

# SELF-SUPPLY ACCELERATION PROGRAMME (SSAP) ETHIOPIA

Households taking the lead in the construction,  
upgrading and maintenance of their own water sources

**Ministry of Water and Energy**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**





## Self-supply – invest in people’s priorities

When families invest their own time and money in securing their water supply we should sit up and take notice. Nothing is more demand-driven than what people choose to do for themselves.

“Self-supply” takes place when people dig their own wells or construct water harvesting systems at household level. These self-motivated efforts are life-sustaining for families and for neighbours and make a massive contribution to the pattern of local water services.

Self-supply develops where water services are poor or non-existent as families seek to reduce the time it takes to fetch water and increase the amount available for household use and livelihoods. It brings the convenience of a household supply at low cost; one that is sustained because self-supply means commitment as well as investment.

In a world where governments and donors struggle to meet their obligations, this vital piece of the jig-saw adds value to investments and delivers low-cost gains in coverage.

Self-supply generates income for those who make a living by digging wells and constructing rainwater harvesting systems. It contributes to livelihoods for families who develop market gardens and small livestock businesses. With encouragement and support, the organic growth in self-supply can be greatly expanded, especially in remote areas with scattered populations that public services don’t reach.

Supporting self-supply harnesses people’s own family priorities and unlocks small-scale household investments that together can outstrip contributions of governments and donors. It is part of the future for successful water services.

It should be supported. That is the objective of the Self-supply Acceleration Programme (SSAP).

## The Self-supply Acceleration Programme (SSAP) Ethiopia

Ethiopia's Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector has made significant progress over the past decade, yet the challenges remain with low rates of coverage with improved (community level) sources and ambitious targets to provide water rapidly to all in rural areas in the country. According to the Ethiopian National WASH Inventory, rural water supply coverage in 2010 was 49% based on the Government's coverage norm of 15 liters per capita per day within 1,500 meters of the homestead. This shows the need to do more than the 'conventional' approach to WASH. A number of alternative, cost effective approaches are urgently needed to accomplish and sustain Growth and Transformation Programme (GTP) WASH objectives.

Responding to this challenge, the water policy of the Ethiopian Government has, since 2010, been to give more emphasis to lower cost technologies and Self-supply approach to accelerate coverage. It emphasizes the scaling up of Self-supply through the proportion of family owned wells and manually drilled boreholes fitted with low cost handpump such as the Rope and Washer pump. Self-supply is expected to increase demand for the production and supply of rope pumps, which are also being promoted for productive uses of water. Research studies have confirmed and identified the still untapped potential of Self-supply in the country and acknowledged the need to develop a much more enabling environment for it to be taken up to scale and progress accelerated to support Government's target: universal access.

Government policy is being reshaped accordingly. Self-supply is now included as a service delivery model in the national WASH Implementation Framework (WIF). The National Policy Guideline for Self-supply in Ethiopia was developed by the multi-stakeholder Self-supply Working Group (SSWG) and endorsed by the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) in February 2012. Members of the working group involved included MoWE, IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, UNICEF, WHO, RiPPLE and CoWASH. Self-supply is considered complementary to community-managed water supply and specifically the Community Managed Project (CMP) financing modality where actual project implementation and its financial management is carried out by the community, but takes this to a lower level. Households and small groups take the initiative. Self-supply is now integrated in the One WASH National Programme (OWNP), as a 'strategic intervention area', working to improve access to household-level and shared water supplies, and part of providing universal access. Self-supply has to be proactively supported in a number of ways, other than by subsidizing infrastructure. Self-supply Acceleration is all about building the enabling environment for the market to take Self-supply to scale. It means investment in 'software' including advocacy

and promotion, the development of a 'menu' of technical options, capacity building and training, private sector development, the establishment of supply chains, the mobilization of micro savings and credit schemes, quality control, and water quality surveillance, by the government and its development partners.

Self-supply Acceleration seeks to speed up the required process of private household investment in supplies through providing appropriate support services. This support leverages funds from within communities and families to the development of water resources adding a new stream of finance to the investment already being made by government and donors.

## SSAP at a glance<sup>1</sup>

**Goal:** That the Self-supply approach significantly contributes to increasing access to sustainable improved water supplies in Ethiopia for drinking, sanitation and hygiene and small-scale productive uses, with adequate inclusion of the poorest people.

