



**TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH QUALITY  
EDUCATION, SANITATION AND CLEAN  
WATER IN LIBO KEMKEM, ETHIOPIA**

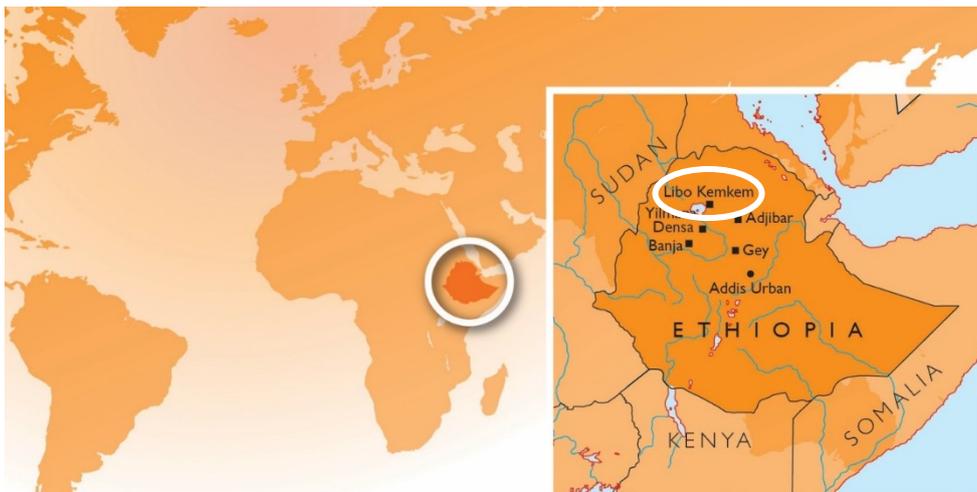
**Your 2020 Project Report  
Prepared for Out of Eden**

## A heartfelt thank you

Thank you for your loyal and generous support this past year. Your ongoing partnership with the community of Libo Kemkem in Ethiopia is truly transforming lives. I hope you enjoy reading this short update, showing you just how much of an incredible impact your support is making. We hope you are encouraged and inspired by what you read. **Thanks to your support, the lives of 38,996 people were transformed last year.**

## Project Update

We started partnering with the community of Libo Kemkem in 2005, and since then, we have witnessed exciting transformation in the lives of children and their families. Most recently our focus has been on improving the quality and accessibility of education, increasing access to clean water, good hygiene and sanitation and increasing health and nutrition levels. All underpinned by our relentless passion to ensure children are safe and protected from harm. Together, it is our goal to ensure that children growing up in Libo Kemkem have the opportunity to thrive.



*Above, shows Libo Kemkem's location on a map of Ethiopia.*

## Inspiring children through education

Thanks to your support we have provided improved education for 13,835 children, who can now access a range of resources, helping them to read, write and count.

Having implemented our tried and tested **Unlock Literacy** model, designed to help teachers improve their teaching methods for reading and writing, while engaging students in activities which are interactive and fun. We saw more children engaged in learning and parents supported to encourage continuous learning in the home. Now, for example, parents are reading books at home with their children and are encouraging them to participate in school.

We have also continued to promote and run our renowned **Reading Camps**, which have been a proven success in developing children's basic reading skills. With your support, 45 existing reading camps were strengthened through training 67 reading camp volunteers in effective teaching methods. In addition, 8 new reading camps were started this year, helping even more children to read and get excited by what they were learning. We are grateful that through your support, together, 320 children have benefited through attending our Reading Camps.

For children to truly excel at school, we know that a child friendly learning environment is essential. We implemented our **Basic Education and Schools Improvement Plan** which not only improves the quality of children's education but also increases the involvement from teachers and parents in improving education for boys and girls. More classrooms are now filled with learning resources and reading corners to create a fun and engaging environment for children. 60 teachers were trained in ways to create engaging lessons that are inclusive for all children, including those that are living with disabilities.

**Thanks to these interventions we have seen the pass rates in primary schools improve, drop-out rates reduce and enrolment rates in primary schools increase.**

Thanks to your support we also constructed a new building in one community area where before, children were not regularly attending a school. Now, children can attend school closer to their home and enjoy learning with their friends. This new building is also accessible for children living with disabilities, creating an inclusive learning environment for all children in the community.



