



ADHENO Newsletter

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

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In this issue of the ADHENO Newsletter, attempt is made to briefly indicate activities carried out in the last half of the year 2014. The activities focus on environmental rehabilitation, human resource development and economic empowerment of the rural population in five kebeles of N. Shewa, Amhara Regional State. Mention is also made of visitors from two partner organizations. The projects are supported by our major partners including Dir-Biyabir/The Christensen Fund (DB/TCF), All We Can (formerly Methodist Relief and Development Fund) and Civil Society Support (CSSP). The relatively smaller partners (Dir Biyabir, Professor F. Turnowsky and Professor M. Kroetlinger too have played significant roles in meeting the mission of ADHENO.

1. Project Achievements:

In this section mention is made of major project activities carried out during the past six months.

1.1 Tree Planting

Covering degraded land with selected tree species is one of the major achievements registered during the last rainy season (mainly in July and August). Accordingly, a total of 399,861 tree seedlings (Fig.1) have been planted through different strategies including ADHENO's "Tree Gudifecha Strategy". ADHENO's partner organizations The Christensen Fund (TCF) and All We Can (AWC) provided the financial support both in raising seedlings, planting and nurturing them. Most of the trees planted are indigenous and bee forages. The rural Kebeles targeted for this task are Goshebedo, Chinbirre, Metkorya, Geeft and Moy Kasset in Bassona Worana Woreda of North Shoa Zone. The specific sites selected for the plantation include church yards, area closures, road sides and school yards. Plantation of medicinal plants is also the other activity that has been given due emphasis. Follow-up surveys indicate survival of most of the trees.



Fig. 1 Seedling distribution

1.2 Capacity Building

a) The US-based partner organization Dir Biyabir (DB), and the Austrian friends of ADHENO Professors Turnowsky and Kroetlinger provided funds to support 25 additional needy school girls planning to register for secondary schools located in Debre Berhan town which is too far away from their homes. The following Table shows how a little sum of money promotes high school girl education in rural Ethiopia.

School Girls Support

<u>Item</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Room Rent Per/girls yearly	1,225.00
Uniform per girl/year	350.00
Stationary per/girl/year	250.00
Sanitation per girl/year	250.00
Supplementary Books/year	175.00
Tutorial Fee/year	125.00
Summer Community service	250.00
Total	2,625.00
Admin (15%)	<u>393.75</u>
Grand total per year	<u>3,018.75</u>

Only about 155.00 US Dollar per girl per year!

b. The construction of a water spring, funded by DB/TCF at Meskele yesus of Moy kebele was completed and inaugurated in August, 2014 in the presence of the kebele chair and a district water expert. Over 500 households benefit from the clean and adequate water supply.



Fig. 2 Water Spring

In collaboration with an expert from Debre Birhan University, a stool test was carried out on some the kebele children. Results revealed about 36% of them infected with intestinal parasites. De-worming treatment was given to all positive individuals by health workers from the neighboring kebele of Goshebado. Incidentally, all adults and 59% children in the neighboring village of Amora Gedel were found positive for one or more species of parasites and treated (ADHENO Newsletter II N0.2).

c. The same partner organization (DB/TCF) funded an experience sharing visit for community representatives of the Moy kebele to Southern Region for the purpose of learning from the Konso traditional practice of soil conservation. Highly impressed with the culture and traditional practices, the visitors have now started the initiative to implement similar terracing in Moy Mariam village.

1.3 Economic Empowerment

With financial support from TCF, training was provided to a total of 120 destitute women on basic entrepreneurship skills and then organized in six different Self Help Groups (SHGs). Four of the groups were given seed money to start business of their choice. Other members of the Moy community were trained on horticulture and provided with vegetable seeds and seedlings of fruit trees. The construction of a foot-bridge (about 11m long and 3m wide) was completed in October, 2014 (Fig 3,6) thus enabling the Moy community access the market even on the rainy season. They have even started to take livestock to the market.



Fig. 3 Foot-bridge

2. External Visitors to ADHENO

Representatives of two partner organizations namely the US-based Christensen Fund (TCF) and the UK based All We Can visited the ADHENO project sites in June and December 2014, respectively. The purpose of the visit for the TCF team (Fig. 4) was introducing the newly appointed Program Officer, Dr. Hassen Roba and also enabling him to see what ADHENO is working with TCF fund. The team consisted of Dr. Bea Calo, Dr. Tadesse G.Wolde, the new program officer Dr. Hassen Roba and Wro. Yeshe Tekle Mikael. The team was also accompanied by senior members of other organizations supported by TCF in Ethiopia. During the one day visit, they contacted representatives of the Moy kebele at Goshebado, and discussed impact of the ADHENO intervention. At the end of the visit, the team expressed its satisfaction with the project activities and pledged to strengthen their partnership during the tenure of the new leadership.



Fig. 4 TCF Visitors



Fig. 5 All We Can Visitors

Members of the AWC team consisted of Ms. Erica Bertolotto, Ms. Clair Welch and Mr. Phil Knox. The focus of the visit was to collect information on ADHENO's work and share the same with their membership. They visited projects supported by AWC including some plots of farm, villages with bee hives and the farmer's training center. The visit was successful in meeting its objective. It was also a good opportunity for the team to learn more about ADHENO's achievements by directly hearing from the community and personal observation.

3. New Project Launched

ADHENO is making efforts to solicit fund from different sources. It has been possible to realize one new project with a donor named Civil Society Support Program (CSSP). The title of the project is Environmental Rehabilitation and Economic Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation. The project targets three kebeles namely Geeft, Chenbirre and Birbirs. The duration of the project is one year starting from October 2014 to September 2015. This project is believed to strengthen the already started initiatives in the kebeles. Similar efforts are also ongoing with TCF and other potential partners.

