



**FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY**



Sasiga Mid-Highlands, Ethiopia **CELEBRATION**

Fiscal Year 2024

Prepared by FH Ethiopia and FH Canada



2014

Walking with **Sasiga Mid-Highlands**

2024



Communities:
9



Total Population:
28,564



Total Households:
5,950



Program Participants:
28,564

10 YEARS LATER, COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA THRIVE BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT!

Over the course of 10 years, families and leaders in the Sasiga Mid-Highlands applied their creative energy and worked tirelessly to reach their sustainability goals. **As a result, they successfully moved 3,319 people out of extreme poverty!**

There is so much to celebrate. The partnership between Sasiga and FH equipped the Mid-Highlands with skills, knowledge, and start-up resources that will give them the hope and capacity to respond to future hardship. That's resilience!

We've seen the Mid-Highlands confront significant challenges with courage. The Covid-19 pandemic and violence between government and anti-government groups threatened community stability. Inflation caused the cost of living to skyrocket. Families were displaced by conflict. Extreme weather events persisted. And yet, in the face of these obstacles, the people of Sasiga did not give up.

Farmers applied innovative techniques like converting swamps into farmland by using micro-irrigation. They boosted agricultural production, strengthening food security and livelihoods. Savings and Loans groups and small businesses empowered women, enabling them to drive sustainable change and provide food, clothing, and school fees for their children. This culture of saving helped communities combat inflation and provide mutual support when tough times hit. **Today, families are healthier, neighbours care for the vulnerable, and more children excel in school.**

FH staff members have witnessed incredible growth in resilience, care for one another, and commitment to service and joint action in these communities. Leaders feel confident in the gains Sasiga has made and are excited to take their communities into a flourishing future. While we're sad to say goodbye, everyone can see that FH's partnership with the Sasiga Mid-Highlands has come to a successful and joyful completion.



MEET SARA



Everyone has hope!

When you sponsored a child, you transformed a community

Story collected and written by Bedilu Asmare
Photos by Ephrem Beri

When Sara was little, life was difficult. She had a large family—five siblings!—and it was hard for her parents to feed them all.

Like most in Sasiga, they were a farming family. But despite her parents' hard work, soil infertility and high acidity produced meagre crops. The rising price of chemical fertilizer made it impossible to overcome this obstacle. As a result, they couldn't produce enough to put dinner on the table every day. It's understandable that their children's education wasn't on the list of the family's priorities—with so much work to do at home just trying to survive, it seemed like a waste of time to send children to school, especially the girls.



The changes in my life and in my community make me happy! As a young girl, I see a better tomorrow.

— Sara

Sara's family didn't have access to clean water and using the toilet outside was the norm because at-home toilets were uncommon. This lack of access to healthy sanitation meant Sara and her siblings often got sick from intestinal parasites.

Without enough to eat, clean water, and nowhere to go, her family struggled. Sara's mom, Diribe, remembers, "As a mother, as I could not feed my children—I was worried and hopeless. My daughter's interest to attend school was poor because she did not have enough to eat and lacked learning materials. She performed poorly at school."

Sara also remembers those hard days, "In the previous times our lives were in horrible condition. Land was unproductive, [we had] no clean water."

MEET SARA

Child Sponsorship Brings New Hope

Thankfully, when Sara's community of Dangali Gongo began working with FH Ethiopia, she was partnered with a Canadian family through child sponsorship. This support gave her family access to agricultural training, savings groups, health, education, and so much more!

Life began to turn around for Sara.

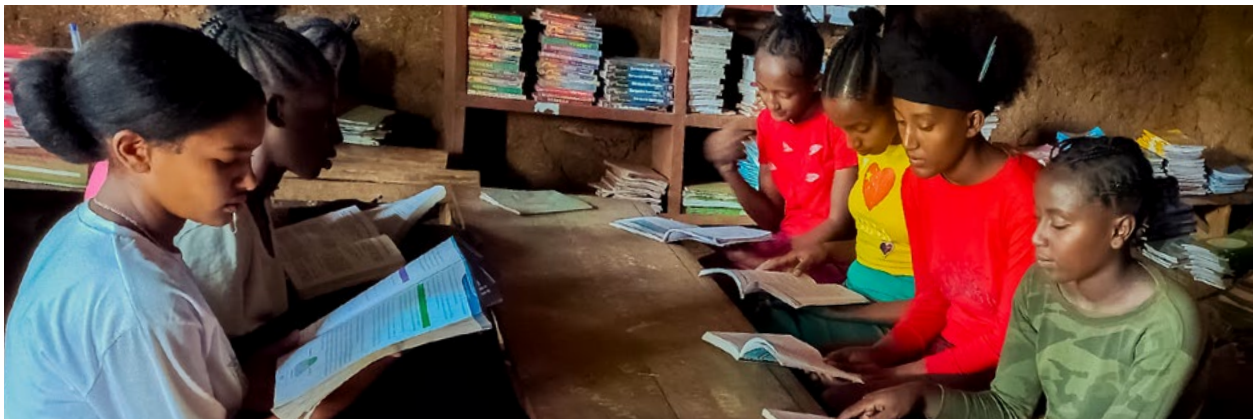
"I and my family learned a lot," she shares. "We learned how to improve our farm. We also learned about hygiene and sanitation. I have by far better courage to pursue my education! I improved my school performance... the school library books provided by FH have been instrumental here."

As the family's farm became more productive their income went up. Daily life began to change. They upgraded their

house, gained access to a clean water source, and installed a proper latrine at home with a handwashing station. Their health has dramatically improved! Regular visits from FH-trained volunteers provided encouragement and friendship along the way.