*Above, children enjoy learning at school using the new materials alongside their friends.*

## A safer place for children to grow up thanks to access to clean water

Thanks to your support, communities have been transformed through access to clean, safe water. Together, we have helped 35,991 more people access clean drinking water last year.

With your support we were able to drill shallow wells in communities and schools so vulnerable children and families can now access safe, clean water near to their homes and schools. This has significantly improved the lives of many families living in Libo Kemkem, especially reducing the prevalence of water-borne diseases.

**Thanks to your support, 500 families and 3,000 students are now benefitting from the newly constructed wells.**

Not only are the communities able to access clean water, but children are also safer without the burden of long walks to collect water. Many children were often late for school because they had to walk long distances to collect water for their families - sometimes up to 6 km a day. In most cases this water was dirty and carried diseases such as cholera, which has led to a lot of children often being absent from school. Many girls could face sexual harassment on their walk to collect water and would feel unsafe but would have no other option than to collect water for their family. Now, the number of people able to access water within a 25-minute walk from their home, or in many cases much closer than that, has significantly increased. With the newly constructed wells, the prevalence of diarrhoea in children under the age of 5 has decreased.

Members of the community have also been trained in maintaining the wells which has created a sense of ownership for the community, and also ensures that the wells can continue to function after we have left the community.

### Yalemwork's story

Yalemwork, pictured below with some of her siblings, is 12 years old and lives in Libo Kemkem with her four brothers and sisters. She is responsible for collecting water for her family twice a day. Prior to the shallow wells being drilled in her community, Yalemwork had to walk one hour to collect water and another hour back home with the bucket weighting heavy on her head full of dirty water. As a result, she was always late for school and turned up tired for class. Rarely did she have time to do her schoolwork in the evenings when she got home either.



*Above, Yalemwork and her siblings at the pond where they used to collect water from for their family.*

To make matters worse, Yalemwork would face harassment from other members of her community on her long walks to and from collecting the water. The water that she worked so hard to collect was dirty and diseases ridden, as it was pulled from a pond where animals came to drink from. This was no life for Yalemwork, who was so full of potential.

Thanks to the drilling of the well in her community, Yalemwork now has a short walk to the water pump each day which provides clean and safe drinking water for her and her family. She now is on time for school every day and practices reading and writing every evening. Last year she was not able to finish the school year due to poor academic performance and low attendance. This year, she is full of enthusiasm and has impressed her parents and her teachers with her schoolwork. Thanks to clean water, she is now healthy, safe and able to focus on her studies.



*Above, Yalemwork and her siblings can now access clean and safe water in their community.*

## **Thriving families through hygiene awareness**

To prevent children from becoming sick and illnesses spreading, it is important to ensure that families have a strong understanding of good hygiene and sanitation practices. Therefore, we provided awareness raising sessions on hygiene and sanitation to teachers and community leaders to ensure that influential and respected members of the community were equipped to share their knowledge with local families. We also worked directly with schools to

introduce hygiene campaigns and school WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) clubs where children learn how to look after themselves and how to stay healthy and well.

Many girls in Ethiopia miss school every month during menstruation as they feel discriminated by their classmates as many schools do not have facilities to support girls in this way. Sometimes latrines don't have doors, or are not separate from boys, and therefore girls can feel unsafe using the latrines.

We have constructed latrines in two schools in Libo Kemkem, helping girls to feel safer at school, especially while they are menstruating. We also conducted awareness raising sessions helping reduce the stigma attached to menstruation alongside menstrual hygiene lessons. **As a result, the number of girls that have missed school due to menstrual related issues has reduced to zero.**

## The importance of health and nutrition awareness

Last year, we focused on improving the nutrition levels particularly in children and pregnant and lactating mothers. It is vital that mothers are healthy and strong, able to look after and feed their babies. As well as having the vital knowledge to see the signs of malnutrition early so as to make sure they can treat and prevent it from happening again. By working together, we identified key areas which mothers needed particular training and support in and provided sessions where mothers learnt about key food groups, how to notice signs of malnutrition and what to do when they suspect their child is unwell, how to cook nutritious food and the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding. Thanks to the training programme, more mothers and their children have a better chance of staying safe, healthy and well. **Last year a total of 24,885 people benefited from our health and nutrition training programme.**

Our *Gardening for Improved Nutrition and Increased Income* project has been effectively supporting families to utilise their outside space at home to grow vegetables. These market garden crops provide essential vitamins and minerals to support children's growth and development, and any surplus, families are able to sell at their local market. We have now seen that households have enough food to provide good quality meals to their children.

