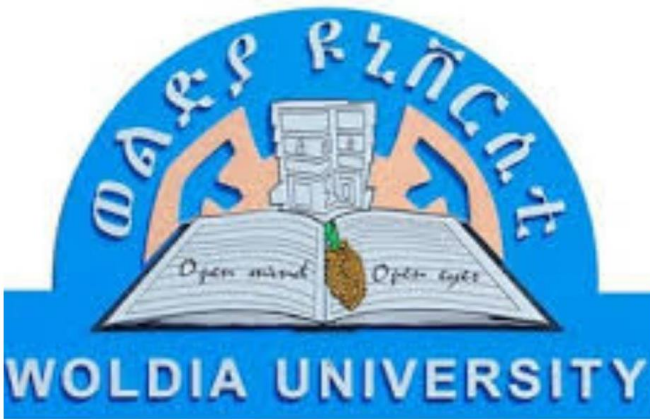


Ayena Bugna Affected Community Support



**Joint project between Woldia University and the
Amhara Association in Seattle**

APRIL 2025

Introduction

The **Amhara Association in Seattle** (AAS) became aware of the severe famine situation in **Bugna Woreda**, located in the **North Wollo Zone** of Ethiopia, after reading an article published in [Addis Times](#) on **December 18, 2024**. The article described the dire circumstances faced by the local population, including reports of high mortality rates due to food scarcity, especially among children. On **January 25, 2025**, the crisis was further highlighted in a [BBC Amharic](#) report, which detailed the catastrophic food shortage and its deadly consequences. Following this, the **AAS** recognized the urgency of the situation and immediately began taking steps to address it.

The 2024/2025 Ayina-Bugna Famine Assessment: Key Findings from [Woldia University Research Study](#)

In 2024, a comprehensive famine assessment was conducted in Bugna Woreda, located in Ethiopia's Amhara region, by a research team from Woldia University. The study offers a sobering analysis of the severe socio-economic and health challenges facing the community, particularly in relation to food insecurity and access to essential services.

Initial Assessment

The research team initially conducted field visits in four critical kebeles:

- Kob
- Birko
- Kidus Harbe
- Ayena

Their findings revealed:

- Acute food shortages leading to widespread hunger.
- Reported deaths of mothers and children due to starvation.
- Lack of access to medical services.
- Severe water shortages compounding the crisis.

Refocusing the Assessment

Following discussions with the Bugna Woreda Technical Committee, a strategic decision was made to narrow the focus of the assessment. The reason for this adjustment was that the other two clusters (Kob and Birko) were already receiving support from other humanitarian organizations.

Thus, the final assessment concentrated on two main clusters:

- Ayena Cluster
- Kidus Harbe Cluster

These two clusters cover four kebeles:

1. Ayena Rural

2. Ayena Town
3. Kidus Harbe
4. Kuaro

These areas were identified as the most vulnerable, lacking external aid, and requiring urgent intervention.

1. Introducing Ourselves and Initial Response

The **AAS** first acknowledged the gravity of the situation in **Bugna Woreda**. It was clear that something needed to be done to support the affected communities. With a shared sense of responsibility, the association recognized the importance of mobilizing resources within the Ethiopian diaspora, in particular the Amhara community in Seattle. This effort was initially spurred by the media reports, but it soon evolved into a coordinated action plan that involved gathering funds, ensuring transparency, and providing direct assistance.

2. Awareness and Fundraising Campaign

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በዚህ ለመክፈል፡ 206 475 5383

በጥንክ ለመክፈል፡ Chase Bank፡ Acct# 919 663 523

We can't wait until we have emaciated children. It's better to prevent than to have to respond !!

ርሃብ ጊዜ አይሰጥም !!

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2025 @ 3:00 PM

ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY

8323 RAINIER AVE S SUITE A, SEATTLE, WA 98118

(206) 475-5383

The **AAS** began preparing materials to raise awareness about the famine and the association's efforts to fundraise for relief. Flyers were created to inform both the Ethiopian community in Seattle and the broader public about the crisis and the importance of contributing to the cause. These flyers were distributed throughout the city, particularly to local businesses, to ensure maximum outreach. A key event

was organized for **February 15, 2025**, at the **Ethiopian Community Center** in Seattle, where the fundraising campaign would culminate in an effort to gather as much support as possible.