And it's not just Sara's family that's doing better! She sees flourishing all around her now. "The change that happened in my family is true in the life of many of the members of our community. The community now has access to clean water. Everyone sends their kids to school. Agriculture is now a productive business. Everyone has hope."

"The hope of my family and community is God. The changes in my life and in my community make me happy! As a young girl, I see a better tomorrow in the community."



10 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION

SASIGA IS READY TO RESPOND!

Each of the nine Sasiga Mid-Highlands communities has an active disaster risk reduction committee with fully trained members who play a vital role in responding to urgent, sudden, and critical emergencies.



9 COMMUNITIES

SANITATION DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED!

Households with their own toilet nearly doubled and fewer families are visiting the health centre.



SCHOOLS HAVE CLEAN WATER! 6 NEW WELLS

Over 2,000 students and educators have access to clean water at school, thanks to six new wells!

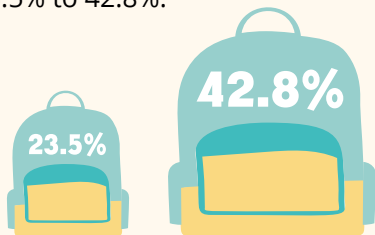


"I feel happy, courageous, motivated and hopeful with the changes in my life and my community."

— Desse, Dangali Gongo

MORE KIDS ARE SCHOOL-READY!

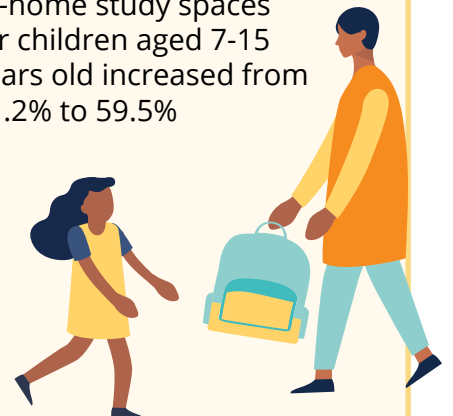
Preschool enrollment rose from 23.5% to 42.8%.



PARENTS SUPPORT EDUCATION!

11.2% TO 59.5%

At-home study spaces for children aged 7-15 years old increased from 11.2% to 59.5%



FAMILIES HAVE CLEAN WATER! 7,500 PEOPLE

7,500 people gained access to safe water thanks to 30 new water sources! As a result, waterborne diseases no longer plague Sasiga, women and girls aren't carrying heavy water so far, and girls have more time for school.



LIVESTOCK ARE MOO-VING FAMILIES OUT OF POVERTY! OVER 7,410 PEOPLE

Over 7,410 people are benefitting from FH livestock, many through the pay-it-forward model.



COMMUNITY WEALTH IS GROWING! \$23,379 SAVED

31 active Savings and Loans groups with 765 members, predominantly women, have grown a combined capital of over \$23,379 CAD.



WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE BEING EMPOWERED!

Women are equipped with skills and positions of leadership while more girls are continuing their schooling.



CHURCHES TAKE THE LEAD! 6% TO 90.4%

Church involvement in the community increased from 6% to 90.4%. As community leaders left the area due to political conflict and instability, church leaders stepped up their community engagement to fill the gap.

COFFEE PRODUCTION IMPROVED!

Coffee farming households used to harvest coffee once every three to four years. Today, over 4,000 coffee participants harvest coffee beans every year



"My goat reproduced and I became a coffee farm owner [and] an active student. The lives of my family also changed—we are all happy! [My community] accessed clean water, became food secure, and started thinking of ways to improve their lives. I am very happy."
— Desta, Haro Gudina

WHERE NEXT?

NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITIES



Only 38% of households have access to water within a 30 minute walk of their home.



Girls are at risk of early marriage



Only 3% of eligible youth in the district are enrolled in Grades 11 and 12



Classrooms are overcrowded—more than 58 students per classroom/teacher



Child labour in households is concerning and impacts children's access to education



Only 28% of households have access to a working latrine



The nearest hospital is 15 to 40 km away

SPONSOR A CHILD IN LEKA DULECHA, ETHIOPIA

1-800-667-0605

sponsorship@fhcanada.org

fhcanada.org/child



LAUNCHING LEKA DULECHA'S PARTNERSHIP

As FH says goodbye to Sasiga, we're looking to the next region that's expressed an interest in partnership. And that's Leka Dulecha, Ethiopia!

The communities of Leka Dulecha are ready to begin this exciting transformation journey! While Leka Dulecha is a beautiful, rural farming community with immense potential, families face many challenges.

Farmers constantly battle termite-infested soil that is too acidic to grow abundant crops. Health care is hard to access and the schools are run down. Violent conflict between the government and anti-government groups disrupts daily life from time to time, threatening the peace and security of families. Girls are at risk of early marriage and youth struggle to find opportunities after they finish school.

Local leaders have joined with FH Ethiopia to meet these challenges and lead the communities of Leka Dulecha on a transforming journey to flourishing.





"I was transformed by [FH] training. I became hopeful that I could feed my family [and] protect them from diseases by feeding them vegetables. I can [now] send my children to school and provide their clothing and school supplies... We were in the dark era, but now every corner of my personal life and community is bright—I feel very happy!" – Garama



Thank you!

Thank you for sponsoring a child in Sasiga Mid-Highlands. Your faithful support helped a child and their family build a brighter future. And together with 2,035 Canadian sponsors, you helped nine communities tackle extreme poverty!