

Water programming in Amhara region

CARE Ethiopia has been implementing Water programs in Amhara State Region for almost 2 decades, funded by multiple sources. The SWEEP project was implemented from November 2017 to 2021 and the second phase project (IWRA) is under implementation since Dec2021. Both projects are funded by the Austrian Development Agency and both have the objective of improving the food security and resiliency of chronically food insecure households, especially rural women living in Belesa woredas of central Gondar

The decision making in the family has changed. Before my husband decided on everything. Now we take decisions together.

VSLA

'Before we needed to ask permission to our husbands before leaving home. Now we go out when we want

'We are enlightening our husbands

CARE Ethiopia is doing an extraordinary work in leveraging various funding sources (including the ADA programs) to put together an very comprehensive Water programming in the area, with VSLAs s a main entry point, has been working on HH access to WASH, schools' WSASH, agriculture irrigation and natural resources and watershed management, with a water systems' logic.



One of the main features of these programs is the strong emphasis on ensuring the **sustainability** of the activities once the funding is over.

Institutional sustainability. The programs are coordinating extremely with the local authorities. In fact, one of the most innovative ideas has been the establishment of VSLAs for female staff of the local water and agriculture bureaus, as a way ensure their familiarity with the model. The program also puts strong emphasis on enhancing the WASH, irrigation and watershed management committees, who get comprehensive trainings and capacity building. All the activities are demand driven and led by the communities.

Economic sustainability. Instead of funding in full the investments, as it is the case for other projects, the program requests communities' contribution. Initially it was 50% but in some cases the communities are now able to afford the full investment on their own and the project superoxide technical support. The program has also experimented with various options for private sector investment (e.g solid waste monument



Watershed Committee

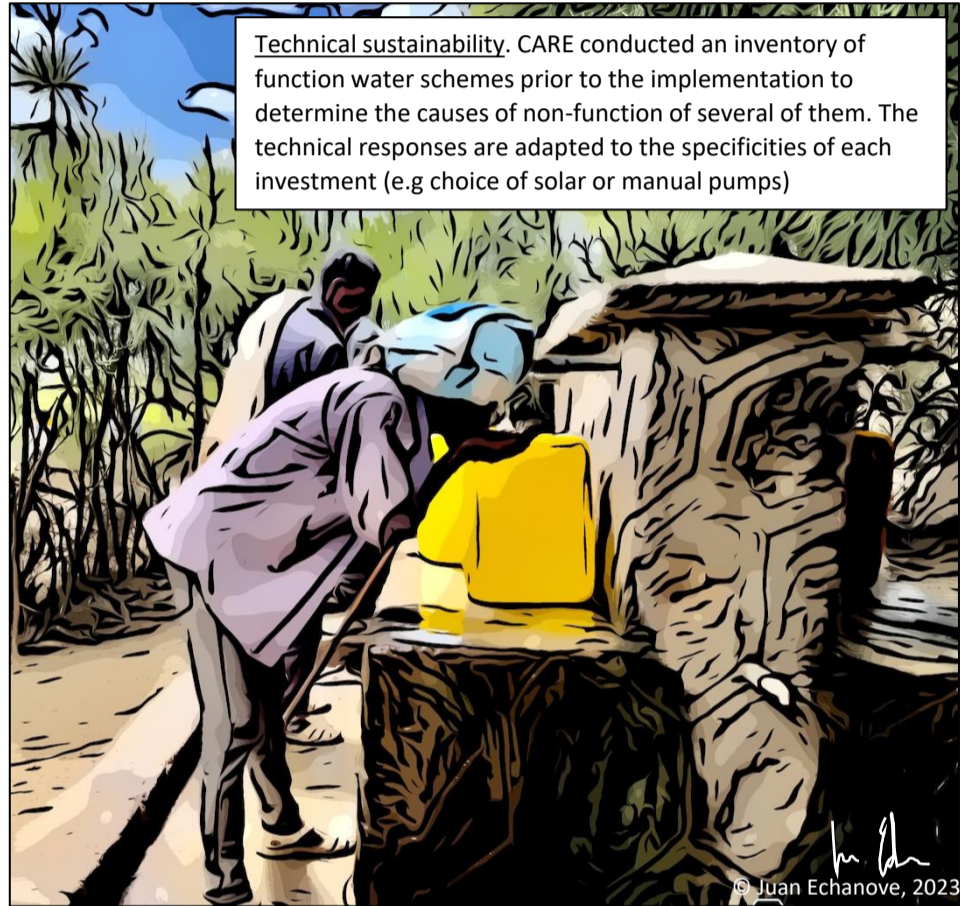


Environmental sustainability. We visited a site where the watershed was restored 12 years ago and it was impressive to see how empowered the community was and how conscious of the benefits of proper resources management



The project is also doing a great work in school WASH. Before the project, the sanitary condition of the 1,100 students Worahela school were really bad add water points in the school were non-functional.

The project established clubs such as school WASH student members, Menstrual Hygiene club female students' members, rehabilitated the latrine, constructed hand washing stations; and trained the club members and students on basic skill on hygiene and sanitation



Technical sustainability. CARE conducted an inventory of function water schemes prior to the implementation to determine the causes of non-function of several of them. The technical responses are adapted to the specificities of each investment (e.g choice of solar or manual pumps)

Conclusions

IWRA project team is very strong on WASH; great cohesion/synergies among different WASH programs in the region; project team eager to innovate and has been able to be creative in ways that are not always possible with other donors; great sense of ownership among government and community; VSLAs are a great foundation (great idea that government representatives have also formed a VSLA). gender balance in WASH/NRM committees could be better, would be great for the team to build on the WASH foundation and focus more on agriculture & market linkages and youth & livelihoods