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ANNUAL REPORT

LWF

World Service Ethiopia

2022

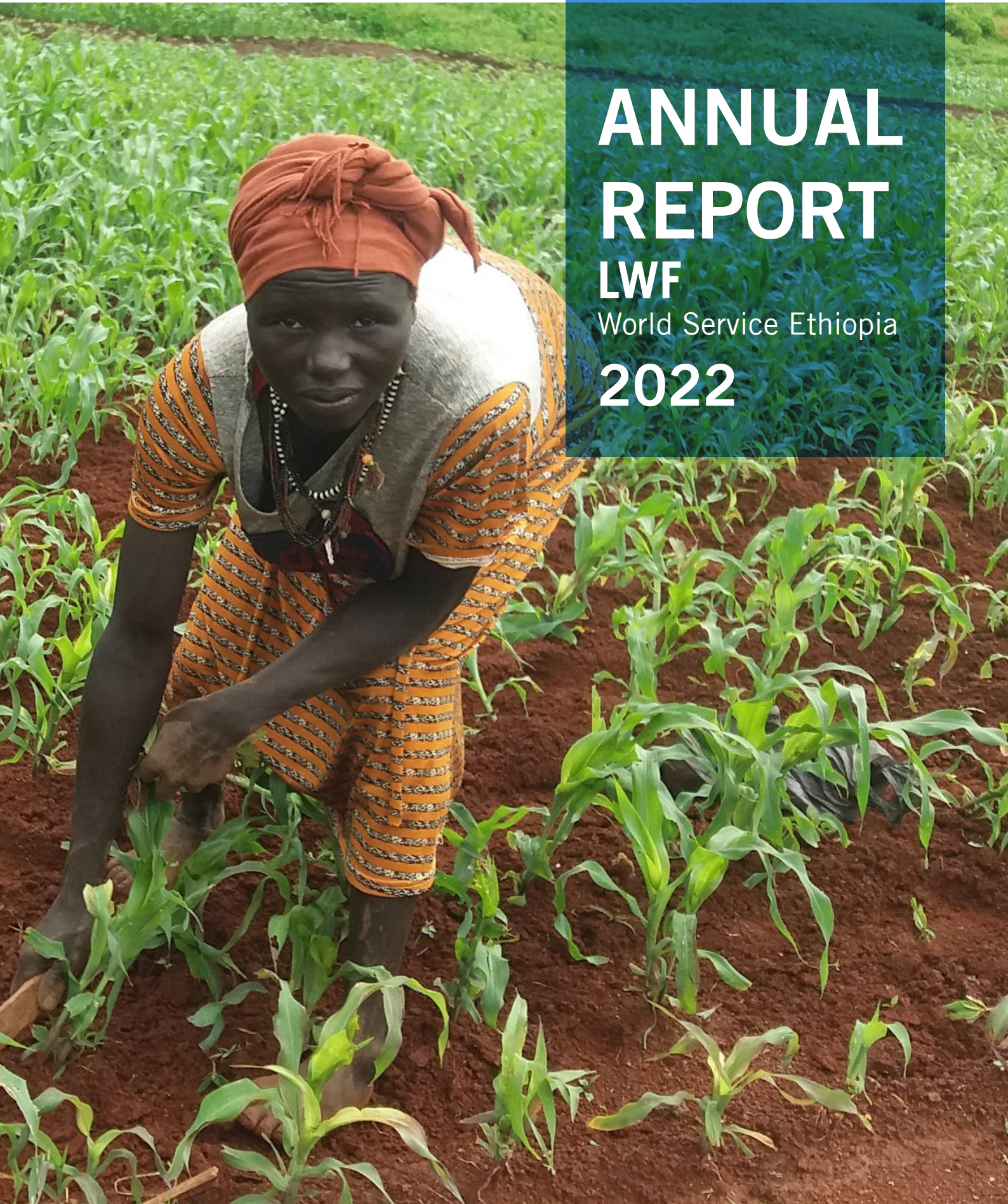




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Representative's message



The year 2022 was ushered in, shrouded in gloomy prospects, given the unresolved Northern Ethiopia conflict which continued unabated throughout 2022 until November when the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) was signed in Pretoria, South Africa. Other inter-communal conflicts raging in different parts of the country exacerbated the dire situation. Throughout the year, the country continued to face conflict and climate-induced calamities, including the five consecutive failed rains and severe droughts in some parts of the country.

LWF received a total of EUR 5,944,392 total income. More than 80% percent of the program income EUR 5,320,212, that is EUR 4,461,466 (84%) was allocated to humanitarian response and the remaining 16% equivalent to EUR 858,746 was directed to support development programming. The resource allocation is consistent with the socio-political context which was marked by multiple humanitarian crises. These resources were spread across the three programmatic areas of Protection and Social Cohesion (5%), Quality services (77%) and Livelihoods (18%).

LWF Ethiopia operated in Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, and Somali and Tigray Regional States reaching a total of 360,663 direct right holders out of whom 181,617 (50.3) were women through emergency and development and nexus programming.

Our work was made possible by the generous contributions from our partners and donors across the world, the Host Government, our hard working, committed staff and the affected populations we work with. We thank you for your partnership and support and look forward to 2023 with hope and a better future.

We invite to read this annual report for a glimpse into our collective work during the year.

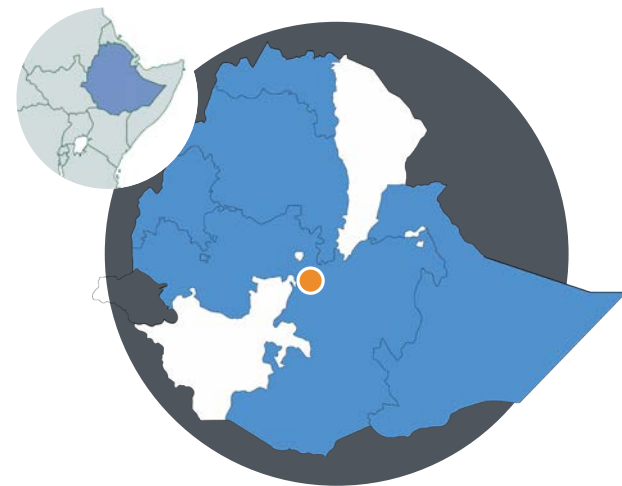
Sincerely,

Sophie Gebreyes
Country Representative

LWF Ethiopia at glance

About us

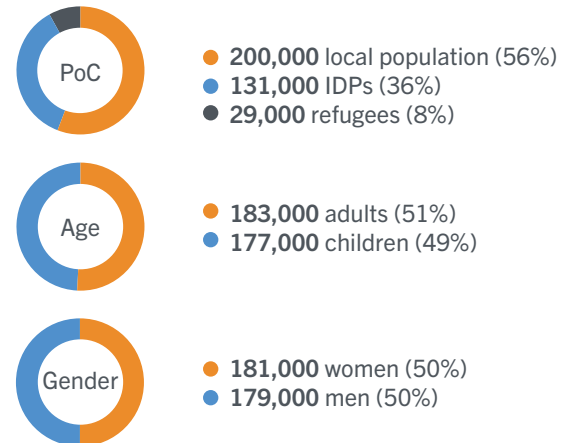
Ethiopia is one of the world's fastest growing countries with an estimated population of 110 million people. Yet despite increased economic growth in the past decade, Ethiopia still ranks near the bottom of the Human Development Index. LWF Ethiopia responds to crises and needs assisting refugees, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and vulnerable local communities.



