Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

We work globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. We are part of a wider movement for social justice. We provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

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Cover photo: Hasarra holds one of the tools she was given to help with crop planting. Farming tools were provided to villagers in Sheba kebele, Bena Tsemay District, by Women Support Association, with the Support of UK's Disaster Emergency Committee.

Photo credit: Huw Owen
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Foreword

In 2017/18, Christian Aid Ethiopia saw significant achievements in building the capacity of smallholder farmers and pastoral communities to be more resilient to climate shocks and disasters.

The climate information service model we developed has become popular and various climate institutions have started to adopt it. We have significantly improved weather information dissemination systems, and communities' attitudes and knowledge about scientific weather information.

Communities have increased their productive capacity, improved access to clean energy sources and education and increased household income. Because of these initiatives, target groups in drought-affected areas successfully bridged shocks induced by El Niño and related climate change hazards. We made substantial contributions in enhancing the coping strategies of vulnerable smallholder farmers and pastoralists. We reached people through humanitarian response interventions such as provision of animal feed, water, veterinary drugs, cash transfers and school feeding programmes for children.

In the Ethiopian context, traditional values, norms and institutions play a major role in perpetuating the denial of rights to women and gender-based violence. We have concrete evidence that organising communities into self-help groups with a focus on social and economic empowerment as the strategic point of entry has enabled women and men to challenge and influence traditional institutions. This has led to traditional institutions beginning to take affirmative action against gender-based violence and traditional norms that negatively affect the lives of girls and women.

We reached a significant number of people through our reproductive health programme. Using participatory approaches, community dialogue and conversation forums, school clubs and interfaith engagement and dialogue, communities have improved health-seeking behaviour and demanded better family planning choices from healthcare institutions.

As part of Christian Aid's new business model and country strategic plan (2018-2022) in Ethiopia, pro-poor markets development work will be a priority area. The Ethiopia country programme will take strategic action to build the capacity of and forge strategic partnership with grassroots community organisations (community-based organisations, self-help groups, saving and credit groups, and marketing cooperatives), and support their transformation to business enterprises with focus on specific value chains – livestock, honey, high-value crops and vegetables, rural microfinance services, incense, fisheries and green enterprises.

Christian Aid will continue to provide climate information services and promote climate smart agriculture – technology transfer and livelihood intensification and diversification services – as a package to community organisations. Due emphasis will be given to documentation of lessons to promote learning within Christian Aid and beyond, with the intent of leveraging change.
Christian Aid, working with colleagues in the Africa division and other support teams within Christian Aid, partners and collaborators should continue making difference to the purpose of our existence in Ethiopia. Once again, we demonstrate that by working with and in partnership, we make significant changes.

I look forward to an even better year as we move into our new country strategy.

Thank you to all our supporters.

Yitna Tekaligne

Country Manager, Christian Aid Ethiopia
Introduction

Christian Aid has been working in Ethiopia for more than 30 years, initially responding to emergencies, but gradually building a long-term development programme. Our work has focused on food security, resilient livelihoods, health, accountable governance, economic justice, energy and climate change.

Christian Aid Ethiopia has substantial experience and a strong reputation for working in remote locations, particularly with vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. Currently we operate in 39 districts in four regions – Oromia, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Southern Nation, Nationalities and Peoples’ Region (SNNPR).

Christian Aid Ethiopia delivers projects and programmes through a partnership model and we have recently started to direct programme implementation as well. Currently, we have about 10 partners with whom we have a funding relationship. Our local partners are primarily local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), both faith-based and secular, and include those delivering grassroots work, and national or regional networks, platforms and movements seeking higher-level influence on policy.

Our Climate Information and Assets for Resilience work has brought about major change by establishing climate knowledge exchange mechanisms. Short- and medium-range climate information is now supplied for districts, rather than larger regions, so end users have improved information to guide their livelihood decisions. In addition, weather information exchange has been linked to local government disaster risk reduction and early warning systems for sustainability and local level decision-making support.

Innovative measures were taken to support hard-to-reach communities to be more resilient to current and future risks and hazards. Communities have been helped to access green energy technologies and practices and build their institutional capacity. The livelihoods of marginalised communities have improved through asset building, organised green enterprises using new innovative technologies, fodder and pasture development, and income-generation schemes.

