



FROM DAILY HARDSHIP TO COMMUNITY LEADER

“This project showed me that women can be both producers and leaders, we aren’t just struggling with chores anymore—we are creating a better future.”

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Muda Kembele is a 36-year-old mother of three living in the Morgela village of Southern Ethiopia. For a long time, her life was defined by heavy chores and constant struggle.

In her community, finding water was a full-time job. Muda used to spend more than half of every day just walking to collect water from stagnant ponds or sandy riverbeds. "We spent hours fetching water that often made our children sick," Muda remembers. Because the water wasn't clean, diseases like diarrhea were common. Between the illness and the constant thirst, her children struggled to stay in school.

Everything changed when Muda joined a project implemented by Action For Development & Sand Dam Worldwide. The project provided two things that changed her life: clean water and agricultural training. Muda learned how to grow fruits and vegetables from scratch. She mastered everything—from preparing the soil and managing seedbeds to harvesting and storing her crops.

"I never thought I could grow vegetables like this," she says. "Now, I can feed my family fresh food, and I'm dreaming of becoming a supplier for our local market."

Muda didn't keep her new skills to herself. She volunteered to train others, teaching four of her neighbors how to start their own gardens. This leadership turned her into a role model in her village. She also expanded into poultry. After receiving 10 chickens, she began selling eggs and has already saved money. She plans to buy even more chickens to grow her business.

While the chickens help, vegetable production is Muda's true passion. It has given her family better nutrition and income that doesn't depend solely on livestock.

"This project showed me that women can be both producers and leaders," Muda says. "We aren't just struggling with chores anymore—we are creating a better future."