- Country office
 - Addis Ababa
- Operations
 - Tigray
 - Amhara
 - Gambella
 - Oromia
 - Somali

Who we work with

In 2022, LWF Ethiopia supported more than **360,000** Persons of Concern (PoC)

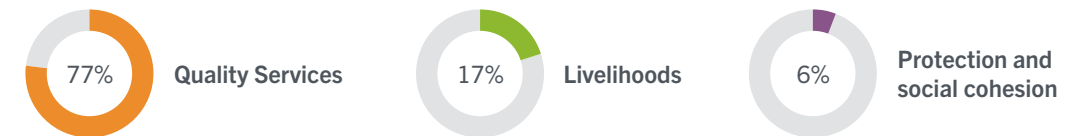


“The solar panel I received from LWF gives me light during the night. Two of my children use the light to read and do their homework. I use the light to prepare food and other things in the evening. In the past, I used to stay up until 8 pm and work in complete darkness, but now I can even stay up until late at night and have enough time to finish all my work.”

Rukiya Mohamed, a 55-year-old woman, lives in one of the 57 households that received a solar panel and lamp from LWF Ethiopia.

Our impact

LWF Ethiopia's work is grounded in three programmatic areas: livelihoods, quality services and increasingly in protection and social cohesion following the Civil Society Proclamation. Gender and climate justice are key areas of focus that cut across all of LWF Ethiopia's programming. The sections below highlight the work of LWF Ethiopia and the achievements recorded in the three programmatic areas in 2022. An investment of 5,3 million euros was made in programming in 2022.



QUALITY SERVICES

7,200 individuals benefitted from a food assistance project in the Lasta woreda
24,305 individuals fleeing conflicts in the Northern Amhara region were supported through shelter and non-food items distribution



LIVELIHOODS

400,000 trees were planted in degraded and communal lands with a survival rate of 78%
400 vulnerable farmers were covered by a micro climate insurance to cover harvest loss



PROTECTION & SOCIAL COHESION

860 children benefitted from child friendly spaces
34 legal cases identified by a new LWF mobile court were referred to a service provider for legal counselling



CROSS-CUTTING FOCUS AREAS

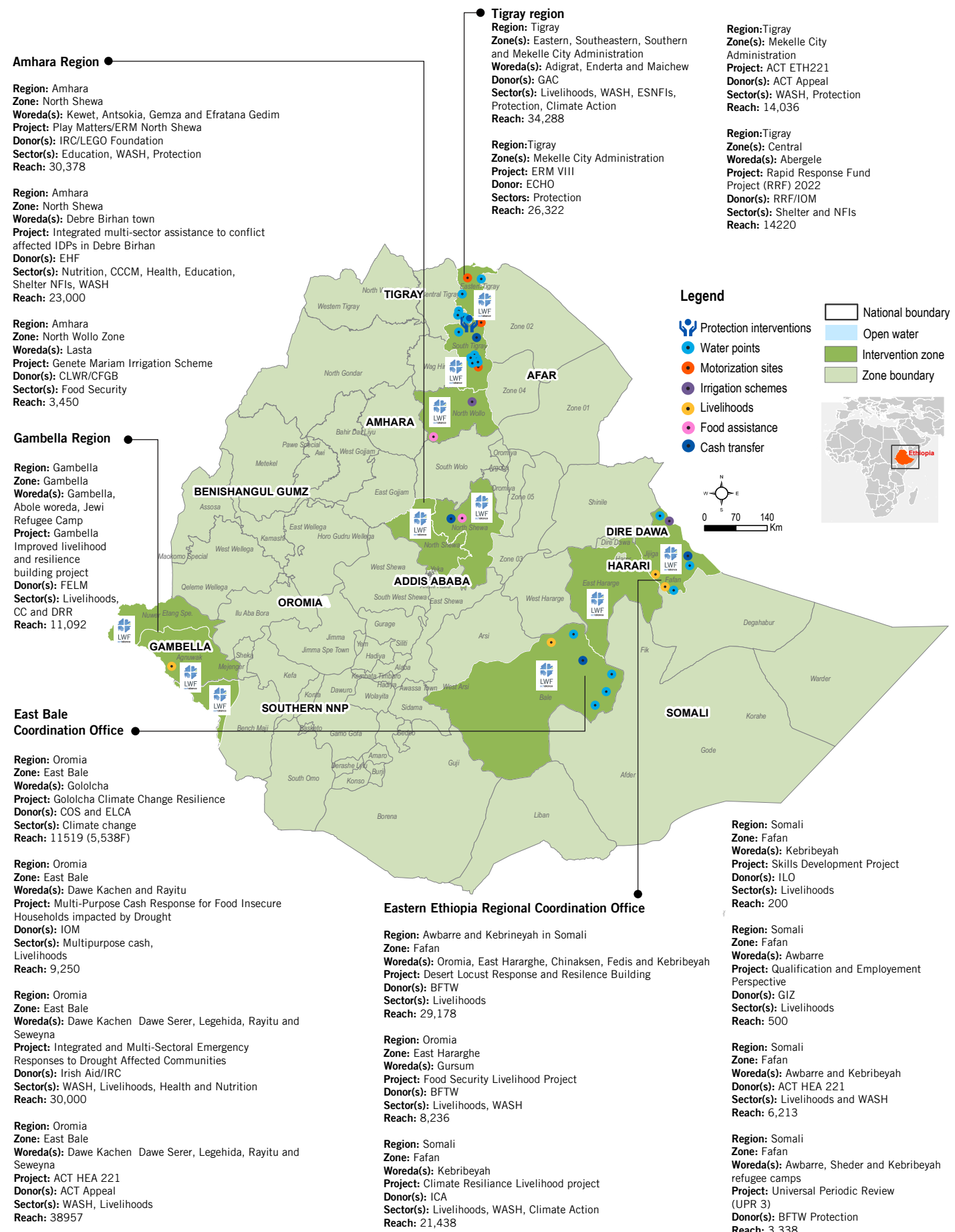
Gender justice
Climate justice
Core humanitarian standards
Empowerment and rights-based approach



In the Seba Kare IDP camp near Mekelle, LWF successfully constructed a water supply system. Prior to that, water had to be brought by truck to the extremely arid region. As the new system was completed, potable water became accessible to almost 11,000 internally displaced people and host community members.