In our community health work, we focus on better reproductive health and informed family planning choices. Mobilisation of religious institutions and the involvement of frontline religious leaders who have the potential to influence the community was critical to create demand and drive use of the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) service.

Our humanitarian intervention programs are designed to save lives and livelihoods of selected marginalised and vulnerable individuals, groups and communities, as well as ensuring downward accountability of partners. We have helped strengthen and increase the voice and influence of national actors through our Shifting the Power project. We have improved downward accountability and partnership within and among civil society organisations (CSOs) through rolling out the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) principles and organising various collaboration and learning platforms.
Our programmes

Christian Aid Ethiopia focuses on three main programme areas: resilient livelihoods and climate change; humanitarian, which includes our work on accountability; and community health.

Resilient livelihoods and climate change

We are working to increase wealth creation opportunities and build resilient livelihoods for poor and marginalised people, particularly pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. During 2017/18, we reached 763,539 people under our resilient livelihoods and climate change programme.

Community Driven Climate Resilience Building pilot project

The Community Driven Climate Resilience Building pilot project was designed to build resilience of the most vulnerable people, especially indigenous communities, in four districts in Benishangul Gumuz region. The project was a two-year pilot initiative funded by the British Council’s Civil Society Support Programme, with match funding from Christian Aid. It was implemented by three partners – Education for Development Association in Mao Komo woreda, Asossa Environmental Protection Association in Menge and Guba woredas/districts and Forum for Environment in Sedal woreda.

The project helped communities to access alternative livelihood options and supported them to maintain their environment through community innovation and the use of appropriate technologies, so they can better anticipate, adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change.

We worked with Education for Development Association to mobilise and organise communities in Mao Komo district with climate-smart technologies. This included a hydropower plant with a 20 kilowatt capacity that powers a grinding mill. The plant and mill are managed by the local community. In this area, women previously needed to travel long distances on foot in search of a grinding mill – some eight hours for a round trip. Currently, more than 750 households are accessing the hydropower grinding mill. Not only is the mill is closer to the communities, but it is also cheaper. This has saved time, energy and money, allowing families more time for other things.

We worked with Asossa Environmental Protection Association in Menge and Guba woredas on environmental protection, particularly preserving wild plants. Many of these plants are at risk of becoming endangered due to deforestation and the traditional use of wildfire for hunting. In collaboration with local government, our partner has mobilised and organised fire control and protection groups from within the communities, built their skills through training and provided them with fire control equipment. A significant number of wild plants (50 different varieties) used for healing and food have been identified, domesticated and labelled at farmers training centres.

The project has established successful women self-help groups (SHGs), such as vegetable producer women SHGs in Mao Komo and handicraft women SHGs in Guba. We have community structures, such as development facilitation circles, climate scouts...
and climate networks. Through these structures, innovative community-driven climate resilient strategies and action plans were developed and have accessed funding. Communities have started to use new technologies and tools for maintaining their environment. Alternative climate-resilient technologies – such as solar lanterns, improved gold-detecting machines, improved cook stoves and modern beehives – have been promoted to diversify sources of income.

The use of solar lanterns as an alternative off-grid energy source for hard-to-reach communities in the target woredas has resulted in multiple advantages for the community. Solar technology has increased members’ incomes as they have been able to set up mobile phone charging stalls and rent them at community events. Children’s school performance has improved as they are able to read and do their assignments at night. Solar lanterns also help women delivering babies at night. Improved cook stoves have reduced women’s workload as they no longer spend time carrying fuel wood; reduced health problems related to smoke inhalation and contributed towards reducing the numbers of trees being cut for firewood.

**Climate Information and Assets for Resilience in Ethiopia**

Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) is a consortium-run project led by Christian Aid. The BRACED project Climate Information and Assets for Resilience in Ethiopia was implemented in partnership with ActionAid, Ethiopia’s National Meteorology Agency, UK Met Office, BBC Media Action and King’s College London. We have targeted 12 districts in Oromia and SNNPR. Christian Aid’s local NGO implementing partners included SOS Sahel Ethiopia, HUNDEE, Action for Development and Women Support Association.