4. የዘመናትን ችግር የፈታ ድልድይ

በሬሣ የተባለ ወንዝ ደብረ ብርሃንን አቋርጦ ወደ ምዕራብ በመፍሰስ ከሌሎች ወንዞች ጋር ተቀላቅሎ ወደ ታላቁ አባይ ወንዝ ይዘልቃል። ይህ ወንዝ በሚያልፍበት አካባቢ በርካታ ጥቅም ይሰጣል - ለመጠጥ ፣ ንጽህና አጠባበቅ፣ መስኖና አሣ እርባታ ። በሬሣ ወደ አድህኖ ፕሮጀክት አካባቢ ሲደርስ ሞይ ቀበሌን ከወይንዬ ክፍሎ በተለይ በክረምቱ ወራት እጅግ ዘግናኝ አደጋ ሲያደርስ የኖረ ነው። ከደጋው ክፍል የሚነሳው ጎርፍ ያለ የሌለውን አስባስቦ እያስገመገመ ወደ ቆላው ሸለቆ ሲገባ የመጀመሪያው ገፈት ቀማሽ የወይንዬ ሞይ ቀበሌዎች ናቸው። በሬሣ በርካታ የህይወትና ንብረት ጥፋት ሲፈጸም፣ ያለ ፍትህና ጠያቂ የኖረ ወንዝ ነው። ወንዙ የፈጸመውን በደል የሞይ ቀበሌ አርሶ አደሮች ሲያስታውሱ በመረረ ትዝታ ነው።

በክረምቱ ወራት አርሶ አደሮች ከሞይ ሜዳ ተነስተው ወንዙን ተሻግረው ወደ ወይንዬ ቀበሌ በመሄድ እርሻ ሲያርሱ ይውላሉ። አመሻሹ ላይ ወደ ቀያቸው ሲመለሱ ያልታሰበ ጎርፍ የደረሰበት ገበሬ “እንግዲህ እኔ አልተረፍኩም ልጆቼን አደራ” በማለት ከጓደኞቹ ይሰናበታል። ጉልበተኛው በሬላ ደካማውን ገበሬ አሸዋና አለት በሞላው ጅረቱ እያላተመ ወደ ማይታየው ሸለቆ ይዘት ይዘልቃል።

አንድ ክረምት ላይ ሶስት ልጆቻቸውን ይዞ ወደ ወይንዬ ቀበሌ ተሻግሮ ቀኑን ሙሉ የአረም ሥራ ስትሠራ የዋለቸው እማውራ የደረሰባት አደጋ በቀበሌው ህዝብ የማይረሳና ስለወንዙ ሲወራ የሚነሳ አሳዛኝ ገጠመኝ ነው። ሴትየዋ ከልጆቿ ጋር በመሆን በማለዳ ተነስታ በተረጋጋውና ፀጥ ባለው በሬላ ወንዝ ተሻግሮ በመሄድ ቀኑን በሙሉ የአረም ስራ ስታከናውን ትውላለች። አመሻሹ ላይ በሬላን መልሰው ለመሻገር ይሞክራሉ፤ ሆኖም ግን እነሱ እንደገመቱት ሳይሆን ወንዙ ከደጋው ክፍል የጣለው ዝናብ ጉልበት ሰጥቶት እናትየዋን ከሶስቱ ልጆቿ ጋር አራቱንም ቤተሰቦች ለዘላለም ሳይመለሱ ይዟቸው ሄዷል ። የበሬላ ወንዝ ሲነሳ አባይ በውሃ የተወሰዱትን ሰዎች ህዝቡ በለቅሶ፤ በሃዘን እና በቁጭት ሁሉ ያነሳቸዋል። በተጨማሪ በጥቂት ደቂቃዎች መገናኘት የሚችሉ የሁለቱ ቀበሌዎች ንዋሪዎች የክረምቱን ጎርፍ በመፍራት አንድ ቀን በሚፈጅ የደብረ ብርሃን መንገድ መገናኘት ግዴታቸው ሆኖ ኖሯል።

የወረዳው ገጠር መንገድ ጽ/ቤት እንደነገረን ይህን ችግር ከዓመታት በፊት ጀምሮ እደሚያውቁት እና ህብረተሰቡ በየገዜው የድልድይ ይሰራልን ጥያቄ ሲያቀርብ እንደኖረ አስረድተውናል።

የድር ቢያብር መሥራቾች በሞይ ቀበሌ እየተከናወነ ያለውን ፕሮጀት እየጎበኙ ባሉበት ሚያዚያ 17 ቀን 2006 ዓ.ም. የበሬሣ ወንዝ በህብረተሰቡ የሚያደርሰውን ስቆቃ ስምተው ለድልድዩ ግንባት የሚያስፈልገውን ባጀት ፈቀዱ። የአድህኖ ድርጅትም በተከታይ ሳምንታት ከህብረተሰቡና ከመንግሥት የተገኘውን ድጋፍ ክድር ቢያብር እርዳታ ጋር አቀናጅቶ ሦስት ሜትር ስፋትና አስራ አንድ ሜትር ርዝመት ያለው የእግር ድልድይ በሲሚንቶና ብረት አሠርቶ ጥቅምት 5 ቀን 2007 አስመረቀ። የሁለቱ ቀበሌዎች ህብረተሰብና እንሰሳትም ባለፉ ባገደሙ ቁጥር ምስጋና እያቀረቡ ያለስጋት እየተጠቀሙበት ይገኛል።