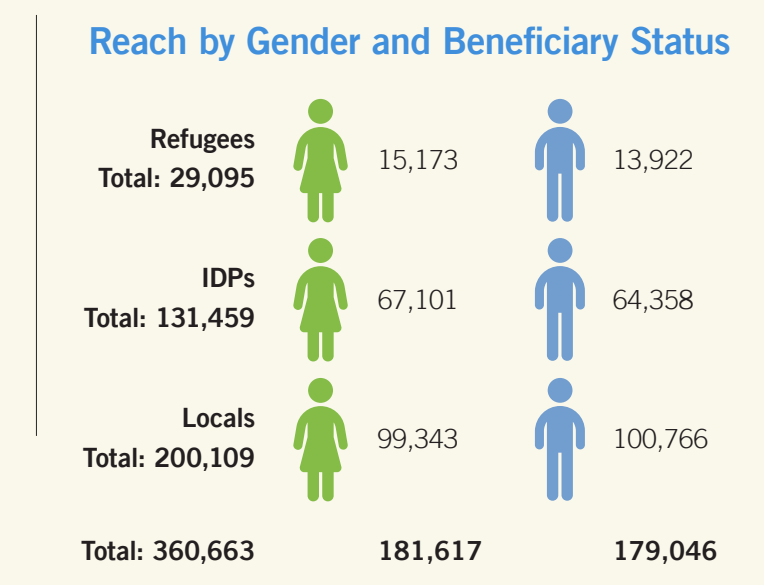
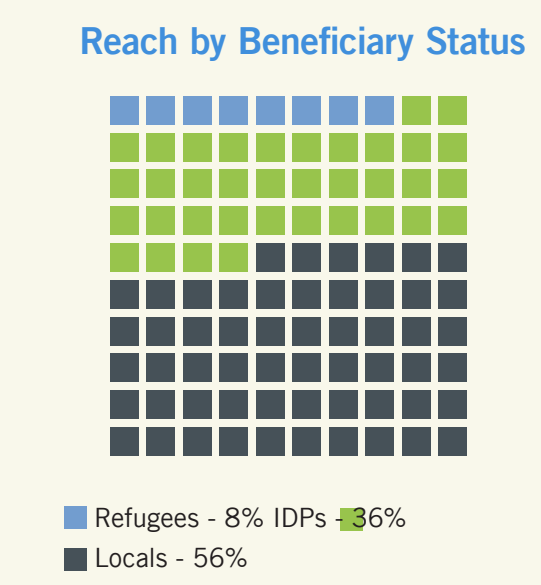
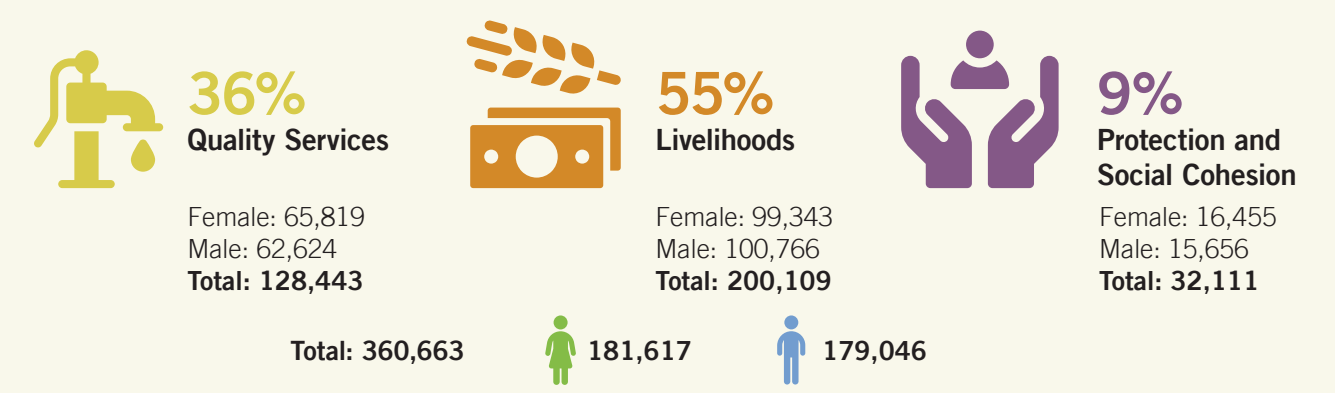
“LWF and the other organizations that collaborated, can now use the funds we had put aside for water trucking for other life-saving interventions, such as provision of emergency shelter, relief goods, emergency food supply, protection services and community based psychosocial support among others,” says Charles Masanga, LWF Ethiopia Program Coordinator.

Operational map



Reach in 2022

The total number of population reached in 2022 by the country program's various interventions in the humanitarian and development programs is 360,663 (181,617 female, 179,046 male), 15.2 % higher to the previous year, which attributed mainly to increased response capacity of LWF in 2022 both to the conflict and drought affected communities. Of the total reach of 2022, 131,459 (36%) are internally displaced people (IDP), 200,109 nationals (56%) and 29,095 refugees (9%). The number of IDPs reached by the country program in 2021 was 31% which increased to 36% with higher number of IDPs in 2022 indicating the increased level of displacement in 2022. Female right holders reached in 2022 is higher than male right holders by 0.4%.



Reach Actual by age group and beneficiary status

Age range	Refugees	IDPs	Locals	Overall Total
Females: 18+	2,961	32,576	52,305	87,842
Males: 18+	2,145	31,393	55,300	88,838
Females: 5-18	7,941	23,597	31,817	63,355
Males: 5-18	7,659	23,081	30,236	60,976
Females: under 5s	4,271	10,928	15,221	30,420
Males: under 5s	4,118	9,884	15,230	29,232
Total	29,095	131,459	200,109	360,663