**Measuring success:** The SSAP intends that 100,000 family wells will be developed or upgraded within five years across five regions, benefitting at least 2 million people with better access to safe water for drinking, sanitation and hygiene and productive uses .

**Link to national (and international) priorities and plans:** The SSAP is contributing to goals and targets set out in Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Programme (GTP 2011-2015) Universal Access Plan II, Health Sector Development Plan IV and the One WASH National Programme (OWNP).

- SSAP is contributing to MDG 7: by 2015, to half the proportion of people without access to improved water supply and sanitation.

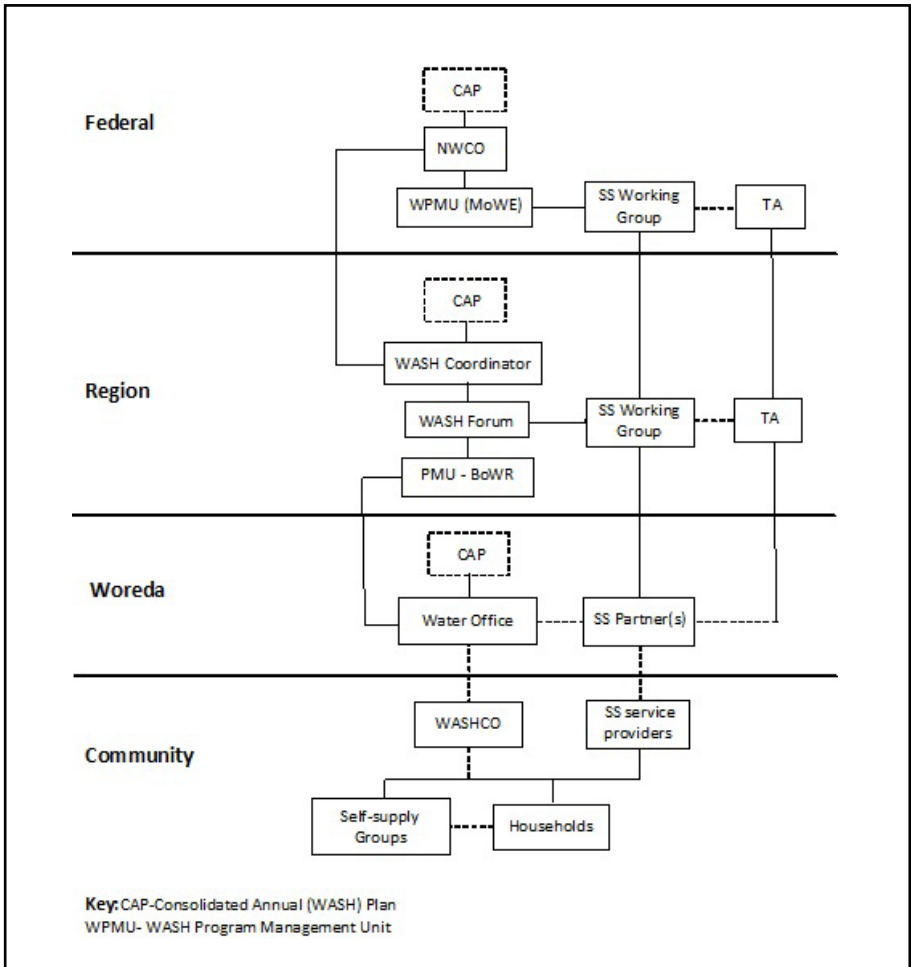
**Programme finances:** Total public investment expected: 14.3 million USD

- Estimated cost of Self-supply acceleration: 7 USD per beneficiary.
- Estimated amount of household-investment leveraged: 28 million USD (2 USD per public dollar invested)

**Programme duration:** From: 1 July 2013 to: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018

---

1 The supply Implementation proposal was developed by the SSWG and approved by MoWE in June 2013. Its forms an integral part of the OWNPN and the SSAP.



