the health and welfare of rural Ethiopia to be forsaken for simpler, safer projects.

Recently, **Partners** was asked to make the lead presentation at a Conference in Ethiopia for government officials and local and international NGOs.

"The reaction of attendees to our charity was hard to express. Ato Gelata (the head Ethiopian Official for the West Gojjam Zone) told participants that Partners is a model NGO and his zone would like other charities to follow its practices of doing more with less, using locally available knowledge and resources, demonstrating a high degree of transparency and working in real partnership with local communities and government offices."

- Yehalem Metiku, Partners' Country Representative



Director Dave Cosco (right) sampling the water at a Partners' project on his annual trip to Ethiopia.

Tesfaye Kifle recently joined our Ethiopian staff as Deputy Country Representative. Tesfaye obtained his B.Ed. in 1996. After graduation Tesfaye spent 4 ½ years as a teacher and education coordinator at a large orphanage in Ethiopia. For the past 10 years he has been a teacher in Ethiopia's best school and is presently completing his Masters in curriculum design, instruction and evaluation.

Tesfaye's job focus will be on **Partners'** efforts to upgrade teaching skills in elementary and high schools. He is one of Ethiopia's top experts on effective teaching methodologies and teacher evaluation and came to **Partners** because he strongly believes in our model and is committed to helping other Ethiopians to help themselves.

Tesfaye and his wife Tigist have two sons and live in Addis Ababa.



Celebrating 10 Years

This spring at our annual Ethiopian Dinner/AGM in Vancouver, **Partners** celebrated its 10th year of operations in Ethiopia. We've done a lot in that time.

In our first year of operations **Partners** completed 1 project, in the second , 4 projects. This year 65 projects are underway. Over the 10 years **Partners** has completed 225 projects.

In our first year of operation we raised \$20,000; last year slightly over \$1 million. During that time our staff has grown from 1 part time director to 6 full time employees.

We are proud to say that we have not used any donations over the ten years to cover administrative costs. Those costs are paid by a separate charity (Friends of the Horn of Africa), which is funded by **Partners'** directors and a small number of foundations and personal donors.

With your help **Partners in the Horn of Africa** has accomplished a lot and improved the lives of many people in one of poorest parts of the world. Those people are appreciative and, on their behalf, we thank you for your generosity.



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Our mission is to improve the lives of Ethiopians. We listen to their needs and partner with them on projects that empower communities and individuals and contribute to their well being.

Our Board of Directors

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Patricia Blocksom
David Cosco
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Rebecca Maurer
John McAlpine
Vince Ready
Brooke Sundin



Our first footbridge built in Agarfa in 2002. Each of our bridges prevents many lives being lost to drowning, and allows year round access to medical care, schools and markets.



Our current more refined footbridge design. This bridge was built over the Shalo River in 2007.



Currently under construction, our 14th footbridge is our most ambitious bridge project yet. It will have two 55 metre spans over the Blue Nile and impact the lives of 205,000 people.

Moving? Please let us know your new address so we can keep in touch.

Email? Let us know if you prefer to receive your Newsletter by email.

Your donations are making a difference in the lives of many Ethiopians. On their behalf, we thank you.

We are a recognized Canadian charity and issue tax receipts for all donations.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
- Margaret Mead

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