BRACED worked with vulnerable communities, helping them to be more resilient and better able to rebuild and recover when disasters strike. The project has helped communities to develop the knowledge and resources to anticipate weather events and to better adapt and protect their livelihoods.

The project has supported 283,340 people to build their resilience to climate extremes through household and community level interventions. Our work has focused on climate knowledge exchange mechanisms, establishing community organisations, small business development, climate-smart and business farming, watershed management, rainwater harvesting, irrigation, sustainable energy technology promotion and strengthening of local disaster risk reduction and early warning systems.

Climate information services provided through one regional and two local radio stations in five local languages have reached more than 960,415 people, helping them to make better decisions. For example, climate information has helped people to plan agricultural activities such as ploughing, planting time, movement of livestock for better pasture and water, and rangeland management. To ensure sustainability of the service, weather information exchange mechanisms have been linked to the local government disaster risk reduction and early warning systems.
Below: Kemia Ahmed is a member of the Urji Hunde Bilisuma saving and loan cooperative in Kombolcha District, eastern Ethiopia, set up with the support of the Christian Aid-led BRACED programme.

We have organised 246 women SHGs, with a membership of 4,181 women, and equipped an additional 5,205 people (91% women) in 50 cooperatives with basic business skills training and start-up capital to engage in income-generating activities. Women have increased their savings, income, assets, and business knowledge and skills, enabling them to engage in profitable businesses. This new engagement of women in income-generating activities has increased their decision-making power within the household, lifting their status and earning respect from their partners.

We have increased water access – 12,833 people can now access water for household consumption, small-scale irrigation and livestock. This improved access to water for households experiencing water shortages during the dry seasons helps to keep families and animals healthy. It has also reduced the amount of time and labour that women spend fetching water and freeing them to take part in other activities, including income generation.

We have carried out natural resource management, by reforesting degraded lands, bush clearing, enclosing degraded rangelands, and integrated rangeland management activities, which also included soil and water conservation measures. This has improved land cover, soil, and the availability and productivity of water over 156 hectares of land in 2017 (686 hectares over three years).

Access to water supply in Beneta

A water supply scheme constructed by Christian Aid with our partner Action for Development in Beneta has improved people’s health and reduced their vulnerability to water-borne diseases. It has enhanced access to adequate, clean and safe water for the local community.

We targeted the population with a 1km radius, and reached 11,940 people.

Over the past year, we have worked to reduce water shortages during the dry season. A spring capping structure was constructed and water points were constructed at different sites identified by community and kebele leaders. Water and sanitation committees at
each site were selected and trained on sanitation, hygiene and basic maintenance.

In return, the committees raised awareness on sanitation, hygiene and safe water storage for more than 300 people (including 125 women). The project has made a significant impact through the supply of safe drinking water and increasing community knowledge and attitudes towards sanitation and hygiene. All the beneficiaries in the target kebele now have access to clean water within a walking distance of less than 30 minutes.

**Humanitarian work**

We will maintain our core value of responding to humanitarian emergencies and working on community recovery. We will give due emphasis on playing a key role to influence the government policies and actions to improve early warning and early action system.

**Preparedness and Early Response to Public Health Emergencies**

The Preparedness and Early Response to Public Health Emergencies project was one of 14 Disaster Emergency Preparedness Programme (DEPP) projects. The project is implemented by Christian Aid Ethiopia, together with Amref Health Africa, the Ministry of Health, the Regional Health Bureau and the National Meteorology Agency.

Gambella is located at the south-western tip of Ethiopia and is prone to a range of health hazards for several reasons – recurring droughts and floods in the region, the large influx of refugees from South Sudan, and associated communicable diseases. The project has played a critical role in strengthening early warning, disease surveillance, preparedness and rapid response systems in the region.

*Below:* Automatic weather station installed with the support of the Christian Aid led DEPP project. These stations have helped to improve health information systems.
The project supported the government to deliver a functional health information system, develop preparedness plans and improve coordination mechanisms in the region. Installations of automated weather stations have supported the improvement of the health information system by strengthening the reporting mechanisms and embedding climate information to support the forecasting of diseases. Communicating health information to the community has enhanced community participation and engagement in the health preparedness and response system.