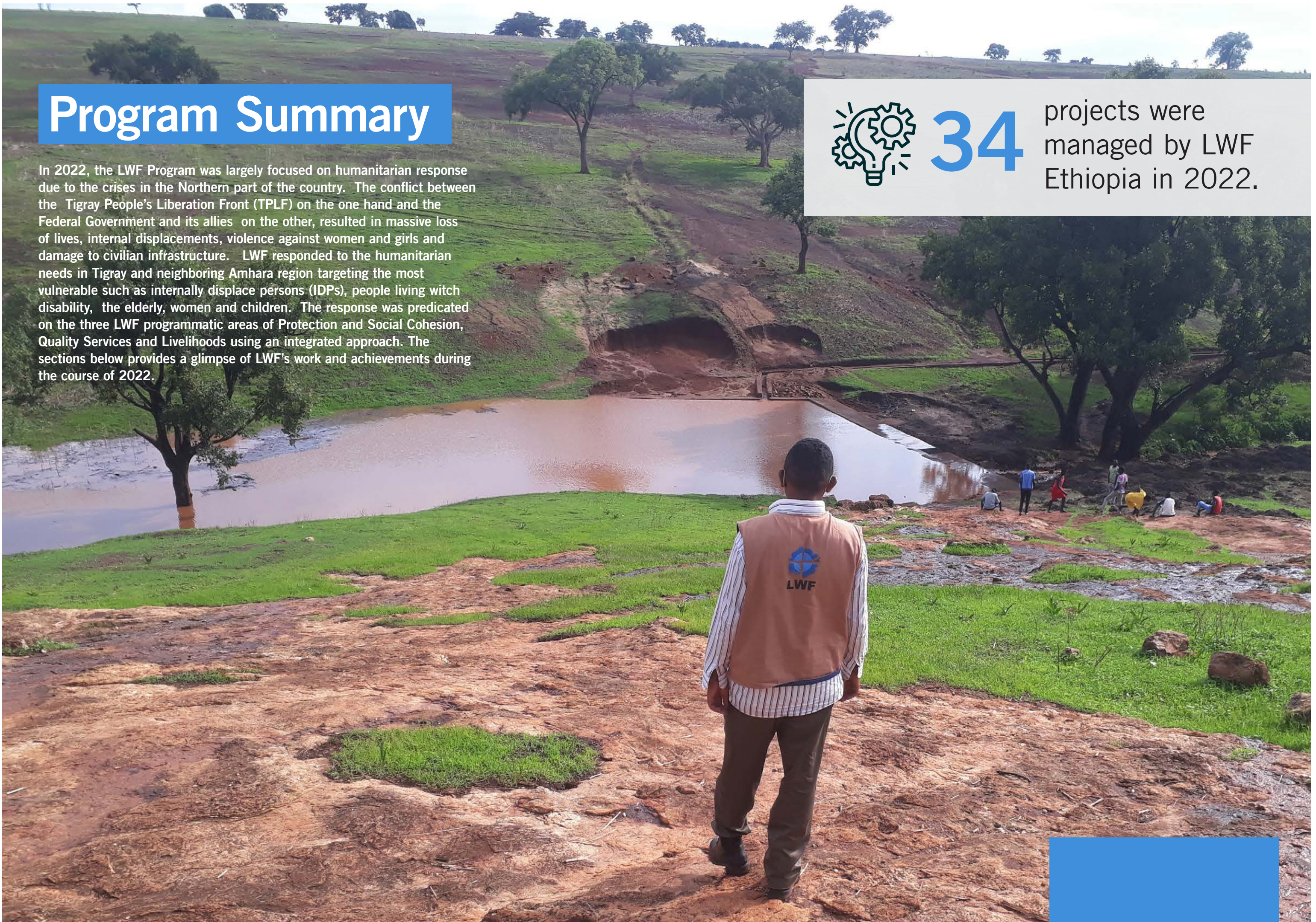
Program Summary

In 2022, the LWF Program was largely focused on humanitarian response due to the crises in the Northern part of the country. The conflict between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on the one hand and the Federal Government and its allies on the other, resulted in massive loss of lives, internal displacements, violence against women and girls and damage to civilian infrastructure. LWF responded to the humanitarian needs in Tigray and neighboring Amhara region targeting the most vulnerable such as internally displaced persons (IDPs), people living with disability, the elderly, women and children. The response was predicated on the three LWF programmatic areas of Protection and Social Cohesion, Quality Services and Livelihoods using an integrated approach. The sections below provides a glimpse of LWF's work and achievements during the course of 2022.



34

projects were managed by LWF Ethiopia in 2022.



Humanitarian

Response





860 children were supported through the provision of food and non-food items and education.



16,451 have benefited from protection activities in the Tigray region.



Protection and Social Cohesion

In the protection and social cohesion program areas, the key activities carried out in 2022 were under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) project that focuses on refugees' rights child protection, gender based violence (GBV) and community based psychosocial support (CBPS).

At the national level, the UPR Project is being implemented in Aw-barre, Sheder and Kebribeyah refugee camps. The project's most important activity in 2022 was the launch of the mobile court service in three refugee camps which facilitated 34 legal cases in the refugee camps and 12 in the host communities. Twenty-two out of the 34 cases identified from the refugee camps were referred to a specialized service provider/court. Individual court appointments were used to support 18 cases with support from LWF. Awareness raising was a key component of the UPR project and during the reporting year, more than 800 leaflets and posters carrying messages on right issues and gender-based violence (GBV) were developed in Somali, and distributed to refugees and host community members in all three camps.

The other project component is livelihoods under which 45 refugees who developed business plans were organized in nine groups, each with 5

members, to work as a group and pursue business opportunities and claim their economic rights. Previously, refugees did not have the opportunity and the means to develop businesses, obtain a work permit and open bank accounts. With the advent of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and Global Compact for Refugees, refugees are eligible for business licenses and work permits. LWF provided financial support of EUR 1,175 per group so that they could engage in various businesses as per their business plans. The process to obtain business license and work permit is in progress. The various support provided to the refugees have helped them to understand their rights well and actively engage with the project in different right promotion activities.

At the national level, LWF continued to work with a consortium of civil society organizations to build the capacities of national organizations to engage in advocacy. Accordingly, LWF together with the Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations (CHERO) organized different capacity building workshops on advocacy and monitoring of the implementation status of UPR and treaty-based recommendations accepted by the Ethiopian Government.



Children back to school in Mekelle and mundane activities breathe life into Seba Kare IDP Camp

Originally shared in May 2022

Children in Mekelle were out of school since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, and, with the eruption of the Tigray conflict on November the 4th 2020, classrooms in schools and colleges were converted into IDP centers, hosting close to 300,000 of IDPs in Mekelle alone.

Almost 15 months after the start of the conflict, few IDPs have returned to their original locations, but most, especially those hailing from Western Tigray, have remained behind and been transferred to Seba Kare IDP camp earlier this year allowing the return of schools and colleges to being learning institutions.

When I visited Seba Kare back in May 2022, no one has yet moved to the camp and facilities were not up and running. Unfortunately most planned facilities are still not up and running primarily due to the prevailing de facto blockade as essential items -- from food to electromechanical equipment -- could not be brought into Tigray. The restoration of basic services such as banks, communications, fuel/transport is still an elusive dream.

The food situation is the worst as IDPs have not received any food in the camp. All the people we met at Seba Kare raised the dire food situation in the camp along with education. With the transfer to Seba Kare, the children of Mekelle have returned to school albeit on an empty stomach. However, since Seba Kare is far from the centre of town the children in Seba Kare have not yet returned to school. No formal education service has started in the camp.

When the IDPs were living in Mekelle, the makeshift camps were located in various parts of Mekelle and people and church congregations from all neighborhoods used to bring food to them. However, several factors due to the de facto blockade have conspired to turn an already dire situation into a catastrophe:

- IDPs have now been moved to Seba Kare in the outskirts of Mekelle, not an easy reach for Mekelle residents to bring food to them in the total absence of fuel;

- Even if they remained nearby, residents who are neither NGO or UN employees have not seen any pay slip for the past 10 months and are themselves struggling to make ends meet;
- Finally, basic services are not up and running the camp.

Access to water is slightly better. LWF is one of the water supply actors which as not able to complete the installation of the water supply system -- even if LWF drilled the deep borehole already in the Spring of 2021 -- primarily due to the de facto blockade. The submersible pump has been installed, and the 1,508 km pipeline laid. The only work remaining is to connect the system to the electric grid soon in order to start pumping water and connect the system to the 20,000 m3 reservoir being constructed by another IP. It is expected that the water supply will boost water access enough to meet the SPHERE standards for the IDPs inside Seba Kare once completed.



Installed concrete electric poles and installed submersible at the LWF water supply project. © Sophie Gebreyes/LWF. May 2022.



