



ADHENO Report

A publication of ADHENO: Integrated rural development Association

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1. Executive Summary

ADHENO's program emphasis for the year 2013 has been promotion of improved livelihood of rural communities through natural resource conservation and development, as well as human capacity building. The project sites are located in six kebeles of Basso & Worana Woreda in North Shoa Zone of the Amhara Regional State. ADHENO's intervention has been financially and technically supported by MRDF, TCF, CSSP, Dir-Biyabir, Prof. Turnwosky, Hiwote fund, CCRDA/Sida , Plan International, OAK Foundation and school awards donated by Children of personalities born in the project areas.

A total of 4,430 community members (1,666 females) have benefited directly and a total 13,140 (4,648 female) were reached indirectly. The strategies used include provision of training on various skills; development of safe water supply, strengthening the bee keepers cooperative, strengthening self help groups, distribution of hand tools used for soil and water conservation, distribution of fruit seedlings and vegetable seeds, watershed management and distribution of seedlings of indigenous trees through the ADHENO strategy of tree Gudifecha.

Although the organization has faced different challenges, thanks to all stakeholders, donor agencies, government offices, project beneficiaries and the executive board, ADHENO has once again registered remarkable achievements.

The main program focus of ADHENO for the reporting year (2013) included natural resources conservation and development, human capacity development and economic empowerment of the rural poor. The activities were supported by partners like Dir Biyabir, The Christensen Fund (TCF), Methodiest Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) and the Civil Society Support Program (CSSP). Other partners like Dir Biyabir (US-based NGO) and individuals including Professor Turnowsky and Prof. Kroetlinger have played remarkable role in scaling up ADHENO's activities during the year.

The Organization

ADHENO: Integrated rural Development Association is a not-for-profit non-governmental indigenous organization, established in 2002 and re-registered in 2009 with Charities and Societies Agency. The overall objective of the organization is to contribute toward alleviation of poverty by improving the productive potential of the land and building up capacity of the people in North Shoa Zone of the Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia.

1.2 Vision

ADHENO: Integrated Rural Development Association wishes to see the livelihoods of the people of North Shoa improved and all households becoming health and food secured through rehabilitation of degraded natural resources.

1.3 Mission

ADHENO: Integrated rural development Association is dedicated to improving the living conditions of the people of North Shoa by working with communities and closely collaborating with government and other development actors through designing and implementing such programs as environmental rehabilitation, expanding access to basic education, facilitation of income-generation opportunities, and promoting health and wellness.

1.4 Values and Principles of ADHENO

- Promotion of gender equality and balance;
- Provision of basic services for most vulnerable people regardless of their religious affiliation, creed, languages, sex and political opinions;
- Respect the culture, customs and religion of the communities;
- Optimum utilization of indigenous knowledge, technologies and values, which are drawn from family, community as well as other societal structures;
- Strengthening cordial relationship with pertinent governmental and non-governmental organizations through close collaborative work.

2. Activities and Achievements of ADHENO in 2013

The activities and results of some six major and three other projects are briefly described below under corresponding partners supporting them.

2.1 Dir-Biyabir/TCF

Dir Biyabir is a U.S. based organization administering projects supported by its members and the Christensen Fund. ADHENO is implementing a two year project entitled “Environmental Conservation and Economic Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation in Moyi Kebele of Bassona Worana Woreda. Following are activities carried out from December 2012 to December 2013.

a) An orientation workshop was conducted for community representatives and relevant government sector officers with the aim of establishing a platform for future engagement and providing a general backup support to the project. During this event duties and responsibilities of the different parties were clarified and action plan agreed upon.

b) Adult education was given to 113 farmers (30 women) in the sub-kebeles of Amora Gedel, Kasset and Moyi.

c) constructions of two class rooms has been almost completed at the Amoragedel satellite school.

d) In collaboration with the local community re-construction of the Farmers Training Center (FTC) is now completed.



Fig 1: Rehabilitated FTC at Moyi

d) Watershed Management

Two sub watershed areas at Moyi and Kasset were selected. A total of 192 farmers were trained on designing soil and water conservation activities. Essential tools (50 pick axe,

50 spades, 50 hammers and 50 digging bars) provided by the project. Consequently 220ha of land treated using various soil and water conservation measures.

e) Raising tree seedlings

More than 56,700 tree seedlings were raised at the Kasset and Workegur tree nursery stations for plating in 2013. Extensive work has also been accomplished in the two nursery sites to produce over three hundred thousand tree seedlings for planting in the following year.

f) Medicinal Plants

65 types of medicinal and aromatic plants were collected and planted in two nursery stations (Workegure and Kasset). The collections were made by elders and priests who knew their uses. Additional medicinal plants were brought from Wondo Genet Research Center and planted in the already established sites. Their identification will be made only after they produce flowers or other characteristics.