Capacity building training provided to 779 health staff and community volunteers has strengthened the competency of health staff and volunteers on early warning, disease surveillance, effective preparedness and rapid response during health emergencies. Surveillance reporting has significantly increased, from 41% at baseline to 98% by the end of the project, giving the region the highest level of surveillance reporting in the country. Technical support from assigned technical experts who supported district level rapid responses teams in preparation and conducting disease surveillance was critical. Target districts were also supplied with smart phones for digital health information reporting.

The regional laboratory microbiology unit was also supported through training, equipment and reagents. The microbiology unit in the regional laboratory is now able to analyse specimens in-house rather than transporting specimens to Addis Ababa, cutting a minimum of two days from disease identification. Timely disease detection is crucial for emergency health preparedness and response. Local communities are receiving better and faster service than before.

We have supplied emergency drugs to health facilities, enabling them to be prepared for emergencies. Drug supply chain management training has been provided to pharmaceutical experts to ensure the proper utilisation and storage of emergency medication.

Below: Community volunteers attend training on disease surveillance, with the support of the Christian Aid-led DEPP project.

Gambella Public Health Emergency project

Zewdu Assefa is the officer in charge of the DEPP Health Emergency Project in Gambella and the subject matter specialist for surveillance reporting in the National Public Health Emergency Management unit. He says the DEPP project has an important role in terms of addressing the basic gaps in the surveillance system.

Zewdu says: ‘The DEPP project has definitely brought changes and has a bigger impact on the overall health emergency preparedness and response in the region. The simple change indicator… based on the data we are getting from the region, is the surveillance system has improved in terms of timelines and completeness. This will ultimately strengthen early warning preparedness and response systems in the region.’

Tablets were supplied to the project, enabling links to the World Health Organization (WHO). He adds: ‘The project support in terms of updated technologies was particularly instrumental in supporting our efforts to link to the WHO’s web-based pilot project for surveillance data collection application system.’
Collaboration in this project has been fundamental to achieving and enhancing the project outcomes. In particular, the collaboration with the government stakeholders has ensured that the outputs of the project become institutionalised and have a stakeholder with an interest to take this forward after the project end, enhancing sustainability of the outcomes. We have also established and aligned coordination mechanism with the existing platforms (taskforces and working groups, including UN coordination). Collaboration has supported the project in achieving economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

**Improved Early Warning – Early Actions to Strengthen Disaster Preparedness in Ethiopia**

This project is funded by the Start Network through the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID). The initiative addresses the gaps identified by national disaster risk management policy and strategy. The project worked to harmonise and decentralise early warning systems to improve effective coordination and institutional capacities towards proactive risk management and emergency preparedness. This project has invested in capacities of people and technology throughout the disaster risk management system to support the development of a culture of information-based decision making, leading to early actions, thereby reducing losses of livelihoods and human suffering.

The project was piloted and tested in four districts of two regions of Gambella and Oromia in collaboration with the Federal Disaster Risk Management Commission at federal level and by respective regional structures.

We have worked to put improved early warning systems in place and developed capacities to manage these. Early warning committees and institutions were restructured to have a similar structure at both district and kebele level. The structuring enabled early warning committees to collect early signs, analyse and interpret information to forecast likely upcoming scenarios in their area.
The development of district level contingency plans was based on seasonal assessments and estimation of people and resources at risk. This has shifted to action-oriented contingency plans that are enriched by rapid assessments and regular monitoring. The contingency plans were developed not only for woredas as usual, but also for key sectors and kebeles which are linked with mainstreamed and action-oriented mitigation plans. Contingency funds were established at woreda level and at higher levels to finance the contingency plans. The contingency fund sources are mainly from communities and the regular government budget.

The community and woreda level early warning committees have been supported to conduct routine early warning data collection, analysis, interpretation, forecasting and dissemination of relevant information to make communities aware of developing situations. This helped to minimise the loss of lives and livelihoods due to conflict suddenly erupting between neighbouring regions, compared to previous occasions in Moyale woreda in Oromia. Similarly, timely responses to recurrent drought and preparedness work protect communities from possible flood hazards – work in Zuway Dugda woreda proved the functionality of the improved early warning and alert system.

