



WASH Fact Sheet FS/02/2023

Baseline Survey Factsheet on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Bidre Town, Oromia Region, Ethiopia

SUMMARY

This Factsheet presents Bidre town summary of the baseline survey conducted by IRC-WASH as part of the independent monitoring and evaluation of the KfW funded “Durable WASH Solutions to Drought in Southern Ethiopia - Planning for the Future” programme implemented by UNICEF Ethiopia between 2020 and 2025 (referred to as “Three Town Project” in this report). This town factsheet presents the status of WASH services by the end of 2020 and before implementing the project. It covers water and sanitation services in the town and in selected satellite villages, as well as WASH services in schools and health care facilities.

There is no reliable access to sufficient drinking water in the Bidre town. Town water management needs to be strengthened. In the satellite village, open defecation needs to be sustainably eradicated. Market-based sanitation is suggested to move the communities up the sanitation ladder. Schools and health facilities should get connected to the town water supply systems. Then proper handwashing facilities can be installed in health care centers.

Introduction

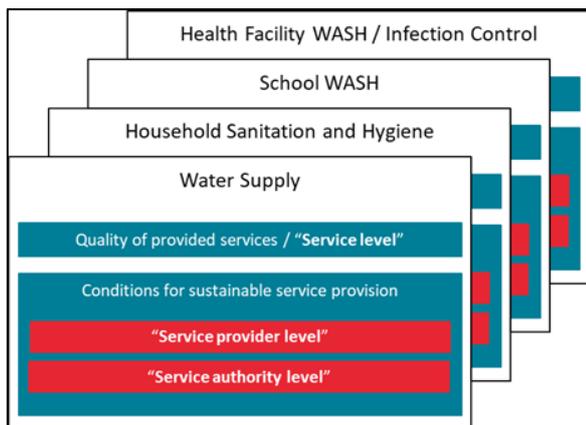
Bidre town in Ethiopia is considered a strategic area for WASH interventions for several reasons including: rapid growth, limited efforts to date to improve water and sanitation services, lower institutional capacities compared to larger towns and cities, the high potential for serious disease outbreaks and negative health impacts, and their importance as centers of local business and growth. This project intends to have impact on lives of children and their families in drought prone regions in Bidre by building community and institution resilience. This will enable them to anticipate, adapt, and respond to climate related shocks and stresses and to saving and improving

the lives of children and their families. This is to be achieved by delivering resilient piped water supply and sanitation services to the residents of Bidre town and the surrounding satellite villages, and improvements to WASH infrastructure in schools and health facilities.

Capacity strengthening of water and sanitation utilities and local authorities as well as alternative contracting arrangements such as the “Build, Capacity Build and Transfer (BCBT)” modality have been found to be better options as piloted in the eight ONEWASH Plus intervention towns funded by DFID. The BCBT tool is especially suited to the institutional framework of the WASH sector in Ethiopia.

A comprehensive framework of indicators and sub-indicators was developed to assess the state of water supply, sanitation and hygiene at household level, in schools, and health care facilities and infection prevention and control measures. The WASH and health services and the conditions for sustainable service provision are assessed at three levels (see Figure 1):

Figure 1: Impact assessment indicator framework

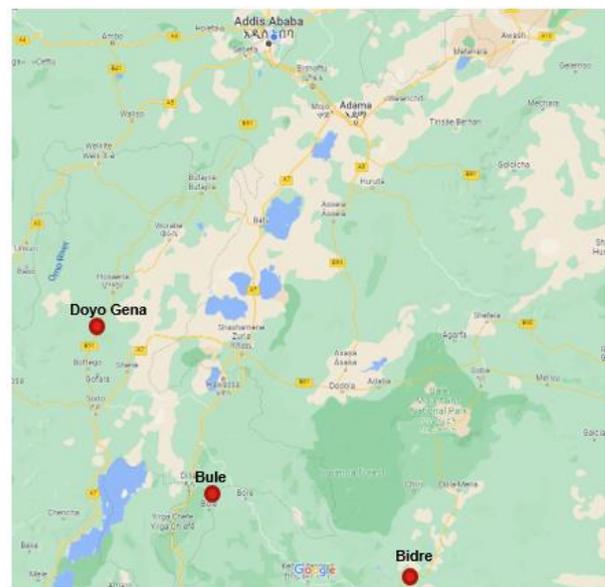


- Service level measures the quality of services provided and can be considered as the “sustainability outputs”. Most service level indicators were assessed during the baseline through observations of WASH facilities, water quality testing and structured interviews with service users.
- Service provider level focusses on the systems, structures and procedures for ensuring day-to-day management. It describes the performance of the water utilities (water supply), health workers and sanitation businesses (sanitation & hygiene), and the management bodies of schools and health facilities (school and health facility WASH). Most service provider indicators were assessed during the baseline through interviews with water utilities, school directors and health facility managers, as well as interviews with service users.
- Service authority level focusses on the systems, structures, and procedures for overseeing and supporting service providers. Most service

authority indicators are assessed through structured key informant interviews with representatives from the relevant woreda and/or municipal offices (water office, health office and education office).

