

IMPACT

Multi Sectoral Intervention to Increase Access to Health

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

DOCTORS WITH AFRICA CUAMM

amref health africa

About Amref Health Africa

Amref Health Africa is the largest African-based international health development organization, reaching over 30 million people each year across 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. For nearly 70 years, we have worked with communities, governments, and local partners to deliver people-centered, community-led health solutions, supported by sister organizations in Europe and North America.

Guided by our vision of lasting health change in Africa, we strengthen health systems and address the social determinants of health, empowering communities to shape decisions and hold systems accountable for quality, affordable care. Our subsidiaries include Amref Flying Doctors, Amref Enterprises Limited, and Amref International University.

Amref has worked in Ethiopia since the 1960s and has been fully operational as of 2002. In partnership with the Government of Ethiopia and communities, we implement a diverse portfolio, with a strong equity focus on women and young people, and on disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities.

Program Focus Areas

- **Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child, Adolescent & Youth Health and Nutrition**
- **Health Systems Strengthening**
- **Youth Development**
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**
- **Disease Prevention and Control**

Through an integrated, multi-sectoral approach, we also address cross-cutting priorities across these areas. We collaborate with key ministries and regional offices and implement projects in 12 regional states and two city administrations.

Impact-Multi Sectoral Intervention to Increase Access to Health

Like in many remotest places in Ethiopia, communities who live in far flanged districts of South Ethiopia lack access to essential health services. In order to overcome these challenges and address long-standing health care needs, increasing investment in health services delivery and fostering resilience is critical. Implemented in Hammer woreda, one of the remotest areas in South Ethiopia from 2024 - 2026, IMPACT project works towards improving social and health conditions of communities, especially women, children and persons with disabilities. With financial support from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the project's activities are designed to bridge the gap seen in health care access inequalities and contribute to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.

Project Outcomes

- Improve access to health services and quality of care.
- Improve and strengthen nutritional status of communities.
- Reduce incidence of infectious diseases transmitted by vectors and poor hygiene.

Key Achievements

Income Generation

- Four income-generating groups established for persons with disabilities and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV)
- Livestock assets 584 goats and from 12 to 14 milking cows.





School and Home Gardening

Inputs

- **120+** community members received 10+ types of farm tools.
- **Nine** agricultural inputs supplied for gardening activities.
- Mothers and schools trained on home and school garden management.
- Small-scale dam built in Ariya Kayasa Kebele to boost school and household gardens.

Result

- **250+** households engaged in home gardening, increasing harvests for household consumption and helping families buy goats to build sustainable livelihoods.
- Two schools established compound gardens, providing fresh vegetables for students and creating additional income for the schools.



Equipping Schools with Essential Furniture

- Classrooms, pre-kindergarten rooms, the library, cafeteria, and administration blocks were furnished, creating a more supportive and conducive learning environment for the school community.

Strengthening Water Access through Rainwater Harvesting

- **50,000**-liter rainwater harvesting system was installed at Ariya Ambulle School, addressing water shortages and ensuring reliable supply for key school needs.

School Maintenance and Construction of Key Blocks

- Classrooms, pre-kindergarten spaces, and gender-segregated toilets were renovated and officially handed over to the government, and equipped with all necessary equipment's.
- Construction of the cafeteria and were completed and equipped with furniture.

Training School Staff on Teaching in Pastoral Contexts

- **24** teachers from two schools completed a five-day training on effective teaching methods for pastoralist contexts.
- Teachers are now applying these methods in small classes, helping to improve and sustain education quality.



- **1410** students received scholastic materials, helping reduce dropout and create a more conducive learning environment. [Supported with: **2,586** packs of exercise books, **1,592** packs of pens, **430** packs of pencils, and **920** school bags.]
- **3,000+** textbooks and teachers' guides were printed and distributed, ensuring one-to-one textbook access and strengthening education quality.



Furnishing the Mothers Waiting Home at Dimeka Health Center

- The Mothers Waiting Home at Dimeka Health Center, constructed by UNOPS, was furnished with essential furniture to improve comfort and support mothers during extended waiting periods.



Cooking Demonstrations to Improve Maternal and Child Nutrition

- **50+** cooking demonstration sessions conducted for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and school nutrition clubs.
- Trained mothers replicated the sessions at home, preparing nutritious meals for their children and families.



GBV and Harmful Traditional Practices Prevention through Community Awareness

- Monthly community awareness sessions were conducted to prevent GBV and harmful traditional practices (HTPs).
- Prevention committees were established in both kebeles and trained, with regular monthly discussions held at kebele centers.
- Safer community practices were introduced, including pull-jumping without violence against women, while cases of violence and discrimination are now promptly reported to the police.
- Two kebeles declare HTPs free.





Training Health Development Armies (HDAs) on Malaria Management

- **240+** HDA members, health extension workers, and village health leaders were trained on malaria prevention and management.
- Following the training, they identified breeding sites, mobilized communities, and led environmental actions to prevent malaria.