The National Metrology Agency was supported to generate high resolution downscaled weather forecasts to increase accuracy and relevance of localised forecasts to communities. Automatic weather stations were installed. To integrate the weather information on one central server, a high-performance computer was supplied to the National Meteorology Agency, along with an IT system developed by a consultant.

Coordination among relevant stakeholders has been improved to properly communicate warning information early and to obtain prompt response from humanitarian organisations. The project has supported the establishment of multi-sector coordination meetings to integrate efforts.

Different stakeholders and government sector offices conduct monthly and bimonthly discussions on early warning, alert and response issues in their respective districts and kebeles. A memorandum of understanding was developed to establish clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each partner to continuously carry out assessments, report to the relevant decision-making parties and to prepare for hazards and emergencies.

**Livestock Recovery and Restoration project in Moyale and Dire districts**

Drought occurred in 2016/7 in Ethiopia as a result of the failures of two consecutive rainy seasons. It has caused enormous livestock loss, affecting food security of those people who rely on livestock for food.

Borena zone in Oromia region was one of the most affected areas, due to the effects of El Niño and the aftermath of La Niña.

Christian Aid responded to the drought emergency together with its partner Action for Development, with a $250,023 fund secured from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).
We provided supplementary feed for core breeding stock, and supplied and administered emergency veterinary medicine. We addressed the critical needs of livestock feed and veterinary services and saved lives and livelihoods in approximately 750 households.

Below: A livestock feeding centre established to save core breeding cattle affected by the 2017 drought, implemented by Action for Development with the support of Christian Aid.

The intervention helped to improve milk production of the targeted cows and farming bulls recovered well and became strong enough to plough. The cost of feed purchases by the targeted households was reduced, and they were able to use the money they had to protect their remaining cattle and buy food for the family. Cattle productivity and marketability improved, potentially impacting the long-term food security of the community.

**Emergency drought response in Male woreda**

Communities in South Omo were among the most affected by the 2016/7 drought. Christian Aid implemented this project in South Omo, Male district, in partnership with Action for Development through funding from the UK’s Disasters Emergency Committee. This project was designed to benefit target communities through improving access to safe water, providing unconditional cash for the most vulnerable groups, and providing emergency animal feed and health interventions to protect livestock assets.

The emergency response focused on animal health and provided animal feed, treatment and vaccination. We saved the breeding stock of 3,625 vulnerable households. The households have been able to get milk from their cows and make other dairy products because of this intervention, improving their nutrition. This has also contributed to the recovery of the communities' livelihoods through preservation and sale of animals and dairy products.
Our sanitation and hygiene work reached 18,540 people and helped targeted schools and health clinics to have access to safe water. Water storage and collection points now exist in schools and health centres. The Government is able to truck water to these storage tanks in the rainy season. Communities are able to access water closer to their homes. The water is treated, so households are protected from water-borne diseases.

Unconditional cash distributions targeted 1,225 vulnerable women and men, elderly and disabled people. This support helped them with their basic needs, mainly the cost of food items.

Systems for feedback and complaint handling have been set up in each target community. Beneficiaries have been provided with information on the project, their entitlements, donors, and feedback and complaints mechanisms. Community level complaint handling and feedback committees have been dealing with any issues arising from vulnerable groups. They have also been provided with phone numbers for Action for Development field office and head office and Christian Aid staff.

**Emergency school feeding**

The 2016/17 drought and its resulting food shortages caused hunger for millions of people across Ethiopia last year. One of the first things that happens when families experience significant and prolonged hunger, is that children stop attending school.

Zuway Dugda woreda in Oromia region was badly affected by El Niño in 2016 and suffers recurring droughts. Critical pasture and water shortages affected livestock and productivity. These problems were followed by loss of income and food shortages in individual households. The effect of the drought is more severe on children who are attending school. Due to critical food shortages and a lack of income to buy educational materials, most students were not going to school. As a result, their education has been seriously affected.

Christian Aid’s emergency school feeding project gives children a nutritious meal at school every day to improve their nutritional status and prevent impending famine.
In response to the critical and recurrent drought in the woreda, Christian Aid and its partner HUNDEE-Oromo Grass Roots Development Initiative have been providing emergency school feeding for children at selected primary schools since February 2016.

The emergency school feeding project is designed to support children with a nutritious meal at school every day to improve their nutritional status and prevent impending famine.