Fig 2: Medicinal plants at Workegur Seedling station

g) Fuel Saving Stoves

Plan was to purchase and distribute 300 fuel-saving stoves. However, to ensure sustainability of the activity, ADHENO initiated local production in the nearby Kebele of Goshebado and distribution based on cost sharing approach is being realized.



Fig 3: Parts of Fuel saving stoves

2.1.1 Economic Empowerment

a) Work was successfully completed on converting a 3.2 km foot path to a paved horse track.



Fig 4: Stone paved track



Fig 5. Artisan craft re-established

b) Four men interested in artisan metal work were provided training and material support including four anvils. Two women involved in pottery work were also provided with two donkeys for transporting raw materials and finished products.

c) Improved varieties Apple, Mango, Avocado, Papaya, Banana and Coffee seedlings were bought and distributed to farmers who have access to irrigation water.

d) Support to jobless youth and destitute women

- A total of 32 destitute women constituting membership of two Self Help groups were provided with 20,000birr as a start up capital
- 25 modern bee hives have been purchased for distribution to 24 jobless youths organized in beekeeping
- 40 other women are in the process of forming self help groups.

2.2 The MRDF Project

The Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) assists ADHENO in alleviating poverty through strengthening the Tegulet honey Cooperative at Goshebado Kebele. The first phase of the project started in May 2012 and ended in April 2013 . It resulted in training the cooperative staff on management, provided equipment for refining crude honey and a start up capital for the initial purchase of honey directly from bee keepers. Encouraging dividend was paid to the members. Training was also given to members of the coop on soil and water conservation as well as afforestation.

The second phase of the MRDF support which started in September 2013, has the objectives to a) increase in food production through rehabilitation degraded land; b) increase farmers income from beekeeping; c) promot fruit and vegetable production; d) improve access to water, and e) improve women livelihood through establishing self help groups (SHG).

A quick baseline survey was conducted in seven sub-kebeles which constitute the project area in Goshebado and Metkoria Kebeles. Farm tools were purchased and handed over to the Kebeles in support of the Government initiative on soil and water conservation activities. Tree seedlings produced in two seedling stations at Workegur and Metkoria are planted. A partially completed farmers training center at Goshebado has been renovated and made ready to accommodate the project training components.

2.3 Livelihood recovery Project with Plan International

ADHENO, in partnership of with Plan International Ethiopia implemented a six month recovery project in Antsokia Gemza Woreda of North Shoa Zone in Amhara regional State. The project finance was provided by the European Commission for Humanitarian

Organization, and administered by Plan – International Ethiopia. The aim of the project was to contribute toward livelihood recovery of vulnerable flood and hailstorm affected households in order to prevent further depletion of assets and severe food shortage. Components of the project include:-

- a) Cash for work
- b) Provision of livestock
- c) Capacity building

- The cash for work included direct pay for physical conservation work on degraded land (hill side terracing, building, etc). Cash was also given to physically disabled members of the community affected by hailstorm. The conservation site is located in the highland of Shebeto and Gishoge Kebeles, about 17km west of the Woreda administrative centre of Antsokia and at an elevation ranging between 3000 and 3200 m.a.s.l. Over 1060 men and women were involved in conserving degraded ecosystem consisting of 128 Km hillside terrace and Gabion construction covering more than 250 ha. of the highland.
- The restocking program focused on flood – displaced communities in the lowland kebeles of Harbulle and Getm. The aims were preventing further asset depletion and improve household food security. The project procured 630 female sheep approved by the local veterinarian and distributed to 210 households.
- The capacity building component of the project consisted of training on flood-preparedness and disaster reduction. The trainees included members of the woreda government office, community representatives and the ADHENO staff.



Fig 6: Flood protection



Fig 7: Restocking

The project implementation was rated high by the zonal evaluating team which considered the ADHENO approach worth of emulating by others. It further recommended biological conservation (planting trees, etc) to sustain the project outcome.

2.4: Social Service Coordination

With funds provided by the OAK Foundation Country office, a social service person has been engaged for coordinating social services. Following are activities coordinated by the person with funds provided by other donors:

- a) Basic information collected on each of the five kebeles where ADHENO is engaged in development activities;
- b) The 'invisible' destitute in two kebeles have been identified and discussions held with community representatives on how the needs could be addressed. Most recommended measures include poultry management and sheep fattening/raising;
- c) Thirty two women in Moyi Kebele were organized into two self-help groups (SHG) of 16 each and provided with training on saving and credit scheme. ADHENO provided start-up capital of 10,000Birr to each group and the coordinator is following their performance;

- d) Together with community representatives and school head masters, 32 economically deprived secondary school girls (see 4 below) were identified and provided with 1850 birr each to meet their expenses for room rent at Debre Birhan town (far from parents) school uniform, books, stationery and sanitation materials.
- e) Twenty jobless youth in Moyi Kebele were identified and provided with a piece of land by the kebele for establishing a bee village. The ADHENO project on bee keeping has provided them with modern bee hives.
- f) Water and sanitation committees are established for each of the five water supply facilities developed by ADHENO. ADHENO organizes training for community representatives and supervises their activities.

