

Title: Antsokia: The Jewel of World Vision International Ethiopia

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Abstract:

Antsokia was a dust bowl area in the 1980's when it was hit by a major drought that led to a famine disaster. The death of hundreds of people per day was something that drew the attention of the world. The scene of dead bodies as well as emaciated children, women and elderly people on TV touched the lives of many and compelled international aid agencies to respond promptly. World Vision was one of the Christian aid agencies that came to the area with a emergency relief project to save the lives of those who survived the massive starvation. The relief program was soon followed by a broad based rehabilitation program which was soon followed by an Area Development Program (ADP) based on the idea of promoting sustainable development. The multi-sectoral program of the ADP has transformed society in Antsokia, turning World Vision's effort to fight hunger and rural poverty into a success story. This paper addresses the story of a society that has gone through tough times and is now a thriving community. Is Antsokia a model for sustainable development, or are its conditions too unique to make that claim? How does a huge international NGO such as World Vision develop the scale and approaches appropriate to such localities?