The school feeding programme has targeted 5,687 school children in the drought-affected community. The feeding programme provided daily meals for the 10 months of the school year. This reduced the burden on women to search for food in the bush as the children are receiving one solid meal at school; household expenditure on health reduced as children are getting the nutritional food they need, and their health status has improved.

The feeding programme has increased school attendance and dropouts have reduced. Provision of a nutritious meal has improved the ability of students to concentrate and focus in class and the overall educational performance of pupils has also improved.

**Building the capacity of national NGOs: Shifting the Power Project**

Capacity building initiatives through the Shifting the Power project have resulted in a breakthrough improvement in organisational capacities of two of our partners, HUNDEE and SOS Sahel Ethiopia.
Our partners have been supported to put in place the necessary policies, guidelines and strategies to improve their humanitarian response. Each local organisation has established a task force that oversees and provides technical support for all the humanitarian work of the local organisations. DEPP has provided various training, experience sharing and peer learning to increase staff capacity.

The key success of the project is that the partners have developed the systems and improved staff capacity to deliver humanitarian projects. They are now able to build new partnerships with donors and funding agencies. SOS Sahel Ethiopia secured new funds from international NGOs and donors for the first time for its humanitarian response (livestock supplementary feeding) in drought-affected areas of Borena.

HUNDEE was also able to build new partnerships and mobilised huge resources and responded to humanitarian crises through emergency food aid, nutritional support and emergency cash transfers in Borena and Grar-Jarso districts. This work has benefited several thousand community members and improved their humanitarian response capacity.

Representation and participation in decision-making processes of the partners in different government and CSO-led forums and coordination meetings have been also improved. Women and vulnerable groups are the most affected people in the community during humanitarian crises and are the one who have most directly and indirectly benefited from returns on Christian Aid investment into strengthening and enhancing capacity of local actors.

Promoting CHS commitments

Christian Aid has been working in partnership with the Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) on the roll out of CHS standards among CCRDA member organisations. This initiative conducts capacity building of CSOs through training, consultative meetings and dialogue, as well as sharing events and awareness raising activities conducted on CHS principles.

It has resulted in improved knowledge and skills in the 10 CCRDA member organisations about CHS in humanitarian response and mainstreaming of CHS commitments. The organisations were supported financially and technically to roll out CHS.

Following familiarisation sessions, 138 CSOs signed the code of conduct/self-regulation mechanism developed by CCRDA. This has improved the image of CSOs with the public through promoting transparency, the increased accountability of our partners and other development actors, improved partnership between and among CSOs/NGOs, private sector and media, that in turn contribute to quality programme delivery.

A framework of partnerships between CSOs and the private sector was established to bring the two entities together for collaboration and cooperation. Project work included building an understanding of corporate social responsibility and its relevance to the private sector, along with the election of a steering committee drawn from CSOs and the private sector. A strategy was developed that identifies complementary purposes and converging interests. The strategy

Bringing localisation to action in Ethiopia

With the support of the Shifting the Power project, SOS Sahel Ethiopia established a humanitarian unit and hired a coordinator to lead it, which has boosted the organisation’s profile in terms of securing humanitarian funding. It is also registered as a member of CHS Alliance, with support from DEPP. This is a very significant achievement for SOS Sahel, as there are very few local NGOs in Ethiopia that are CHS certified.

Kidist Hailemariam, the gender, communication and learning coordinator at SOS Sahel Ethiopia, said: ‘The project is an eye opener and has enabled us to put organisational policies and systems in place in humanitarian sensitive ways. It has strengthened our representation and networks with different humanitarian actors.’

The project helped to strengthen the organisation’s network and representation with different national, international and UN organisations. It was also able to build new partnerships with SOS Sahel International France, Norwegian Church Aid and Ayuda en Acción, and secured funding for drought emergency response.

SOS Sahel Ethiopia was able to get direct funding from UNOCHA for the first time and is now registered in the UNOCHA database as a direct result of fulfilling the donor requirements due to the capacity building work through DEPP.

‘We were able to reach the local community efficiently through the funds we got,’ said Kidist.
serves as a tool to pool resources (such as technical, material and financial) and achieve common objectives.