Temporary shelter with fortification. ©Sophie Gebreyes/LWF. Seba Kare. May 2022



From left to right: Back standing, Alemnesh, left to right unaccompanied minor/IDP taken in by the family, Dawit, Liwam.Yared and Birzaf, right standing, Kewani. © Sophie Gebreyes/LWF. May 2022, Seba Kare Camp

Birzaf Seyoum is a 33-year old mother of four: Yared age of 14, Dawit age of 11, Liwam age of 8, Kewani age of 1 year and 5 months. Before the war started in November 04 2020, Birzaf and family were living in the martyr town of Mai Kadra. They fled to Mekelle just a few days after the onset of the conflict, on the 12th of November 2020. For most of their life in exile, they lived in Kesanet School. At the time of their flight, that took most of two weeks, walking, her youngest was just 45 days old. Later, her mother, Alemnesh Tadele, also from Mai Kadra, joined them in Mekelle

Despite their extraordinary circumstance, the IDPs are trying to live a life with dignity, rebuilding a home in exile with very little resource. Since there has not been any food distribution at Seba Kare, Birzaf bought 5 KG of teff from a village outside Mekelle to bake the injera.

It is when one realizes the predicament that the people of Tigray are up against that their resilience is even more remarkable. But the status quo, the de facto blockade must be lifted for humanitarian support can reach those who need it the most.

The emergency shelters constructed by humanitarian agencies are of temporary nature which do not withstand wind, rain or floods, and so it was great to see that IDPs took it upon themselves to erect fortifications to protect them of various hazards. It is also much pleasing to the eye and culturally appropriate.



Inside Birzaf and family home, Seba Kare. ©Sophie Gebreyes/LWF. May 2022

Quality Services

CONFLICT-INDUCED CRISES

The Year 2022 in Ethiopia was marked by continued conflicts and climate-induced emergencies displacing over two million people. The Northern Ethiopia conflict alone resulted in displacement of over 1.5 million people in the three neighboring regions of Tigray, Amhara and Afar. LWF continued its ongoing humanitarian response since December 2020 in Tigray in the WASH, shelter NFIs, livelihoods, cash transfer and protection sector, benefitting over 64,000 people (54% female) in the Tigray regional state of which 62% being IDPs in the Mekelle City Administration, Eastern, South Eastern and Southern zones of Tigray region. Due to the spillover of the Tigray conflict in to neighboring Afar and Amhara the humanitarian needs in northern Ethiopia increased affecting people in North Wollo zone of the Amhara region where LWF has operational presence. The food assistance project in the Lasta woreda reached 7,200 individuals (52% female). In addition, LWF responded to the increasing mass displacements in the Amhara region benefitting 24,305 individuals (12,939 female, 11,366 male) in North Shewa zone of the region. The support provided included food and shelter NFIs. The assistance benefited the most vulnerable population i.e. children, women and people living with disabilities who were prioritized in the right holder selection process.

CLIMATE-INDUCED CRISES

In 2022, Ethiopia and the Horn and East Africa regions faced the fourth consecutive drought decimating livelihoods. In Ethiopia, the dry spell severely affected people and livestock in especially in parts of Afar, Oromia and Somali regions. LWF responded in Oromia and in Somali regions where it has existing presence. The support included the provision of multi-purpose cash that benefited 3,973 HHs (2,021 FHH, 1,952 MHH) or a total of 19,865 drought affected individuals.

The Gursum Food Security and Livelihoods Project in Oda Santella and Abubaker Sedik Santella kebeles in Gursum woreda, East Hararghe Zone, Oromia Regional State follows the WFP R4 Rural Resilience approach combining risk reduction, risk taking, risk transfer and risk retention activities.

400 households were enrolled in a Weather Index Crop Insurance program. In 2021 meher crop season Sheki's maize crop wilted due to drought and most farmers were eligible for insurance pay-out. The pay-out is based on



64,000

people benefited with WASH, shelter NFIs, livelihoods, cash transfer and protection interventions.



19,365

drought affected individuals were reached by multi-purpose cash interventions.



an index, such as rainfall, measured at a local weather station or by satellite, rather than based on a consequence of weather, such as a farmer's crop yield. In 2022, the right holders were ETB 3,960 insurance pay-out each and were able to recover from their loss and damages which would have otherwise been a total loss without any compensation. This real-life example has planted a seed in the project's participants to buy into the potential of insurance to reduce their risk exposure, and are now willingly saving money to contribute to insurance premiums themselves for the following year.

REFUGEE RESPONSE

Refugee support has been one of the key focus areas of LWF's programming through livelihoods and protection interventions. LWF -constructed two irrigation schemes in the Bambasi Refugee camp for Sudanese refugees in Benishangul-Gumuz Region. 400, 200 from the refugee and 200 from the host community were targeted. LWF, in collaboration with the Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS), facilitated the issuance of work permits to the 200 refugees. The 400 were organized into production and marketing groups and were able to produce and sell different vegetables three times a year using irrigated water.

Likewise, in Aw-barre Refugee Camp, Somali Region, 100 people, 50 from the refugee and 50 from the host communities were supported through the sprinkler irrigation system. The irrigation system was financially supported by GIZ and installed by LWF with the necessary inputs and technical backstopping for the production of crops and vegetables. Similar to the refugees in Bambasi, the 50 refugees who were granted work permits by RRS through LWF's facilitation were able to produce vegetables three times during the year. These two projects, apart from the economic benefits, contributed to peaceful coexistence and social cohesion among the refugee and host communities. From the total reach of the country program in 2022, 36% or 128,443 (65,819 female, 62,624 male) were supported under the Quality Services program priority.

Biyo! Biyo! Biyo! - The cry of Korahé women

and Hope springs eternal in Kebrihanten

Originally shared in March 2022

Biyo! Biyo! Biyo! clamoured the women as we drove past a small group of women in Meragajo, desperate for water on the way to Jijiga after a long day in Kebrihanten.

Kebrihanten is a compound word composed by 'Kebri', meaning resting place and 'Hanten' the revered elder from the Issak clan -- one of the four clans in Kebribeyah woreda -- is where, with the support of the Icelandic Church Aid (ICA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland, LWF is constructing a 24,000 cubic-meter pond.

The construction, nearing completion, will benefit 2,500 households or 175,000 people of whom 8,925 are female as well as 50,000 livestock.



Displaced women from Korahé in Meragajo, © Sophie Gebreyes/LWF. March 2022



Mohammed Abdulahi, a 51-year old farmer, and a father of three works as a security guard, looking after the geomembrane and other materials at the construction site. Mohammed earns a small monthly salary. Mohammed and his family will be one of the beneficiary households when the pond starts holding water.

Traditionally, in the Somali culture, women and girls fetch water by walking several kilometers each way. Mohammed said that "Currently, we fetch water from 17 km away, and since it is too far away, we men fetch the water on the back of our camels, so this pond when completed, Inshallah, will cut the distance that we have to walk to fetch water to almost zero as well as save us time to attend other things, like farming".



Kebrihanten pond nearing completion © Sophie Gebreyes/LWF. March 2022

Before working for LWF, Mohammed lived only off his farm by growing maize and sorghum on a one Ha of land nearby. "The maize crop does not do well in these parts so now we only grow sorghum and on average we get 11 quintals that can last up to six months." The money from his day job tides them over season until the next harvest should the Al Kaffrah rains come on time in the Fall.