Our Stories of Change

From Being Left Behind to Leading the Way

The Story of Otie Ayika

Otie Ayika, a mother and a person living with a disability, once faced social exclusion and deep poverty. As the sole provider for her family of five, her future seemed locked. Through our joint IMPACT project, Otie was connected with an income-generating group. She received training, invested her first earnings in goats, and began saving. Today, she runs a growing livestock business, has saved ETB 5,000, and is a role model in her community.



> *"I had never received such an amount of money in my life. The IMPACT project has transformed my circumstances, and my life will never be the same. Now, I can stand on my own and care for my children."*

Currently, Otie has progressed from owning no livestock to successfully managing a herd of over 13 goats and one cow, demonstrating significant improvement in household assets and livelihood resilience.



The Engine of Change: The IMPACT Project

Otie's transformation was made possible by the **IMPACT** project (Multisectoral Intervention to Increase Access to Health), funded by AICS. Implemented in the remote Hammer woreda of South Ethiopia from 2024-2026, IMPACT is designed to bridge critical gaps in community well-being. It's a holistic initiative that integrates:

Health & Nutrition
Improving conditions for women, children, and persons with disabilities.

Economic Empowerment
Creating income-generating opportunities and financial inclusion.

Education, WASH & Protection
Building a comprehensive support system for vulnerable households.

Cultivating Hope Across an Entire Community

The Hamer people are traditionally pastoralists, vulnerable to food insecurity from erratic rainfall. The IMPACT project introduced home gardening as a practical solution. We worked with the agricultural office to support 120 model households with tools, seeds, and training. Today, these families have more diverse meals, better nutrition for their children, and can sell surplus produce for extra income.

Asi Muga's Story

After losing all her assets to drought, Asi Muga used the home gardening initiative to earn over ETB 12,000 in one season, which she used to purchase new goats and restart her livelihood.





"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Amref Health Africa, the IMPACT project team, and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) for their invaluable support in transforming the lives of the Hamer community."
— Community Members, Ariya Kayasa kebele.

From Gathering Firewood to Building a Future:

Keri's Journey of Hope and Resilience



WARKAK VILLAGE / HAMER WOREDA

For years, collecting and selling firewood was Keri Bali's only means of survival. Today, the 26-year-old single mother from Warkak Village in Hamer Woreda, South Ethiopia, owns more than 20 goats, has personal savings and is learning to read and write.

Married at an early age as a third wife and later abandoned without financial support, Keri struggled to provide for her child. Collecting firewood was exhausting and dangerous, but she had few alternatives.

Her life began to change when she joined an income-generating group supported by Amref Health Africa through the IMPACT Project, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

A new path to independence

Through entrepreneurship training, financial support and group activities, Keri established a goat-rearing business and saved more than ETB 10,000 in her microfinance account.



LEARNING TO READ AND WRITE

"When I joined the group, I had no livestock. I depended on my family's income and collected firewood. After the first training, my eyes opened to change," she recalls.

LIVELIHOOD

20+

goats owned

SAVINGS

10,000+

ETB in microfinance

LEARNING

100

numbers she can write up to

Her transformation extends beyond economic independence. Through non-formal education, Keri can now write her name, recognize letters and write numbers up to 100.

Determined to educate her child and inspire other women, Keri looks ahead with confidence.

"Now, I can stand on my own and care for my children."

From Surviving to Thriving:

Wele's Journey of Resilience and Economic Independence



AMBULLE VILLAGE / HAMER WOREDA

For 23-year-old Wele Worido, a single mother from Ambulle Village in Hamer Woreda, South Ethiopia, providing for her child was once a daily struggle. Today, she owns livestock, has savings and can provide something she previously struggled to afford: milk for her child.

Forced into early marriage, widowed shortly afterwards and later subjected to sexual violence, Wele faced isolation, poverty and an uncertain future.

Her turning point came when she joined an income-generating group supported by Amref Health Africa's IMPACT Project, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

Growing a stronger future

Through entrepreneurship training, seed capital and continued guidance, Wele transformed her livelihood. Starting with three goats and one cow, she now owns more than 13 goats and two cows, with over ETB 12,000 in personal savings.

LIVELIHOOD

13+

goats currently owned

LIVELIHOOD

2

cows currently owned

SAVINGS

12,000+

ETB in personal savings



“I learned that saving from whatever income I get is very useful,” she says.

WELE WORIDO

PROJECT-WIDE PROGRESS

Wele’s progress reflects broader project achievements. Four income-generating groups have expanded from 36 to 68 members, supported by ETB 7 million in seed capital, enabling the procurement of 584 goats and 12 cows.

Beyond financial independence, Wele is learning to read and write, gaining confidence to educate her child and inspire other women facing similar challenges.

Through an integrated, multi-sectoral approach, Amref Health Africa empowers communities to lead their own health journey.

IMPACT 2026

Lasting Health Change in Africa