**Improving health**

We are working to improve the health of poor and marginalised people, indigenous pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, and people living with HIV/AIDS. We reached 1,304,355 people in the target areas through our reproductive health programme.

**Access, Service and Utilisation of Reproductive Health project**

Access, Service and Utilisation of Reproductive Health (ASURE-Health) is a five-year (2015-2019) project financed by the EU. This project is implemented through a consortium made up of Christian Aid and Amref Health Africa. Christian Aid’s implementing partners are Women Support Association and Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development Dialogue and Action.

ASURE-Health aims to increase universal access to comprehensive reproductive health services in Gamogofa, Wolayta, Segen Zones in SNNPR by 30% by the end of 2020. Christian Aid is working with its partners mainly on creating awareness and demand for sexual and reproductive health services. We provide quality reproductive health information and services to women of reproductive age, targeting the most vulnerable people with the least access to reproductive health, and to improve the capacity of local authorities to provide quality and friendly service to the target groups.

**Below:** Women self-help group members at their weekly meeting in Arba Minch, Giziti Merecha kebele. The women are supported through Christian Aid’s ASURE project, implemented by partner Women Support Association.

We supported 200 women SHGs, with a collective membership of 3,698 women, to engage in collective action. On the top of economic empowerment through the SHG approach, regular community conversations and family dialogue sessions between SHG members and their families were instrumental in creating improved access and exchange of information on health, socio-economic and cultural issues. The project has improved communities’ awareness on health, and improved women’s health and decision making about their reproductive health choices.
Over the year, about 716 SHG members used family planning services. In addition, various capacity building activities were undertaken with 30 girls’ clubs, and a series of 42 awareness-raising campaigns resulted in reduced gender-based violence against women and girls and contributed to a reduced prevalence of teenage pregnancy.

Contraceptive use has increased by 17% and teenage pregnancy has reduced by 7% in the target community after three years of the project.

Our partner Amref Health Africa provided 155 health professionals with training, and supplied 206 health facilities with contraceptive commodities and other associated medical supplies. The project reached out to faith leaders at various levels to enlist their active support in efforts to empower communities and congregation members to make healthy choices relating to reproductive health.

Integration of the functional adult literacy approach into all SHGs has resulted in empowering communities, mainly adults, through access to education. This has enhanced their analytical and problem-solving skills and improved numeracy and literacy. Women’s representation in leadership and decision-making positions in government structures has increased, both at community and district level.

Economic and social empowerment of women and girls has resulted in increased health-seeking behaviours in target communities for men and women, and addressing various development challenges that affect the wellbeing of women and girls.
Looking ahead

Country Strategy Plan IV development overview

Christian Aid Ethiopia has developed a series of country strategic plans and implemented programmes and projects with its partners that have directly benefited poor and vulnerable communities.


In Country Strategy Plan IV, Christian Aid Ethiopia intends to focus on four programme areas:

- livelihoods and inclusive markets development
- gender and inequality
- humanitarian
- climate change.

We will also work towards a stronger and more effective Christian Aid.

Christian Aid’s focus is on transforming the lives of poor and marginalised women and men, smallholder farmers, pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. This includes those who do not have secure access to food or basic needs and those who are discriminated against, marginalised, and vulnerable to violence, exploitation or affected by crises.

To bring about change at individual, community, society and institutional levels, we work collaboratively with communities and their organisations, faith-based organisations, Ethiopia ACT Alliance forum, national and international NGOs, private business enterprises, government structures at all levels (federal, regional, district and kebele), microfinance institutions, research and academic institutions.

As a development and humanitarian organisation, Christian Aid will focus on and work with smallholder farmers, pastoral and agro-pastoral communities (men and women), people living with HIV, people with disabilities, outcast or excluded communities and unemployed youth (boys and girls). The selection of target groups shall be made in consultation with communities and local government and community leaders through establishing prior selection criteria. Work with corporations, agri-business companies and private businesses will largely depend on their commitment and effort to transfer knowledge, technology and skills, charge fair prices and fulfil corporate social responsibilities in a more accountable manner.

