



Mubreke Terkelay collecting water at an unprotected spring.

‘Historic Moment’ For Hile Village: A WaterPartners Success Story



Not long ago, six-year-old Mubreke Terkelay and other children and women in the Ethiopian village of Hile had to climb down into a leech-infested pit to collect water every day. Their only alternative source of water was a four-hour round-trip walk away—a journey they frequently had to make during the dry season.

The water they collected at the spring was unfit to drink. Besides leeches, it was also full of other parasites and algae. They tried to filter it through their clothing, but it still smelled bad and made them sick. The water flow was slow and there were frequent conflicts over the amount of time it took to collect enough for domestic and livestock use.

WaterPartners International, working in cooperation with its partner organization REST, helped the people of Hile change all that. They excavated around the spring and built a containment and filtration system to protect and purify the water. They established a committee to manage the system and trained them in how to maintain it. Now the 400 people who live in Hile have access to a safe, sustainable water source—for only about \$15 per person.



Yordanos Aregawi demonstrates how dirty their drinking water used to be.

Today, the women of the village have more time to help their husbands in the fields or participate in the government’s food for work program, so they have more to eat and more money to spend on necessities like medicine. The children are healthier and have better school attendance because they no longer suffer from chronic diarrhea and intestinal worms. Thanks to your support, their lives and many others have been dramatically improved in a matter of only a few months by access to safe, abundant water.



Thanks to the support of WaterPartners’ donors, the people of Hile and thousands of others around the world are enjoying new clean water sources this year.

Ziman Kahsay, one of the women of Hile village, summed it up this way: “For 38 years I suffered. The water here was dirty and muddy. It had algae, worms and a bad smell. My son had to go the clinic three times with diarrhea. Now, with this project, we think about the future generations. They have a bright future. This is an historic moment for us.”