

ADHENO Newsletter

A bi-annual publication of ADHENO: Integrated Rural Development Association

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1. News in Brief

1.2 External visitors to ADHENO

ADHENO was honored to host visitors from two of its donors.

Dr. Tadesse G. Wolde, Program, Officer of the Christensen Fund (TCF), visited ADHENO project sites at Moyi and Goshe-bado on September 15. He was accompanied by senior members of other organizations supported by TCF in Ethiopia. The team met and discussed with representatives of the Moyi kebele where the initial DB/TCF project was implemented. In a follow on communication, Dr. Tadesse stated that, *"This was a very interesting visit enriched with history, living culture and landscape carved by human*

effort and time. I was so moved to experience and feel the part of the country that gave birth to modern Ethiopia." Some issues raised in the discussion include a) the planned 'experience sharing field

visit' to and from the Southern Regional State (Konso and Chencha) would be mutually beneficial, b) Dr. Tadesse assured ADHENO that the TCF grant would soon be released through Dir Biyabir, c) he stressed the need to pay special attention to the conservation of biological and cultural heritage in the project area.



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"Donation by individuals, groups and/or organizations will help to ease hardship in rural Ethiopia."

Professors Friedrike Turnowsky and Michael Kroetlinger of Austria paid yet another visit to the ADHENO project site on 20-21 November, 2012. They visited two schools and provided the pupils some educational and entertainment materials collected from friends and organizations in Austria. They also pledged to offer their wedding gift (amounting to EU 13,000) to construct additional class room(s) at

Workegur. On their return to Addis Ababa, they stopped over at the Debre Berehan University to which they presented very valuable medical text books. They discussed with senior management of the university to establish functional collaboration with Austrian universities.



A multi-sectoral evaluating team from the Basso and Worana Woreda office visited the ADHENO project sites and observed work done on watershed management, fuel saving stove, tree planting, drinking water supply. They also assessed ADHENO's performance of the CCRDA/Sida supported project. In an extensive report (in Amharic) they expressed their satisfaction as follows:-

“በድርጅቱ የታዩ ጥንካሬዎች

- ቴክኖሎጂዎችን ለህብረተሰቡ ማልመድ መሞከሩ፤
- በተፈጥሮ ሀብት ስራዎች ላይ እየሰራ ያለው ስራ ሀገራችን ይዛው አጠተንቀሳቀሰችበት ያለውን የሚሊንዮም ግቦች እና በአሁን ሰአት እየተሰራ ያለውን የአባይ ተፋሰሶች የአፈር መጠረግን የመከላከል አስትራቴጂ የተከተለ መሆኑ፤
- በጣም ድሀ ሆነው መተዳደሪያ ለሌላቸው ሴት የህብረተሰብ ክፍሎች

ለመካከኛው የሚሆን የማድረግ ስራን እንዲሰሩ በጎችን ገዝቶ መስጠት ኑሯቸው እንዲሻሻል ማድረግ መቻሉ፤

- ስራ አጥ የሆኑ ወጣቶችን በማደራጀትና ስራ በመፍጠር የራሳቸውን ስራ እንዲሰሩ ለማድረግ ስልጠና በመስጠት፤ የልምድ ልውውጥ በማድረግ፤ የመካኛ ካፒታል መስጠትና የተለያዩ ቁሳቁሶችን በማሟላት ወደ ስራ እንዲገቡ ያደረገው እንቅስቃሴ፤
- በሀገራችን እየተራቆተ ያለውን የደን መጨፍጨፍ ሊቀንስ በሚችል መልኩና የሴቶችን ጤንነት ሊጠብቅ በሚችል መልኩ እያሰራጨ ያለው ማገዶ ቆጣቢ ምድጃ ስራ አበረታች መሆኑ፤
- በሀገራችን በውሀ ወለድ በሽታ እየተጠቁና እየሞቱ ያሉትን የህ/ተሰብ ክፍሎች ችግር በመረዳት በአካባቢው የንፁህ መጠጥ ውሃ አቅርቦትን ለማሻሻል እየሰራ ያለው አበረታች መሆኑ፤
- በመቶ ሺ የሚቆጠሩ ሀገር በቀል ችግኞችን በማፍላትና በማሰራጨት እንዲሁም ሀገራችን በያዘችው የአረንጓዴ ልማት ጀግና ተብሎ በሀገራችን ደረጃ ሽልማት ማግኘት መቻላቸው፡፡”

A group of 11 staunch supporters of the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) of the United Kingdom, that is financing ADHENO's bee-keeping development project visited bee products processing and sales center at Goshe-bado, and farmers with traditional hives at their



homestead. The group bought jars of honey to take home. After their return home, Group Leader, Janice M Clark said in her email that “Everyone was greatly moved by the work being done.”