2.5 Civil Society Support Program (CSSP)

Civil Society Support program is one of our partner organizations that have provided financial and technical support to ADHENO during the year. The project was intended to improve the livelihood of poor and marginalized farmers in the project area (Geft and Chinbirre) through natural resource conservation and rehabilitation, community economic empowerment, capacity building, and addressing cross cutting issues. Accordingly the following major achievements have been realized:-

- a) With the purpose of propagating indigenous trees, a) a central nursery station was established in Geft kebele. The nursery has the capacity of producing more than one hundred thousand seedlings per year. Apart from supplying tree seedlings to the community, the seedling station has also benefited over forty five young people who were organized and trained to manage the tree nursery station. Currently, these young people are actively engaged (with pay) in raising and transplanting tree seedlings. Parallel to this, strengthening of physical soil and water conservation structure has also been undertaken through biological measures. The ADHENO strategy of Tree Gudifecha has also helped to realize the plantation of over 22,000 indigenous tree seedlings.
- b) The watershed intervention was started by conducting biophysical and socio economic survey in collaboration with the local government and the community at large,



Fig 8: Rehabilitating degraded land

Based on findings of the survey, two sub watershed areas at the two targeted kebeles were given high priority. Watershed management planning committee was established in the two kebeles consisting of 13 members. A total of 192 farmers were trained on how to design soil and water conservation activities on the selected watersheds. Provision of agricultural tools and soil and water conservation materials was also the other activity accomplished in relation to strengthen and sustain the watershed initiatives.

c) Access to clean and adequate water

Two water springs have been developed and made ready to supply clean and adequate water for about 300 households residing in the two rural kebles together with over 800 livestock. The water sources are also being used for small scale irrigation and raising of tree seedlings both at individual and communal level.



Fig 9: Water supply at Chenbirre

d) Creating Alternative Livelihood Opportunity

Poverty alleviation is one of the major issues of this project. Alternative efforts have been taken to create means of livelihood to the community in general and to jobless youth and destitute women in particular. In this regard it has been possible to realize sheep fattening, poultry farming as well as introducing improved and high value fruit trees. Distribution was effected 80 sheep and 276 chickens to 40 and 46 destitute women respectively. On the other hand, a total of 3166 grafted mango, avocado, apple, papaya and coffee seedlings were distributed to 293 targeted households.

e) Capacity Building Activities

Community Based Organizations (CBOs) found to be strategic point of entry in addressing development issues. Thus, informal community based organizations have been established in each kebele. Necessary technical assistance is also provided to them including provision of start up capital.

ADHENO has also been actively involved in organizing training on different issues using the CSSP's grant. The first training was on constructing of fuel saving stove. Currently six farmers are actively involved in production and supplying of the materials to the near by community. Similarly, a training that focuses on how to design underground water and harvesting structure for collecting rainwater has also been given to twenty farmers. Using the knowledge they have acquired from the training, the trainees have now actively involved in small scale irrigation scheme.

Organizing experience sharing visit is also the other activity undertaken under this project. Field visits have been conducted be neighboring rural kebeles where community leaders and representatives gained experience in tree nursery management and natural resources conservation.

f) Cross Cutting Issues

In collaboration with the Health Extension agent ADHENO has been able to organize community conversation on cross cutting issue HIV/AIDS, STD, Reproductive Health the community in general and women in particular to be active in various aspects of social issues affecting their lives.

2.6 CCRDA/Sida

The CCRDA/Sida program is perhaps the longest one that has been implemented by ADHENO for the last eight years the final phase has been completed during the year. As part of phasing out the project activity, various activities that helped to further sustain the project results have been accomplished during the reporting period.

The first activity goes with strengthening of Tegulet Bee Production, Development and Marketing Cooperative established previously under the project. The cooperative was provided with seed money, (honey processing equipments) and technical support. As assessment that focuses on Apiculture potential and mapping of possible market areas in Bassona Worana Woreda was carried out by an expert engaged for the purpose. Material support was also provided in the honey processing center.

The other activity carried out under this project was organizing experience sharing visit. In this regard, a visit that intends to see and learn from water and soil conservation practices as well as small scale irrigation schemes in northern part of Ethiopia especially in Tigray. A total of twenty individuals drawn from project beneficiaries, woreda and Kebele administration, participated in an experience sharing visit to development project in tigray region.