**COMMUNITY-WATER SUPPLIES LEVERAGE LITTLE OR NO PRIVATE INVESTMENT. BASED UPON EXPERIENCES IN UGANDA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE, SELF-SUPPLY ACCELERATION (SSA) CAN BE EXPECTED TO LEVERAGE SIGNIFICANT PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD INVESTMENT, TRIPLING THE VALUE OF THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT MADE.**

## Intended outcomes of the Self-supply Acceleration Programme:

1. Self-supply sources which reach the minimum standards are incorporated into woreda and regional level coverage data and reported as part of the national sector performance statistics.
2. In each focal woreda, at least five local enterprises are able to provide products and services on a commercially viable basis to private water users, communities and institutions.
3. Rural dwellers in the focal woredas have informed choice about three to five affordable and reliable technologies for Self-supply.
4. Reliable and fair financial mechanisms in the focal woredas are accessed by private households, communities and private enterprises to improve rural water supplies. At least 10 micro-finance institutions systematically provide services to support households and businesses related to Self-supply.
5. At least 20 woredas and 10 NGO's proactively promote Self-supply approach and associated good hygiene and sanitation practices in rural areas.
6. All woredas in areas of Ethiopia with good potential for Self-supply (estimated as around half of all woredas) are aware of the Self-supply activities in the 20 focal woredas and equipped with guidance and reference materials for replication in their own woredas.
7. A vibrant network for Self-supply is in place at national and regional level as evidenced by reports and minutes of meetings, and active contributions are made to international and conferences on Self-supply in Ethiopia.
8. There is a significant increase in the numbers of households which are investing in their own water supplies (new sources and upgrading existing sources) and have adopted good hygiene and sanitation practices in the focal woredas and beyond, based on reported data by woredas, the national WASH inventory and other surveys.



*Self-supply acceleration: small investment by well owners and well users can lead to significant improvements in water quality*

**HOUSEHOLDS USE FAMILY WELLS FOR SMALL-SCALE PRODUCTIVE USES, KEEPING LIVESTOCK AND SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION, DRINKING AND DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY. FAMILY WELLS ARE ALSO CONVENIENT, THAT'S WHY PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO INVEST.**

## Doing things differently

Self-supply is complementary but different, as compared to conventional communal water supply approaches. The roles and responsibilities of key players are changed:

**Households** become 'the implementer', and are the main entry point to self-supply. They invest and manage their own water supply improvements. They need to be convinced that improvements to their water supply will benefit their families and enhance their status within the community.

**Private sector** becomes a direct supplier to households, either in the form of providing hardware (pumps, ropes etc.), or services (maintenance, drilling, construction, advice on appropriate technologies etc.). Micro-finance banks and saving schemes have a role to facilitate the necessary investments in household water supply.

**Government and NGOs**, at all levels, become the main facilitator and promoter of the approach, by researching, demonstrating, promotion and marketing of household improvements, providing training, and facilitating financing of loans.

For this different approach, where the investment of adequate resources in developing both supply and demand are key, advocacy and promotion activities will play a central role in this programme.

**SSAP WILL ONLY SUCCEED IF REGIONS ADOPT SELF-SUPPLY IN THEIR ANNUAL REGIONAL PLANNING AND BUDGETTING.**



**Implementing partners**

The SSAP is led by the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) at federal level and by regional and woreda level governments. The programme is supported by the Ministry of Agriculture (linking to Small-Scale Irrigation), Ministry of Health (linking to Household Water Treatment and Community-led Total Sanitation) and linked to MOFED initiatives.

Other key partners are Community Based Organizations (including Water and Sanitation Committees), NGOs, Technical Vocational and Education Training Colleges (TVETs) and the private sector.

**Strategic partners**

MoWE is supported by a Self-supply Working Group (SSWG) to implement the programme. The SSWG is led by the MOWE, co-led by IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, and consists the members UNICEF, WHO, RIPPLE, CoWASH, and the strategic partners IDE, Millennium Water Alliance and JICA .





## **CONTACT**

### **Mrs. Zewditu Yilma**

Self-supply focal person, Ministry of Water and Energy (MOWE)  
& Chair Self-supply Working Group (SSWG)  
Ministry of Water and Energy, Ethiopia  
Email: zewditu50@gmail.com

### **Mrs. Inge Klaassen**

Co-chair Self-supply Working Group (SSWG)  
IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre  
Email: klaassen@irc.nl