Goals of the Semre water project:

- Eliminate hours of labor by women and children who collect water every day;
- Ensure that residents use improved hygiene practices;
- Provide enough safe water to meet every resident’s personal needs for drinking, cooking and washing;
- Ensure that every household has access to a latrine;
- Protect the new water source.

The water crisis in Ethiopia

There is clearly an urgent need to develop safe water supplies and basic sanitation for the majority rural population of Ethiopia. Access to safe water is estimated to be only 12% in rural Ethiopia. Latrine access is also extremely poor at merely 7%. Water related diseases are endemic and health services are limited. The lack of access to safe drinking water places a heavy burden of morbidity and mortality on children who are especially vulnerable to diarrheal disease. These diseases are a particular threat to people with HIV/AIDS, who have compromised immune systems with limited resistance to opportunistic infections. Repeated bouts of diarrhea are not only debilitating for the patients but also increase the burden on caregivers, family livelihoods, and ultimately the community.