Strengthening the two Self Help Groups already established by the project and enable them to stand on their own as the other accomplishment of the project. Thus, the groups were given start up capital and entrepreneurship training to further enhance their capacity. Similarly, the saving and credit cooperative was also provided with financial and technical support to sustain its activity in a more reliable manner. Members were also trained on managing soil and water conservation schemes. Introducing rain water harvesting scheme to selected households is also the other activity performed under the project.

Project evaluation and handing was organized in May, 2013 at Workegur St. Gebreal meeting hall. The workshop was attended by 120 participants drawn from relevant stakeholders including government officials, project beneficiaries and religion leaders. Achievements of the ADHENO/Sida project including the water spring, area closure, tree sanctuary....) were finally handed over to the CBO in the pressure of the Woreda and Kebele officials. The latter pledged to ensure continuity of the development.

Small Grants

This category of support pertains to both planned and unplanned donations made to ADHENO for support of small projects identified by donors as described below:-

a) Prize Awards

The Dejazmach Germachew prize of one thousand Birr each was awarded to five top students who successfully completed grade eight at Goshebado Elementary School. A similar prize was given to another set of five top students at Moye Elementary School in memory of the late Fitawrari Bekure Wolde Giorgis. Both schools are found in Bassona Worana Woreda of North Shoa zone. ADHENO wishes to express its appreciation to the sons of the above mentioned personalities for funding the program. It also encourages others to follow suit.

b) School Girls Support:

This is a program intended to support academically successful but financially deprived high school girls coming from the ADHENO project area. There are two donors involved in this program namely the Hiwote H. Meskel Memorial Fund and Dir Biyabir. The latter is a non profit organization established in USA to support ADHENO and other similar programs in Ethiopia. A total of 29 secondary school girls have benefited this year from program. The support includes covering their monthly house rent and provision of school materials such as uniform, stationeries, reference books as well as sanitary materials. Dir Biyabir also provided support to 139 elementary school girls certified to be orphans or born to poor parents.

c) Teachers' Residence

One hardship frequently reported by school teachers at Worekegur elementary school is absence of accommodation in the rural kebele which forced them to travel every day to and from Debre Birhan. With funds provided by Dr. Helena Haile Meskel for purchase of manufactured materials (cement, roofing materials, nails, doors and windows), The construction of a four room house is now almost complete.

d) **Support by Professors F. Turnowsky and M. Kroetlinger**

These are two retired Austrian professors who have been supporting ADHENO's initiatives since 2009. They have this year donated their wedding gift toward building and furnishing two additional class rooms (for grades five and six) at Worekegur.



Fig 10: The new building at Workegur Elementary School.

3. Visits

One of the important visits hosted by ADHENO during the reporting period is that made by senior MRDF staff including the director, Dr. Maurice Adams. They visited the MRDF project area at Goshebado where they met members of the beekeepers cooperative and discussed issues related to productivity of the bees. Another member MRDF also visited the project site and gave us encouraging remarks.

The visit made by Engineer Moges Bruk from Dir Biabir and Dr. Zewde Germachew was the other event hosted by ADHENO during 2013. The latter handed one of the school prizes mentioned above, and the former promised to provide support to the school library.

The last, but not the least visit was made by representatives of the Federal Charities and Societies Agency in August, 2013. Enclosed and protected areas, springs developed, schools supported, watersheds developed as well as fruit and vegetable plantations at household level were some of the areas covered by the visit of seven members of the Agency. In their remarks, the visitors mentioned that ADHENO has achieved remarkable results with limited human and financial resources.



Fig 11: Project site visited by staff members of Charities & Societies Agency.

4. Challenges

- ✓ Well trained and experienced staff are being siphoned off to better paying organizations;
- ✓ Requirements demanded by donors, government and beneficiaries are mounting as we succeed in implementing development projects. Donors and government authorities expect us to reach more and more remote communities without providing the means. Beneficiaries demand more and more support with little effort from their side;
- ✓ High cost of input;
- ✓ Transport limitation.

5. Lesson Learnt

- Environmental rehabilitation is a long term project and challenging for the community. For poor communities like the ones ADHENO is operating in, it is essential to include income generating activities with rehabilitation of natural resources;

- Developing strong working relation with different stakeholders (government sector offices, community policing, NGOs and private sectors) helps to achieve success in integrated development programs.

Acknowledgments

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2. Institutions and individuals who provided financial support during the reporting year include but not limited to the MRDF, The DB/Christensen Fund, Dir-Biyabir, Oak Foundation, CSSP, Plan International Ethiopia, Professors Turnowski and Kroetlinger, Heywote's Memorial Fund, Dr. Zewdie Girmachew and Dr. Solomon Bekure;
3. Last but not least we would like to appreciate the facilitation role played by all stakeholders in general and the Woreda Government offices and project beneficiaries in particular for their congenial and supportive collaboration.