1.2 Staff Travel

The ADHENO project officer, Ato Isayas Fikre, traveled to Kampala, Uganda on August 29, 2012 to participate in a five day workshop on strengthening partnership with project implementing partners of MRDF.

The Deputy Director/ Program Officer, Ato Asnake Atakure traveled to Woldia, North Wollo on October 16, 2012 to attend the workshop on grant coordination organized by the partner organization, Civil Society Support Program (CSSP)

2. Project Achievements

In what follows we present a summary of project outcomes during the past six months.

2.1 Tree planting with the ADHENO's Tree Gudifecha strategy took place in the months of July and August, 2012. A total of **133,075** tree seedlings belonging to 18 species (mainly indigenous) were planted in four kebeles of the Bassona Worana Woreda, North Shoa. Based on performance of the seedlings planted the previous



years in and outside church yards, ADHENO put greater effort this time to planting trees in and around church yards. Planting on other sites (especially homesteads, school yards and farms....) was also encouraged.

2.2 Financed by the CCRDA/Sida project, one **water source** was capped and the necessary facilities



installed to provide clean and adequate water supply for the community and their livestock

in Geeft Kebele.

2.3 Training was given to two Self Help Groups (SHGs) consisting 37 destitute women at Goshe-bado who continued saving Birr 10 per person per month. A start-up capital of Birr 37,000 was pro-

vided to the group from funds donated for this purpose by Dr. Mezmure Haile Meskel and Dr. Michael Roth. Another group of 25 women were also provided with revolving funds for purchasing and fattening sheep.

2.4 An innovative idea of **scholarship for girls** was initiated during one of the discussions with beneficiaries of the ADHENO program. It was reported that some brilliant girls graduating from Grade 8 are unable to continue their secondary education at Debre Berhan where the secondary school some 30 km away from their homes. Those girls who do not have relatives in Debre Birhan town have to rent rooms from individual households. Girls from poor households do not get the opportunity to continue their education because their parents cannot afford to pay for their room rent. When there are more children who have to attend secondary school at Debre Berhan, and parents cannot afford to pay room rents for all, they prefer sons over daughters for a variety of reasons, including the possibility of exposing their daughters to sexual abuse.

This prompted ADHENO to raise money in support of financially deprived girls to enable them continue their secondary education. Funds provided by families of the late Ms. Heywote Haile Meskal were used to paying the rent of rooms for 16 girls promoted to high school in Debre Berhan. Another support was provided by Dir-Biyabir (a US-based diaspora NGO) to supplement the above and also to provide for school expenses of 89 elementary school girls at the ADHENO project area. It is hoped more volunteers will come forth in support of still more financially deprived girls. ADHENO is preparing a project to raise funds for establishing a Girls' Shelter at Debre Berhan for such girls so that they can be provided a better environment of guidance and supervision while attending secondary school.

Project Achievements

2.5 Another innovative venture is forming partnership with international NGOs for the purpose of scaling out successful projects. ADHENO succeeded in establishing functional relationships with two organizations, the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) and the multi-national initiative Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) based at the British Council. A partnership agreement was also signed with Plan International-Ethiopia.

2.6. Dir Biyaber/TCF gave a development grant of more than Birr 1.5 million for a project which encompasses natural resource rehabilitation, building human Capacity, introducing Income generating activities and focus on Cross-cutting issues in Moyi Kebele for the next two years.

2.7 The support of CCRDA/Sida went to **Training** 498 rural community members, mainly

women. Essential tools were also provided for



the promotion of soil and water conservation initiative of the Government. The same project also supported establishment of a safe **water supply**, strengthening the honey cooperative as well as raising and distributing over 100,000 tree seedlings.

3. ADHENO Backgrounds

ADHENO: Integrated Rural Development Association is a non-profit indigenous non-governmental organization established and registered with the Ministry of Justice (Registration Number 927, October 2002), and re-registered as an "Ethiopian Resident Charity Organization" in 2009 with registration No. 0353. A group of pilgrims to a monastery in north Shoa who were deeply touched by the poverty and backwardness of their fellow citizens in the area decided to do something that would improve the livelihood of the communities in this area.

The primary purpose of ADHENO is to contribute towards alleviation of poverty and improving the living conditions of rural communities in North Shoa by improving the productive potential of the land resource base and building the capacity of the communities it works with.