



**FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY**



ETHIOPIA

Sasiga Mid-Highlands
Year-End Community Summary
Fiscal Year 2023

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Walking with
Sasiga Mid-Highlands



2014

2024



Communities:
9



Total Households:
5,950



Total Population:
28,564



Program Participants:
28,564

ETHIOPIA

It is amazing to see how far Sasiga Mid-Highlands has come! They're planning their "graduation" from FH partnership for near the end of 2024. In spite of being impacted by a civil conflict from the north, FH staff see the resilience and worldview of families in the Mid-Highlands becoming distinctly more hopeful, confident, and determined to support their communities' development.

One of the strongest signs of resilience in a community is when they take initiative to care for their own—for those who are vulnerable or suffering or just need a helping hand. We see this happening all over. For example, this year, when FH staff members pointed out the widows and elderly in the communities who needed support, church leaders stepped into action. They organized community members to mobilize resources and put in the sweat equity to help them make repairs on their homes, like fixing leaky roofs. In addition, on a community visit, FH staff found young people bolstering the inter-community roads so they could be used by motor vehicles. While the youth have received volunteerism training from FH, this initiative was totally their own!

Families are also successfully working on boosting food security. They've dramatically improved the soil in the Mid-Highlands by planting trees and practicing agroforestry. By continuing to train farmers on the community-owned tree nursery, FH helps families grow tree seedlings for their farms to support healthy soil and prevent deforestation. They also make money by selling seedlings to the community. This improves livelihoods and food security in a sustainable way.



Child Sponsorship Gives Desta New Hope

Story and photos collected by Getinet Girma
Written by Abera Shagirdi

Fourteen-year-old Desta has benefited from the child sponsorship program—from school uniforms and stationary to receiving a goat when he was just eight years old. He has since raised a small flock of goats, which have made a huge difference for his once struggling family.

Before partnership with FH, their rural farming community in Sasiga battled termite infestations, fall armyworms, and high soil acidity, making it hard to grow crops. Spiritually, emotionally, and socially, Desta's family longed for more. But they were in survival mode.

Desta was often kept home to help with chores instead of going to school. Even worse, there wasn't enough food. Desta admits, "I feel angry as I recall some of the events that happened in my life. There was a time of starvation when I went to school with no food."

Goats and coffee help Desta overcome

Through the child sponsorship program, Desta's family attended workshops that helped them tackle their challenges and increase farm production. They started receiving FH Gift Guide gifts like tree seedlings, garden tools, and vegetable seeds. And they worked—their harvest multiplied five times!



“After I became a sponsor child I became active in my learning. My family gave attention to our education and supported me.”
— Desta

Today, his family earns an income by selling crops, milk, honey, vegetables, and even coffee. This diversified income stabilized the family—they now have enough to eat and prioritize Desta's education. “After I became a sponsor child I became active in my learning. My family gave attention to our education and supported me,” Desta explains.

Desta's goat was also a big help: “I sold the [goat] offspring and purchased a 0.25 hectare coffee farm. Part-time, I manage my coffee farm as well as the goat,” Desta says smiling. Child Sponsorship and FH partnership radically changed Desta's childhood and are shaping him into a young man with hopes and skills for the future. “I am very pleased about my life!” he says.



Desta's family with their new goat family!

EDUCATION

Strengthening homes and schools for better education



"The help FH has provided me and my family has given me the courage to study. I am working hard to get through my high school studies."

— Misoma, high school student



100

caregivers trained on **early childhood stimulation and reducing toxic stress**

4

new classrooms constructed in Fayine Tarano community

360

books distributed to 9 primary schools as seen in the photo 📷

36

teachers trained on math and literacy instruction

450

students participated in **peer-to-peer tutoring**

154

caregivers trained on **positive parenting practices**



HEALTH

The ripple effect of transformation



247

pregnant women trained to **care for themselves and their newborns**

9

school girls' clubs (436 girls) received **dignity kits**

220

concrete latrine slabs provided to 220 households

1

maternity waiting room constructed in Fayine Tarano

36

teachers, pastors, and health professionals **trained on community-led sanitation**; they trained 440 additional community members

31

water points—hand dug wells, capped spring—rehabilitated, benefiting 1,550 households as seen in the photo 📷



Nano Sanbata Dure had a shortage of clean water, making families—especially children!—sick. It affected the health and economy of the entire community. But since families started drinking from a newly rehabilitated capped spring, waterborne diseases have dramatically decreased! The money they used to spend on medicine can now be used to feed their families and send their children to school.

LIVELIHOODS

Boosting food security and family income



"We never used vegetables as part of our family diet. Then FH trained me on fruit and vegetable production and provided me with seeds. Now, my family eats fresh vegetables in our daily dishes and sells some for income. My family is nutritionally food secure."