Assessing the conditions for sustainable WASH and health service provision in the endline will provide an indication of the likelihood of sustainability of the program interventions.

Figure 2: Map showing the location of the town



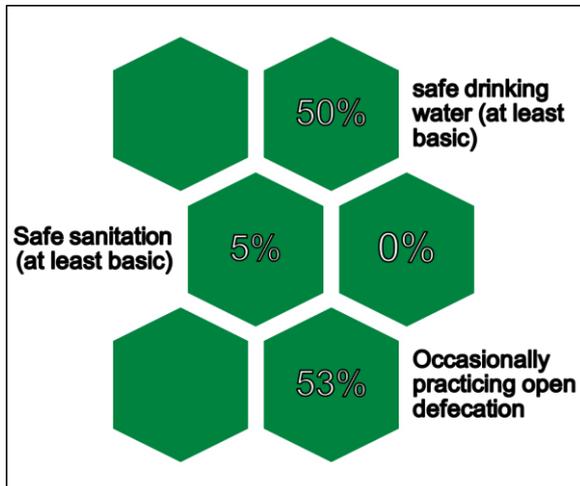
Key Information

Bidre is the administrative level of the town in Meda Welabu Woreda, located in Bale zone of Oromia. The projected population for 2020 was 14,255. The town has seven satellite villages with a population of 9,590 for the same period (2020) that will need to be connected to the town water supply system: Ela Bidre, Abba Sirba, Adadi, Shayi Kudhalamanii, Hara Gurati, Roba Jiru and Hadha Gano. This makes for a combined population of 23,845.

The figure below shows that safe drinking water

with “at least basic” service level and safe sanitation if as low as 5% with the same service level.

Figure 3: WASH percentages for Bidre



Overall, access to drinking water is difficult to score as the system became non-functional during the year in the town. Household data depicts the service level and time spent fetching water when the scheme was functional.

Figure 4: The selected satellite villages



Figure 5: Time spent on collecting water in Bidre town



Conclusion

Bidre town water supply system has not been operational for approximately 10 months at the time of the baseline survey and that shows that reliable access to sufficient drinking water is a critical challenge in the intervention town. A new water supply development and the main actors in the town water management are expected to effectively address these challenges. This indicates that special attention needs to be given to reduce these disparities during project implementation and project activities should include pro-poor measures to ensure affordability of piped water for everyone.

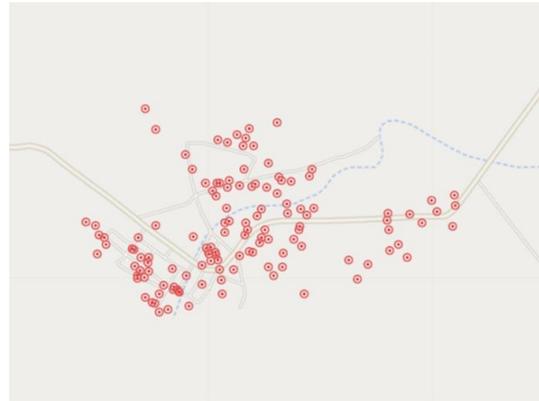
Figure 6: Water Pump



Town water management needs to be strengthened so that service providers can reliably track the amount of water produced and supplied, prepare audited financial records, and establish a comprehensive asset management system. Sanitation coverage varies between urban and rural areas. In the satellite villages the focus needs to be on sustainably eradicating open defecation, while in the urban areas focus needs to be on market-based sanitation activities as stated in the following paragraph.

Overall, the quality of existing sanitation and hand washing facilities is relatively poor and an active private sector that offers attractive and affordable products and services is essential for households to move up the sanitation service ladder.

Figure 7: Visited households in Bidre



In addition to setting up sanitation marketing centers, it is essential to establish effective promotion strategies for improved sanitation and handwashing products, and to address affordability issues for the poorest. In Bidre town, lack of pit emptying services is another issue that needs to be addressed in order to establish a sustainable sanitation system.

Figure 8: Sampling blocks in Bidre



In schools and health facilities access to reliable water supply is a major challenge and all schools and health facilities should get connected to the town water supply systems. Currently these key institutions get improved water from nearby handpumps, which are not easily accessible for all students when needed. Once water is available, the installation of proper handwashing stations

should be addressed especially near the toilets and at the point of care in health facilities.

References

3T project baseline report

Photo Credits

Maps from Google Earth, 2021

Photos taken by enumerators during the baseline data collection

Acknowledgements

About Durable WASH in Southern Ethiopia Programme

Further information on baseline study findings are discussed in the main baseline report. This report is available from UNICEF.

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UNICEF's water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) country teams work inclusively with governments, civil society partners and donors, to improve WASH services for children and adolescents, and the families and caregivers who support them. UNICEF works in over 100 countries worldwide to improve water and sanitation services, as well as basic hygiene practices. This publication is part of the UNICEF WASH Learning Series, designed to contribute to knowledge of good practice across UNICEF's WASH programming. In this series:

Discussion Papers explore the significance of new and emerging topics with limited evidence or understanding, and the options for action and further exploration.

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