Mohammed Abdulahi's 1 Ha land close to his traditional house and beautifully decorated interior. © Sophie Gebreyes/LWF. March 2022

Mohammed Abdulahi can hardly wait until the Gu rains to fill the pond for the first time in April, Inshallah, hoping that he would not have to travel 17 km to fetch water anymore, and especially the ability for his camel, and goats to drink water right from the cattle trough that will be constructed adjacent the pond.

Driving on scorched earth, under the beating sun and side by side with the swirling Irrimiss twister, literally meaning 'making the sky pregnant with rain, and a good omen according to the local tradition, we headed back to Kebribeyah when we stopped in Meragajo to speak to displaced families from Korahé in Gode, some 266 away from Kebribeyah, forced to migrate in search of water and fodder for their animals.

Currently, the lowland areas of Ethiopia are once again experiencing one of the most severe droughts in history, as big as the La Niña-induced droughts back in 2016/17 that affected the Southern Belt of Ethiopia, devastating livestock and causing massive drought-induced displacements especially in Somali, Oromia.

The irony of the day's contrast was not lost on anyone; we were coming back energized by the hope and potential the pond provided, to be right away confronted by the current reality that people in Somali Region are living under in the space of less than half an hour.

The women from Korahé said that they did not receive any rain for three consecutive years in Korahé and that they lost almost all of their prized animals, save one or two goats each and had no choice but to migrate all the way to Meragajo.

Since coming here two months ago, they said that they did not receive any support either from the Government or from NGOs. They kept on repeating Biyo, Biyo, Biyo, underscoring what they especially need was water and that were agonizing that just watching their cattle wither away and perish.

One of the displaced women, Ardah Hassan said: "What we urgently need is was water, fodder and veterinarian drugs for their



Ardah Hassan passionately describing the cause of their distress migration from Korahé. © Sophie Gebreyes/LWF. March 2022

animals". It was astonishing that at no point during our exchange that no ask was made for them, but always for their animals in true pastoralists' spirit.

As we bid farewell, we surrendered all the water that we were carrying with us, the only thing we could do and hoping the Irrimiss predictions come true and the Gu rains fall at the end of March/April. That, unfortunately does not coincide with the more scientific predictions thus far.

LWF Ethiopia has a long and significant presence in Fafan zone through the support of ICA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland, and has also responded to recurrent droughts in this region as the effects of climate shorten the intervals of these crises. Thank you for your support always.

Development



Livelihoods

In 2022 up to LWF implemented a total of 34 projects managed by LWF Ethiopia of which four were multi-year development projects in the Amhara, Oromia and Somali Regional States. Interventions in the development included agriculture irrigation, natural resources conservation, capacity building and climate resilience. These projects were funded by the Icelandic Church Aid (ICA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iceland, Bread for the World (BftW), ACT Church of Sweden (ACT CoS) and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Canadian Lutheran World Relief/Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CLWR/CFGB).

The development projects were aimed at ensuring self-reliance, resilience and empowerment. Most notable achievements in the development program included successful construction of 3 small scale irrigation projects in Gursum woreda of Oromia region (two) and one scheme in Lasta woreda of Amhara Region.

The development projects were able to organize and support 18 different income generating groups in Gursum, Gololcha and Kebribeyah woredas each consisting of an average of 10 members and a total of 180 household heads. More than 80% of the income generating group members are female. In addition, through the projects in the livelihoods programmatic area, LWF Ethiopia carried out a number of soil and water conservation activities and

planted over 400,000 trees in degraded and communal lands with a survival rate of 78%. Interventions in the livelihoods sectors benefited a total of 200,109 national community members (99,343 female, 100,766 male).

The Gursum Food Security and Livelihoods Project in Oda Santella and Abubaker Sedik Santella kebeles in Gursum woreda, East Hararghe Zone, Oromia Regional State follows the WFP R4 Rural Resilience approach combining risk reduction, risk taking, risk transfer and risk retention activities. A part of the risk transfer component of the initiative, 400 households were enrolled in a Weather Index Crop Insurance program. In 2021 meher crop season Sheki's maize crop wilted due to drought and most farmers were eligible for insurance pay-out. The pay-out is based on an index, such as rainfall, measured at a national weather station or by satellite, rather than based on a consequence of weather, such as a farmer's crop yield. In 2022, they were paid ETB 3,960 insurance pay-out each and were able to recover from their loss and damages which would have otherwise been a total loss without any compensation. This real-life example has planted a seed in the project's participants to buy into the potential of insurance to reduce their risk exposure, and are now willingly saving money to contribute to insurance premiums themselves for the following year.



18

Income generating groups were organized in Gursum, Gololcha and Kebribeyah.



Breaking The Proverbial Glass Ceiling

Originally shared in October 2022

For many girls and women in the world, what they can achieve in life seems to be prescribed with socially determined and culturally defined boundaries limiting their god given potential. Starting from childhood enveloped in pink, then coming of age in pure white, they are conditioned and trained to live, act, and work a certain way. If they are lucky enough to work, they are made to choose occupations that are traditionally reserved for women.

Ougbed Ibrahim is a 20-year old Somali refugee born in Kebribeyah refugee camp in Ethiopia. Her parents and grandparents fled to Ethiopia almost thirty years ago and have been living in the camp ever since.

The Kebribeyah refugee situation is the most protracted in Ethiopia with few durable solutions. Ougbed's grandmother is the first and last refugee in her family who was lucky enough to get accepted for resettlement in the USA.

Ougbed is one of five girls and 3 boys in her family and live in the camp with her parents. The family of 10 survives on WFP monthly rations. Ougbed said that the rations are not enough and something the rations skip a month, and were it not for her grandmother regular remittances from

the US, they would have never been able to make ends meet.

Ougbed is now a trainee in cobblestone laying at the Jijiga Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College, an occupation typically reserved for men.

When asked how she heard about this training opportunity and why she chose cobble stone laying, Ougbed said that she heard about LWF identifying young people from the refugee and host community to provide skills training and I was lucky enough to be selected." I chose cobblestone laying because I know people who made a decent living out of it" says Ougbed matter-of-factly. When asked how her parents and the society at large perceive her chosen training, she shrugs off and say: "My parents never objected. They are genuinely happy for me. They like to see me in my PPE1 and going to the training. The training is great but my hope is that we will also have access to startup capital to use the acquired skills and start earning a living and supporting my family."

The Skills Development Project under the PROSPECTS2 Initiative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) is funded by the ILO and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Ougbed is part of the first cohort of trainees under this

project. The project reaches 70 trainees in the first round of training, 32 from refugee camp and 43 from the host community in cobblestone laying, aluminum works and plumbing and sanitary installation.

The project's made objective is to ease the burden of hosting refugees by the host Government by promoting the socio-economic inclusion of refugees. It also seeks to realize key pledges made by the Government of Ethiopia in 2019 as part of the Global Compact of Refugees, namely freedom of movement, local integration, access to basic services such as education and livelihoods.