— Gudina, as seen in the photo 📷

100 women trained on economic empowerment through growing vegetables

10 new Savings and Loans groups (229 members) formed and trained

249 farmers trained on the side effects of chemicals and using natural pest management

115 sheep distributed to women and 36 sheep offspring given to neighbours

150 farmers trained on improved coffee plantation management

249 farmers trained on environmentally sound termite control

506 avocado seedlings distributed to 130 households, supporting nutrition and income



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Moving forward together



37 church leaders trained on supporting community development

51 leaders trained on leadership principles like advocacy and community mobilization

46 local government members attended a meeting with FH presenting the year-end report and plan for 2024

490 community members trained on supporting community development and positive mindset transformation



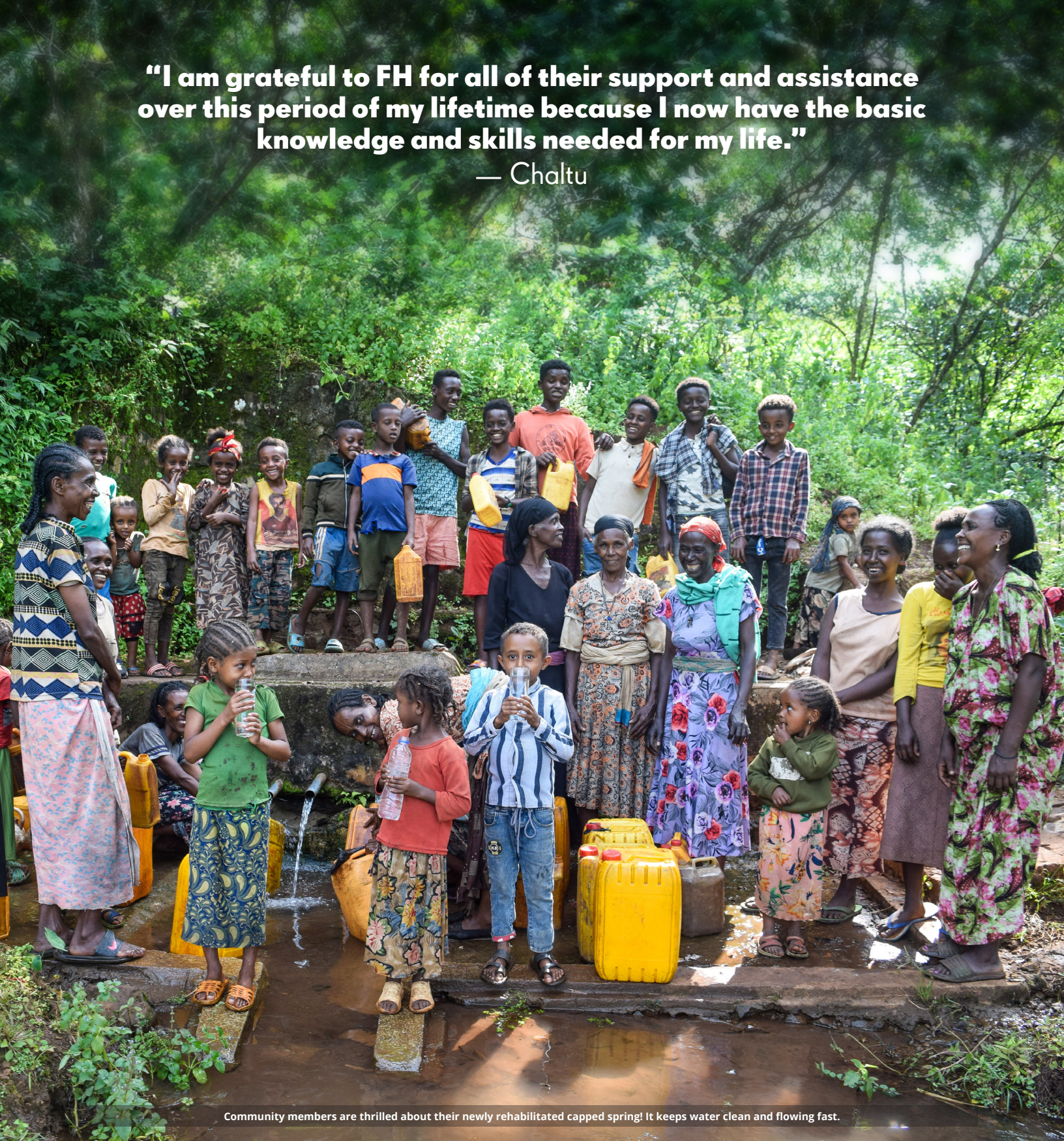
"Before FH started leadership training, there was no organized volunteer training for the youth. Today, however, our youth have been building churches and taking poor mothers and fathers to the hospital by organizing themselves into a community-based social organization."

— Etefa, from Sasiga Mid-Highlands



"I am grateful to FH for all of their support and assistance over this period of my lifetime because I now have the basic knowledge and skills needed for my life."

— Chaltu



Community members are thrilled about their newly rehabilitated capped spring! It keeps water clean and flowing fast.

Thank You

FH Ethiopia and FH Canada, together with the people of the Sasiga Mid-Highlands, thank you for your generous support of their development journey! After nine years of walking together, families are deeply grateful for your contributions toward their resilient future.