We will exclusively focus on the four priority impact areas. Accordingly, as a way of sharpening our focus in line with our strategic direction and presence of multiple actors, we will not continue working on community health and HIV/AIDS as a standalone area. Instead some aspects of our reproductive health interventions will be integrated and coordinated under resilient livelihoods and/or gender and inequality.
We will continue working in the southern and western quadrants of the country (Oromia, SNNPR, Gambella, and Benishangul-Gumuz regions). However, given the dynamics of poverty, rural-to-urban migration, an influx of refugees, and growing trends of poverty, marginalisation and inequality both in urban and rural areas, we will expand our operational area towards Somalia region in the south-east and Amhara region in the north-west of the country. We will not be able to cover all areas of these regions; rather we will focus on areas where there is acute need. Priority will be given to areas with severe poverty and exclusion. We will consider the presence and scope of engagement of other development actors, the potential for synergy between two or more Christian Aid projects and the presence of ACT Alliance members and other strong partners. We will also examine potential consortium arrangements, considerations for scaling up best practices and choice of donors if compatible with our country strategic plan.

We will respond to humanitarian crises in any part of the country if we have the resources and organisational capacity. However, priority will be given to areas identified as hot spots by the Government and other humanitarian agencies.

We will establish field coordination offices in areas where there are possibilities to enhance economies of scale or provide closer accompanier support, or where there are no strong local organisations. In areas where we have field offices, we will primarily focus on ensuring the agency of communities through working with existing community structures (and with local government structures, if appropriate) to ensure sustainability. In areas where there are no active community organisations, we will nurture the establishment of community-based organisations.

New projects in 2018

We have embarked upon two new projects – BRACED Climate and Meteorological Services Advancement in Ethiopia and Women in Sustainable Energy.

BRACED Climate and Meteorological Services Advancement in Ethiopia

This project is funded through DFID with a total budget of £499,431, and runs from 1 January 2018 to 31 March 2019. It is implemented by Christian Aid (lead), National Meteorological Agency, Farm Africa and Mercy Corps. Christian Aid will take the lead role in consortium coordination and provide technical support to National Meteorological Agency while developing a national framework on climate services.

This project addresses the need for a coherent national framework for advancing agro-hydro meteorological services. This will ensure the availability and uptake of climate information and the coordination of existing institutions and mechanisms to optimise the use of resources. Development of such a national framework for climate services requires an in-depth knowledge of the status of existing climate services in the country, potentials, gaps and challenges.
It also focuses on the development of a climate service that is built on a shared understanding of needs and applications between stakeholders, requiring stakeholder dialogue and the input from learning platforms at various levels.

**Breaking the barriers: Promoting women entrepreneurship in sustainable energy value chains through innovative approaches**

This project runs for 42 months, from 2018 to 2020, with a total secured fund of €1,020,485 from the EU. It is being implemented in Oromia (Surupha, Elawaye and Gomole districts) and SNNPR (South Ari, BenaTsemay and Konso districts).

Christian Aid is implementing the project in Konso, while our partners HUNDEE and WSA are co-implementers in the other districts. The project work mainly focuses on increasing women’s production, marketing and distribution of sustainable energy products and related services. The project is targeting 110 savings and loans groups (with a total of 1,100 members) to be structured and registered as women-led sustainable energy enterprises.

The project aims to increase rural women’s jobs and income from the sustainable energy sector, and promote gender equality; improve rural women’s working and living conditions and well-being through their access to sustainable energy technologies and related products and services, and strengthen women’s social status.
Financial report overview

During the 2017/18 financial year, Christian Aid has made tremendous efforts to mobilise resources to sufficiently support projects and programmes benefiting poor and vulnerable communities. Over the reporting period, £2,893,495.47 (Birr 105,011,026.84) was mobilised, of which £2,382,030.30 (Birr 86,448,881.84), or 82.32%, is allocated for partners to undertake various projects and programmes. Our key donors were DFID, EU, Band Aid, Disasters Emergency Committee, UNOCHA, Aqua Aid, Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Christian Aid appeal, and the British Council’s Civil Society Support Programme.

Table 1: Summary of financial performance by partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Budget (£)</th>
<th>Budget (birr)*</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary and benefits</td>
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<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
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<td>Dialogue and Action</td>
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<td>Mary Joy Development Association</td>
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</table>

* Exchange rate: £1 = 36.2921 birr
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