Ougbed is pleased that she travelled from Kebribeyah to Jijiga the regional capital to train *in-situ* for 3 months, a right recently afforded through this project. Ougbed says that training side by side with men and nationals from Kebribeyah host community contributes to breaking the gender barrier as well as fosters social cohesion between the two communities.



Kedir Hasen , 24 is one of the 60 male trainees at the Jijiga TVET College. Kedir came upon this training opportunity when he went to Job Creation Office (JCO) looking for a job and noticed LWF in the process of selecting potential trainees from the host community in consultation with the JCB. Kedir is a university student in public administration. Asked why he is training as a plumber when his chosen university course leads to a 'white collar' job, Kedir responded: "I come from a family of 8 and only my older brother is employed which is a very heavy burden to shoulder alone. TVET training is shorter than a conventional university degree and can intergate the labour market faster. I also want to learn the skills for myself, so that I can maintain and repair water and sanitary installations for myself, my family and friends without resorting to paid skilled labour."

Asked if he will now abandon his university studies, Kedir exclaims: "No, that is very important to enhance my overall knowledge and I certainly plan to continue my extension univeristy studies, on weekends. If I successfully complete this training and able to start my own business, public administation will be my fall back plan."

Through the same project, LWF is building a new satellite TVET centre in Kebribeyah where the next cohort of trainees will be accessing trainings in various occupations such as building electrical installation, drip irrigation and construction finishing3. The construction of the centre is almost complete and will provide access to skills trainings to youth in and around Kebribeyah without having to travel to the TVET College in Jijiga, 55 KM away. What is also remarkable is that the rehabilitation of the classrooms and the workshop is being carried out by two locl contractors from Kebribeyah, trained by ILO as part of skills development and job cration objectives.



From left to right: Ermia Ayales, LWF RCO Coordinator, Mohammed Mehdi, Team leader, Tulugeled, Muhedin, Contractor's Site engineer, Haji Iliyas, Contractor for the workshop, Sophie Gebreyes CR LWF, Luladay Aragaw, Program Officer, ILO/PROSPECTS, Hassen, Contractor for classrooms, Berhanu, LWF site engineer and Abdelkadir Ibrahim, Senior Program Officer. ©LWF/October 2022



Siye Yonas, LWF Community Development Facilitator, Ethio-China Friendship School. ©Sophie Gebreyes/LWF, March 2021

This feature is the story of Siye Yonas which is emblematic of the Tigray conflict, the resilience of its people despite the devastation. LWF has been following his story and reported on it in separate sitreps in 2021 and 2022.

Luther, was never a name that Siye and his wife Asqual ever imagined to name their son after. Before war in Tigray in November 2020, Siye was a newly-married man living with his bride Asqual Tewelde, 24, his younger brother and his parents in Edaga Arbi, near Adwa. Siye has a Bachelor in Sports Science and is a trainer but was employed as a truck driver as there were no jobs in his field in his hometown.

When the war broke out, he could not flee with his elderly parents and fled with only his wife and his younger brother.

During the chaos, he got separated with his wife and his brother. Sometime after he arrived in Mekelle, Siye received the news that his brother was shot and wounded. For a long time he did not know whether news whether he survived his wounds or if succumbed to his wounds. At the time, Siye also had no news about his wife's whereabouts and whether or not his parents are safe in their house back in Edaga Arbi.

Siye gets visibly distressed when he recounts their ordeal. He mournfully recalls that they were 20 who left Adwa with him but only 8 made it to Mekelle. They trekked for four days, sleeping on trees, hiding



from wild animals but also from various armed groups. Siye witnessed many dead bodies along the journey to Mekelle.

Once in Mekelle, the first collective centre they were received in is Kesanet School which eventually became crowded and then was moved to Ethio-China Friendship School specially designated for IDPs from Central Tigray (Axum, Adwa, Enticho, Edaga Arbi, May Kinetal, Neberet, Tembien, and Abi-Adi among others).

Siye arrived in the school in early 2021. The school is well organized despite the immense gaps including the lack of space, lack of mattresses, beddings, linens, and water and non-food items. There are more than 1,606 IDPs crammed in a total of 8 rooms, they have 4 wash basins and not much else with more and more IDP arriving every day.

The only food that they received was from the people from Mekelle who are organized in blocks and provided food to the displaced persons on their own volition and initiative. They said that they received mattresses from the Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus/ DASSC but not nearly enough to meet the immense needs. A natural born leader, Siye volunteers as the Community leader for the IDPs from Central Zone all hosted in the Ethio-China Friendship School. Clearly his training as a trainer and team spirit that sports instils in one are paying off and coming in handy.

All of the IDPs we talked to when asked what their wish and dream were, they said: "We want Peace to prevail for us to be reunited with our loved ones and return home." And in a thinly veiled political statement: "You see, we are well organized even in this chaos. We can govern ourselves" added Siye.

Fortunately, there are, however, in the midst of all the desperation, flashes of good news. Shortly after Siye as hired by LWF as a Community Development Facilitator. Siye was also reunited with his wife and brother, although his brother still struggles with severe psychosocial consequences of conflict. Siye's wife, Asqual Tewelde, is now working as a midwife for the International Organization of Migration (IOM) in mobile health clinics conducting pre and post-natal care and delivering babies. When asked about the relocation plans, Siye reflects that, at that particular juncture, they had little option but at least they would have their own space, finally some privacy even if the shelters are made out of timber and plastic sheeting. Siye said that what IDPs will miss the most is the very special connection IDPs in Mekelle have established with residents of Mekelle who supported them during all time as the relocation site, Seba Kare4 is located in the outer reaches of Mekelle. That, he says will be his only regret leaving Ethio-China Friendship School.

At the height of the emergency, Siye worked as CDF in the various IDP camps where LWF distributed thousands of non-food items (NFIs) from WASH and shelter NFIs to household kits. Currently Siye works at the LWF Child Friendly Space in Mai Weyni school turned IDP site with children the age of Luther, feeding them teaching them and playing them, and bringing much joy and a semblance of normalcy to them.



Siye feeding yogurt to children at the LWF Mai Weyni Child-friendly space, Mekelle. ©Daniel ZeMichael/LWF.2023

In December 2021, Siye, his wife Asqual Tewelde and his brother left Ethio-China Friendship School and makeshift IDP camp and are now living in rented house in town. Asqual still works with IOM in mobile health clinics assisting women safely deliver babies and also the proud mother of her first-born, Luther, born in Mekelle.

Siye says that his fortunes turned for the better after LWF came into his life so much so that their son's nickname is Luther! They seem to be much happier, settled-in and seem to have come to terms that they will probably not return to Edaga Arbi anytime soon.

After the signing of the cessation of Hostilities (CoHA) in November of 2022 and access was gradually opening up, Siye went to visit his extended family left in Edaga Arbi for the first time which went a long way in easing his pain of not knowing how they fared during the conflict. "Yet, I have other family members and friends whom I don't know their whereabouts to this day says Siye", adding "Families do not have information whether their loved ones were displaced, migrated, joined the armed conflict or even died. It is too tough for the family to be left without information of relatives and friends. There is no closure and people are only left to imagine that the worst has come to pass." Together, with Asqual and my brother, we visited our friends and family and told them everything that had happened after we fled; that we have survived thanks be to God, that I got a job in LWF that enabled me support myself and my fiancée -- whom I now proudly call my wife and the mother of my child -- and brother. But it is not only myself, Asqual and my brother they were ecstatic to see, but most especially, Luther. Luther made the family forget the darkness of the past for a bit and enjoy this new life and hope for a brighter future.