We also worked with mothers in the community of Libo Kemkem to provide them with guidance on effective breastfeeding to ensure children are well nourished. We also gave training on child feeding to educate mothers on the diversity and quantity of foods needed for children as they grow up.

In addition, we have supported expectant mothers in Libo Kemkem to ensure they are going to the health clinic for check-ups during their pregnancy. Some mothers don't know that they can visit the health clinic, or where to go, so sharing this vital knowledge can literally save lives. We also share the importance of babies being weighed and measured regularly in their first year and promote check-ups with nurses at the health clinics.



Above, Nurse Kelew checks the weight of Abeje's baby. She says, "Children's weight should be measured to check whether they are at a normal weight or not. We regularly follow their weight."

## Empowering families to provide for themselves

Ensuring families have the tools they need to thrive is essential, particularly as we look to phase out our work in the community of Libo Kemkem over the coming year. To this end, we have also been focusing on farmers and increasing their incomes and ability to provide for their families. As a result, we provided farmers with agricultural training, teaching them ways in which they can increase their production of nutritious food. **Farmers also received improved vegetable seeds which will enable them to grow more food for their families, and any surplus they harvest, can be sold to their local community in the market – earning an income, while also providing nutritious meals for their children to eat.** Farmer groups were also supported with water pumps to ensure that through times of drought they are still able to irrigate their crops and harvest a good yield.

Community members who do not own land, but still wanted to increase their income generating opportunities, were encouraged to join **Savings Groups**. These groups enable community members to come together and pool their savings in order to take out a loan to start or expand a business. When their business is doing well, they repay the loan and another member of the group can take out a loan, and so on. This is a low risk way to empower communities to save money and invest in their livelihoods and their community. **Through this project, we have organised 25 savings groups with more than 350 members who are benefitting from saving and loans.** Members

also receive training on the benefits of saving, business development skills and financial training, helping them to choose the best possible business idea and continue to grow it year on year.



*Above, one farmer was supported with a loan to buy cows and can sell milk and earn an income from their offspring.*

## Protecting children from harm so they can thrive

Throughout all our project interventions in Libo Kemkem, we focus on empowering and sensitising communities to take the lead role in child protection and prevention from harm. We share information on child rights and train parents and caregivers on ways to nurture children and the steps that they can take to help ensure that children feel safe and protected.

To support this work, we created a community forum where parents and caregivers can get advice on positive parenting and child development. This forum also reiterates the importance of physical, mental, psychological and social development of children, promoting ways to help support and protect children. **As a result, we have seen a decrease in child marriage, out of the 68 early marriage cases reported, 59 were stopped by authorities in the community.** Although we still have work to do, to not have any cases in the future, this is a promising trend and one we are committed to continue to focus in this year. We have also seen a decrease in child exploitation and trafficking from 2018 to 2019. There is still however an issue of teen pregnancy which we are continuing to combat through the aforementioned forums and will continue to engage further with the community in the coming year to help prevent this from increasing, particularly in light of the impacts and stresses COVID-19 has brought to some families in the community.

**Thank you for your generous support, helping to  
transform the lives of 38,996 people.**



*Back photo, Tamirat is 6 years old and a kindergarten student in Ethiopia "I am very much happy being a student of this school, thank you World Vision, keep visiting us."*

*Cover photo, Tigist is 14 years old and enjoys reading and telling stories with her friends while she is at school.*

*All photos: ©World Vision*

World Vision believes that by working together with children, their communities, and our supporters and partners, the lives of the world's most vulnerable children can be transformed. As a Christian organisation, we aspire to reflect God's unconditional love in all we do.

World Vision UK, World Vision House, Opal Drive, Fox Milne, Milton Keynes, MK15 0ZR

[worldvision.org.uk](http://worldvision.org.uk)

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