



**Save the Children Ethiopia**

**Bahir Dar Field Office**

**Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities (USAID/ENGINE) - An Integrated Nutrition Program**

**Event Report**

**On**

**Global Hand Washing Day celebration in South Achefer and Takusa woreda**

**October 17, 2014**

**Introduction:**

Hand washing with soap is the most effective and inexpensive way to prevent diarrheal and acute respiratory infections, which take the lives of millions of children in developing countries every year. Despite its lifesaving potential, hand washing with soap is seldom practiced and difficult to promote.

Practicing hand washing with soap before eating and after using the toilet into an ingrained habit could save more lives than any single vaccine or medical intervention, cutting deaths from diarrhea by almost half and deaths from acute respiratory infections by one-quarter. A vast change in hand washing behavior is critical to meeting the Millennium Development Goal of reducing deaths among children under the age of five by two-thirds.

Global Hand washing Day focuses on children because not only do they suffer disproportionately from diarrheal and respiratory diseases and deaths, but research shows that children – the segment of society so often the most energetic, enthusiastic, and open to new ideas – can also be powerful agents for changing behaviors like hand washing with soap in their communities.

Save the Children International through its ENGINE project and in collaboration with Amhara Regional State Health Bureau, zonal health and education department and woreda health & education office celebrated Global Hand Washing day event at Ayalew and Gibaza bere Primary and Elementary Full Cycle Schools in South Achefer and Takusa Woredas respectively on October 17/2014.

**Objective of the celebration:**

To sensitize communities, sector offices, school children and teachers, and the community about the benefits of hand washing during critical times thereby increasing their awareness to prevent many communicable diseases through practicing this habit.

**Major Activities accomplished during the event:**

- **Community mobilization and promotion:** Community mobilization and promotion of hand washing have been conducted by amateur and all school students in the main roads of the town prior to celebration day and during the celebration day respectively. And hand washing promotion banners has been also posted on main corners of the town.



- **Opening remark and key note address:** were conducted by the invited guests of the event (Zonal health & education department, the School Principal, Woreda Health Office Hygiene and Sanitation Officer, and ENGINE representative- Coordinators). All speakers addressed the issue of hand washing during critical times (before preparing food, before eating, after using the toilet, after cleaning the bottom of a child, before feeding and breastfeeding the child). They also elaborated why the event is celebrated at the school by stressing that school children are more prone to touching dust particles so that they should practice hand washing frequently and that school children are representatives of their community to transmit more doable key messages of hand washing to their families and neighbors.



***Opening Remarks and key note made by Zonal education officer, School Principal, ENGINE SBCC Coordinator and Woreda health office Hygiene and Sanitation Officer***

- **Entertainment by Amateur Cultural Bands and school health club of the two woreda's:** They entertain the participants by cultural music and hand washing practice benefit anthem by school childrens. Besides, a very interesting drama has been also presented by the amateur band and school health club on the benefits and critical times of hand washing to the attendees of the events.



***Amateur band and school health club on drama and anthem presentation on benefits of hand washing.***

- **Poem and question & answer competition:** Interested students had competed on hand washing related poems and also question and answer on the benefits and critical times of hand washing on both events. A total of 16 students (seven female and nine male) have been participated on both poem and Q&A. Of this seven [3 female and 4 male] in poem and nine [4 female and 5 male] were participated in Q&A. In both woreda's female students have won both of the competitions.



**Poem presentation and Question and answer competition**



*Prize offering ceremony for poem and question & answer winners*

- **Hand washing Demonstration:** hand washing demonstration was conducted by zonal and woreda health office officers and re demonstrated by community participants and students.



*Participants during demonstrating of proper hand washing practices*

The event was finally concluded by distributing soaps and leaflets to the students and invited guests including representatives of most vulnerable households. Students also practiced by washing their hands with soap by using hand washing jars prepared and installed for this purpose. A total of 789 male and 828 female students and 43 male and 61 female teachers as well as 24 male and 3 female health officers have participated in the event. Besides, 18 female and 2 male most vulnerable household ENGINE beneficiaries were also part of the event.

**Materials Distributed for the Event:**

<i>Items</i>	<i>Amount (in numbers)</i>
• T-shirt	200
• Cape	200
• Banner	10
• Leaflet	400
• Hand wash jars	06
• Soap	500
• Dictionaries for prize (Merit)	06