Edaga Arbi was a battlefield almost the entire conflict. The wounds and vestiges of war still visible including burnt homes, destroyed civilian infrastructure, looted school and shops.



From left to right: Asqual, Sophie, (LWF), Siye and Luther. ©LWF/December 2021.

During his stay in Edaga Arbi, Siye fell a little ill and went to the Edaga Arbi Primary Hospital. A few months into the CoHA, the laboratory did not have any equipment for testing, no kits, and no medicines. Patients only relied on the treating doctor, the diagnosis with the naked eye and experience. The hospital had no beds and especially no water. Siye realized how the many town and villages are still without any basic services more than two years after the conflict. As a displaced person from Edaga Arbi himself just a short two years ago, he suddenly realized the plight of those who stay. He also knows, from his lived experience, that the people he fled with to Mekelle and the many thousands he worked with, for most of them, life did not shine upon them as it did on him and his nuclear family. "You are doomed if you stay and doomed if you leave" says Siye and that has awakened him to never take anything for granted. His dream now that peace is being consolidated, is to engage in poultry farming and is writing a business plan for it.

Siye concludes: "LWF is my path to enlightenment. It is the star that showed me the way to visualize a brighter side of life when darkness fell over Tigray. We will remember this always. That why we named our son Luther".

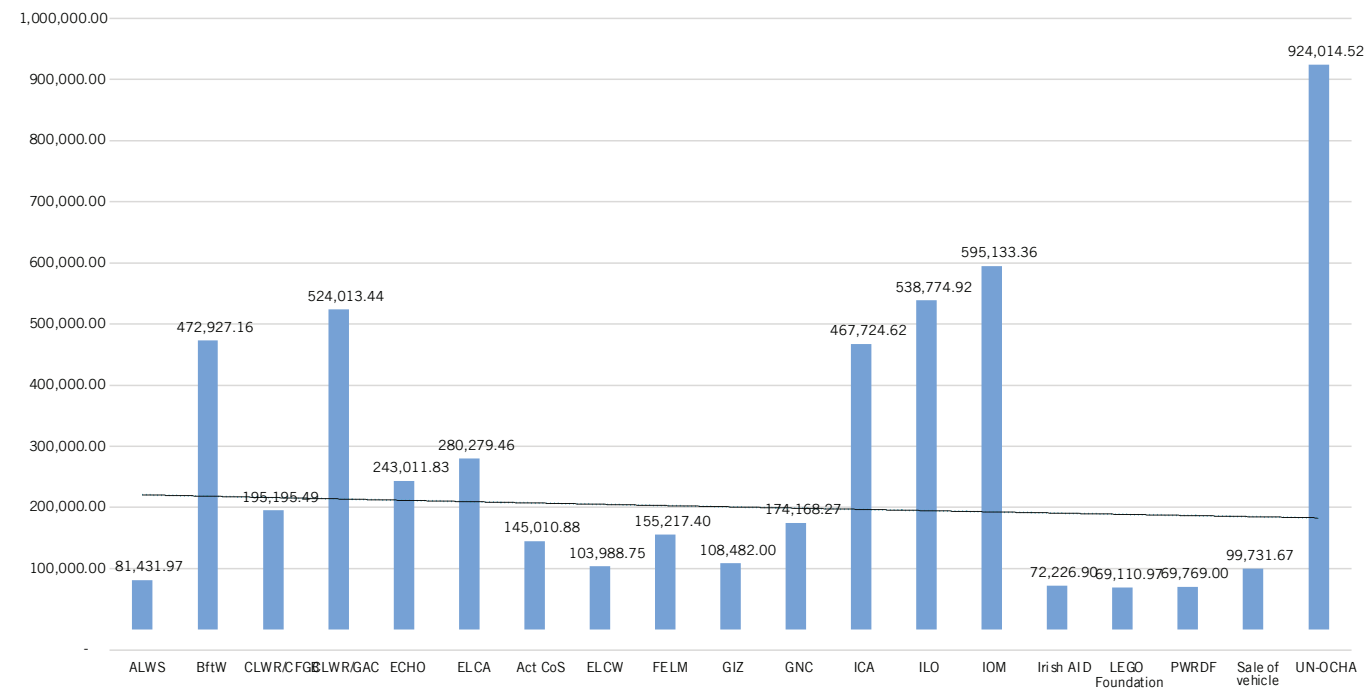


Siye, Asqual and Luther in their home, Mekelle. © Daniel ZeMichael. LWF/2023Mekelle.



Financial Performance

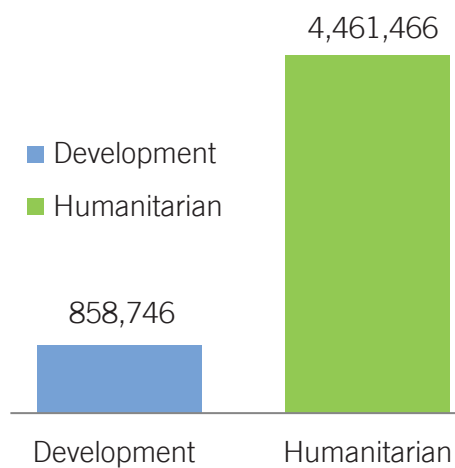
Income by donor



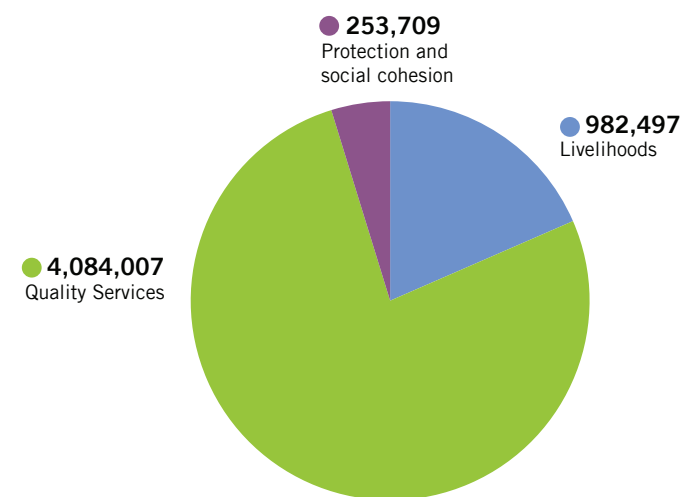
Partnership



Income by program



Expenditure by sector





Human resources

LWF Ethiopia employed a total of 176 staff in 2022 with 137 male staff representing 77.84% of the total number of staff and 39 female staff representing 22.16% of the total number of staff.

LWF Ethiopia continued to provide space and internship opportunities for young female graduates. In 2022, two young female graduates worked in the HR department.



 **137**
(77.84%)
males

 **39**
(22.16%)
females

TOTAL
179
staff





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