3. Purpose of the Project

The primary goal of the project was to provide immediate and tangible relief to the people of **Bugna Woreda** who were suffering from severe food insecurity. The AAS aimed to raise funds, not only to alleviate the current famine but also to ensure that relief efforts would be sustained over time, especially as the situation developed. The association sought to channel the generosity of the local Ethiopian community to help save lives and mitigate the suffering of families affected by the famine.

4. Discussion on Funds and Beneficiaries

Once the decision to fundraise was made, the association shifted its focus to determining how much financial support it could generate and how best to allocate those resources. There was considerable discussion regarding the specific needs of **Bugna Woreda** and how to reach the most vulnerable individuals, especially children, who were reported to be among the hardest hit by the crisis. In collaboration with **Woldia University Team**, which had conducted a comprehensive study on the famine's impact, the association sought to understand the full scope of the emergency. They worked closely with university representatives to define the number of beneficiaries and ensure the funds would address the most urgent needs of the population.

5. Project Planning and Logistics

With the goal of maximizing the impact of the fundraising efforts, the **AAS** began formulating a detailed project plan. This plan encompassed various key aspects of the relief operation, such as:

- **Budgeting:** How much money was needed to provide significant relief, and what were the expected costs for transportation, distribution, and other logistical aspects?
- **Logistics:** Organizing the physical distribution of food and supplies was a major challenge. The association focused on how to safely and efficiently transport the funds and goods to **Bugna Woreda**, ensuring that the aid reached the right people in a timely manner.
- **Control and Oversight:** It was crucial for the association to establish mechanisms for oversight to ensure that funds would be used properly and that aid would reach those in need without delay or diversion. The planning process included establishing clear tracking systems for funds and supplies, as well as regular communication with partners on the ground.

6. Agreement on Communication and Reporting

As part of the planning process, the **AAS** agreed to a schedule for regular meetings and progress updates. We decided to hold weekly meetings to discuss the project's progress, assess any challenges, and make any necessary adjustments. This collaborative approach ensured that the project remained on track and that any emerging issues were addressed promptly. Moreover, it was agreed that progress reports would be submitted regularly to maintain transparency and accountability, keeping both the the AAS leadership and the **Woldia University team** Leaders about the project's developments.

7. Collaboration with Woldia University

One of the key steps in advancing the project was establishing direct communication with **Woldia University**, which had conducted the initial research on the famine. Through the efforts of **Ato Tesfaye Sisay**, a dedicated member of the association, and **Ato Mekasha Gedle**, the Vice President of the association, they were able to connect with **Ato Allen** and **Dr. Amare**, both members of the **Woldia University team**. This partnership ensured that the aid would be targeted effectively and that the necessary logistics, such as distribution channels, would be set up on the ground in Ayena and Kidus Harbe in **North Wollo**.



Acknowledgements and Gratitude Report

Honoring the Generosity of Our Community

On behalf of the Amhara Association in Seattle, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the incredible business owners, community members, and individual donors who came together in support of our fundraising initiative for Ayena Bugna affected community.

Your kindness, compassion, and generosity have made a lasting impact. Through your contributions, we were able to bring hope, relief, and essential support to many children, women, and vulnerable members of Ayena Bugna community.

Special Thanks to Seattle Business Owners

We would like to take a moment to recognize and sincerely thank the following **Seattle-area business owners** for their outstanding support:

- Restaurant Owners
- Adult Family Home (AFH) Owners
- Cake and Bakery Owners
- Market and Grocery Store Owners

Your partnership has not only contributed financially but has also inspired others to give. Your generosity plays a significant role in fostering a sense of community, and we are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

Thank you for making a difference!

Special Appreciation to Woldia University Team

- Dr. Amare Bihon
- Alene Weldeyohanne (Different Organization)
- Amare Adane
- Getanew Sewnetu
- Mr. Woldehawariat

On behalf of the Amhara Association of Seattle, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the incredible team from Woldia University for your remarkable commitment and service to our community.

Your dedicated research and tireless efforts have brought national and international attention to the food crisis in Bugna Woreda. You went beyond your academic roles — working more than 16 hours a day, traveling to the most remote rural areas, and reaching the people in need with food supplies and urgent support.

Most importantly, you did all this without expecting any payment — purely driven by love for our people and a heart to serve.

Because of your hard work, awareness was created across the globe, and Ethiopians from around the world came together to help.

The Amhara Association of Seattle sincerely appreciates your outstanding work. You have set a powerful example of what it means to serve with compassion, integrity, and action.

We would love to partner with you on future projects — especially to find sustainable solutions to the ongoing water crisis affecting rural communities.

Thank you once again for your extraordinary efforts and commitment to saving lives.

Heartfelt Appreciation to Individual Donors

To every individual who donated, shared our cause, and stood with us — thank you. Your generosity reminds us that compassion has no limits.

- The dedicated members of the Seattle Amhara Association
- All Ethiopians who generously participated in the fundraising efforts
- The Executive members of the Seattle Amhara Association.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
— Winston Churchill

Together, We Made a Difference

Because of your support, we were able to:

- Provide essential food and supplies
- Support families in crisis
- Bring hope to the hopeless
- Create a stronger, more caring community

We look forward to continuing this journey together, building a brighter future for all.

With deepest gratitude,

Amhara Association in Seattle

9428 Rainier Ave S.

Seattle, WA 9811

Phone # 206 475 5383

<https://amharaassociationinseattle.org/>

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Project Name

Ayena Bugna Affected Community Support

Project Title: Ayena Bugna Affected
Community Support Program

Location: Ayena Bugna, Amhara, Ethiopia

Implementing Organization: Amhara
Association in Seattle,

Project Duration: 27 February 2025-April
3,2025

The summary Report Prepared by: **Dr. Amare Bihon**

April 2025

1. Executive Summary

The humanitarian assistance initiative was launched by the Amhara Association in Seattle, following a research report released by Woldia University. The association decided to implement a food support program based on the report's recommendations, aiming to sustain the survival of the most affected community members.

A total budget of \$40,000 US dollars was allocated for this initiative. Upon confirmation of the budget, the implementation team in Ethiopia submitted a financial proposal to the association's committee for approval. Initially, the program was designed to provide assistance across four clusters identified in the study—Kidus Harbe, Ayena, Kobe, and Birko. However, after discussions with the woreda technical committee, it was decided to focus on two main clusters, Ayena and Kidus Harbe, covering four kebeles: Ayena Rural, Ayena Town, Kidus Harbe, and Kuaro. The remaining two clusters were supported by other aid organizations.

The beneficiaries were categorized into seven groups based on their level of need, and a total of 2,000 individuals were selected and verified by the woreda civil administration. Following the confirmation of the recipient list, the implementation team submitted a financial proposal to the association for approval. Once the aid package was approved, the team commenced execution, which involved market assessment, procurement, collection of materials, transportation, deployment, and direct distribution to the beneficiaries. Despite the challenges faced during the collection and transportation of goods, the program was successfully implemented, providing essential food items such as wheat flour, lentils, shiro, salt, oil, and pepper. The aid program received significant recognition from beneficiaries, highlighting its impact. However, several challenges arose during implementation, including market price volatility, the involvement of brokers, and interference from government staff with merchants and brokers.

In response, community representatives and the woreda civil administration recommended extending food aid support until the next cropping season. Additionally, they emphasized the need for agricultural input support for the main cropping season and urgent interventions to improve water access, which remains a critical challenge for the community.

2. Background and Objectives

According to the study reports, the community is facing a severe food crisis, with most residents having reduced their daily meals from two to one due to food shortages. This crisis is primarily driven by a combination of flooding, sleet, and political instability, all of which have significantly impacted food availability.

The situation has been further exacerbated by the lack of food distribution under the Rural Productive Safety Net (RPSN) program, which has not taken place for over a year. This absence of support has not only worsened the food shortage but has also contributed to tragic consequences, including the deaths of children and women.

The program implemented by the Amhara Association in Seattle aimed to address this critical issue by alleviating the immediate risk of death for 2,000 individuals severely affected by the food shortage. In addition to providing emergency food assistance, the program also focused on resource mobilization for sustainable development projects to help ensure long-term food security for the community.

The Amhara Association in Seattle played a central role as the major implementer of the initiative, working in close collaboration with experts and other partners to provide immediate relief and to plan for future development efforts. The program was designed to provide urgent food support while also laying the groundwork for addressing the root causes of food insecurity, such as improved agricultural practices, resource management, and the mitigation of political and environmental risks that have disrupted food systems in the region.

This initiative not only focused on short-term relief but also emphasized the importance of sustainable solutions to prevent future crises, marking a critical step toward building resilience and ensuring long-term food security for the community.

2. Implementation and Activities (February 27 – April 3)

s.n	Description of Activity	Implementation time frame			
I		1St Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
1	Conduct market assessment				
2	Prepare procurement and activity implementation plan				
3	Conduct Joint meeting with AAS committee for appraisal of activities				
4	Beneficiary targeting in collaboration with responsible government bodies				
5	Conduct verification of targeted beneficiaries by the community jointly with selected community representatives				
6	Procurement of food supplies				
7	Transportation of food supplies				
8	Distribution of food supplies				
9	Report preparation and submission				

Table.1 Implementation and Activities

4. Results and Impact

- A total of 2000 beneficiaries reached.
- All the targeted beneficiaries received the aid as per their quota
- Majority of the beneficiaries were lactating women, elders, disabilities

All beneficiaries witnessed the aid reached in exact time of need and mix of all the necessary inputs” **one mother said God blessed the good heart of the donors, they don’t know us but they care a lot, I get all my needs, I only need cooking wood to support my life”**

The other official witnessed the completeness of the aid saying” **I have a plan to distribute the aids here after, I fear, I will face challenges b/c of the completeness of your support”**

5. Challenges

- Involvement of the brokers in the transport sector:
- Chain of gov’t staff with the brokers and suppliers
- Discrepancies in transportation of goods, they refused to transport for kidus harbe cluster
- The award of the procurement for local merchants and transporters was the major challenge

6. North Wollo Zone Bugna Woreda Humanitarian Response Budget Plan

Humanitarian Response Program: Financial Report

- **Data source:** Woldia University
- **Donor:** Amhara Association in Seattle
- **Number of Targeted Beneficiaries=** 2000 individuals
- **Contact Person and Address:** Dr Amara Bihon and Alene Woldeyohannes

S.N	Description of Activity	Unit	QTY	Days	Unit Rate in ETB	Total Price ETB	Total expenses (ETB)
I	Program supplies						
1	Wheat flour	Kg	30000		90.00	2700000	2730000
2	Vegetable oil in five kg pack	Pcs	200		1660.00	332000	298000
3	Lentil imported type in 15kg pack	kg	3000		250.00	750000	675000
4	Iodized salt 1kg pack	kg	1000		25.00	25000	24500
5	Paper grinded in kg	kg	500		380.00	190000	187500
6	Shiro	kg	1000		200.00	200000	175000
	Sub total					4197000	4090000
II	Other Program Cost						
1	Meal and Lodging allowance for food distributor	Person	4	7	1500	42000.00	60000.00
2	Daily allowance for facilitators from the community	Person	12	4	500	24000.00	16000.00
3	Per-diem for staff from the government	person	3	4	1500	18000.00	10500.00
4	Video camera man professional fee	lumpsum			50000	50000	40000.00
5	Visiblity_printing of banner	m2	10		1000	10000	2000.00
	other costs						5000.00
	Sub total					144000.00	133500.00
III	Operational cost						
1	Loading and unloading fee	Qunital	365	2	30	21900	16180
2	Truck rent fee for the transportation of supplies	Truck	365	1	1000	365000	187000
3	Light vehicle rent with fuel for program team	Days	1	6	15000	90000	88000
4	flash disc 128 GB						1600
	Sub total					476900	292780
	Grand total					4817900.00	
IV	Contingency budget from the total costs						
	3% of the total cost					144537	
	Grand total					\$4,962,437.00	\$4,516,280.00

Table.2 Humanitarian Response Program: Financial Report

7. Lessons Learned

- direct distribution to the beneficiaries is the best way
- distribution data and call for aid should be after the transportation and settlement in the destinations
- beneficiaries' verification should be done prior to distribution
- focus on sustainable aid programs

8. Recommendations and Next Steps

- continuing food until the next crop season
- supporting agricultural inputs for the next main season of farming
- **Focusing on water accessibility issue which relates to overall health of the community***
- establishing local team of aid and developmental project facilitators
- strict follow up of each activity should be continued

A special Note from AAS

Water is Life — and It's Running Out.

Even though we were able to distribute food supplies to over 2,000 women, children, and elderly people in the area, our work on the ground has revealed a heartbreaking reality — a severe water crisis.

Families are forced to walk 3-4 hours just to fetch water that barely lasts them a day. In addition, for those who can afford to buy it, the cost is devastating — \$50.00 Ethiopian Birr for just about 5 gallons of water. This is not sustainable. Without access to clean and reliable water, the suffering of children, women, and the elderly will only continue — regardless of how much food aid we provide.

Water is not a luxury — it is a basic human right.

We need your help once again.

In the coming days, we will share more details on how we can come together to support these villages and provide them with sustainable access to clean water. Stay tuned. Stay engaged.

And most importantly, let's not forget:

Without water, survival is a daily struggle.

Thank you!

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