



HOPE *for CHILDREN in* ETHIOPIA

Newsletter for the Month JUNE [adapted and abridged]

Administration NEWS

HCE-RDA is preparing with Freedom Fund and Luminous Fund for next year's project implementation. The project activities have been rewritten and updated, and some are now included before the memorandum of understanding is signed.

Additionally, the second chance project will be widened to incorporate new Konso Zone operational areas in the southern region. It was decided to begin the new initiative in the upcoming academic year after discussions with the zone education office, and other relevant entities over how to implement it in the areas where a large number of dropouts and overage children have been identified.

Preschool and sponsorship program

Graduation was held for the eighth time at Hope Entoto Kindergarten

On Friday, July 4, 2025, Hope Entoto kindergarten students graduated at the school compound. The graduation ceremony was held for the eighth time, and more than 200 students graduated from the school and entered primary and secondary schools,

Out of nineteen students, sixteen graduated this academic year; the remaining three dropped out caused by their family displacement as a result of the corridor development program carried out near the schools.

During the graduation, children presented graduation songs, poems, cultural dances, and fashion. The graduation ceremony was colourful and filled with joy from the graduate kids. Families of the children also attended the graduation ceremony.

The family of these children conveyed their heartfelt appreciation to the school community and organisation. They also expressed feelings gratitude to the partners who contributed in these worthwhile endeavours to improve the children's life.

HCE-RDA continues supporting these children through its sponsorship programs to keep them in school and improve their future.

Children at the graduation ceremony



New Life Program

The story of Saron Tenker

I was tired of life when I met Ato Yonas Tesfaye. I experienced the worst life. I am Saron Teneker, a 19-year-old female. I dropped out of school when I was in eighth grade because my mother was more concerned with making money than sending me to school. My father and mother separated, and my mother moved to Addis with my younger brother and two sisters. My mother insisted that I had to go to an Arab country and work as a domestic worker to satisfy her desperate financial needs. When I was fifteen, I was compelled to travel to an Arab country and worked for four years. I was sending money to my mother from my monthly wage to save enough money for starting a business when I returned, but I received nothing when I came. She never considers me to be her daughter. She spent all of the money and left me nothing. When I came home, she refused to consider me as her child, demanding me to get back and support her with money. For a year and a half, I was compelled to rent a house and work various jobs to make payments for rent and food. When I was in this circumstance, my father was seriously ill and came to me for medical care. I brought him; unfortunately, my father died. Things worsen when the cost of rent and daily spending increases. When I was about to embark on a dangerous decision, I met Yonas, who saved my life. Right present, I live at the New Life group home and am pursuing short-term vocational training in sewing and design. I am quite pleased, and everything provided in the group home and training centre is excellent. I would like to finish my training, work in small businesses, and be self-sufficient. I am grateful to Ato Yonas for considering my position and allowing me to have this opportunity.



Saron Tenker at the sewing and designing training

Lighthouse program

The story of Bereket Gashaw

I am Bereket Gashaw, a seventeen-year-old boy. My younger sisters and I lost our father when we were little, and my mother raised us through adversity and poverty. I have three small sisters. My mother is an illiterate woman who has no regular source of income. She has been washing clothes and baking injera (bread) at various houses, as any other impoverished women would. She received very little money, which doesn't cover our daily consumption. As the first child in the house, I decided to drop out of school and support my mother in different ways. The condition triggered me to live on the streets with other boys, where we sold cigarettes, chewing gum, and soft napkins outside pubs and nightclubs. I also worked as a taxi driver assistant (money collecting), carried products in the market, and supported my mother for years. I became addicted and began using drag glues to alleviate hunger on the streets. The situation deteriorated, making it hard to main on the main streets due to the corridor development of the city. I couldn't resist the situation, so I returned home. As my mother was identified as the poorest of the poor by the district women's children and social affairs office, i got the chance to enrols in the HCE-RDA short-term vocational training centre when the chance came. The program officer contacted and assisted me with enrolling in vocational training. I have been attending sewing and design lessons because I'm interested, and I'm excited about the possibility. In the future, I hope to work as a designer to support my mother and three younger sisters. I am thankful to Hope and all of the donors who have helped me improve my future.

On the other side, fifty women received training in livelihood diversification. The training's goal is to decrease the struggles that women face on a daily basis. The training improves women's livelihoods, allowing them to support their families. The participants emphasised the relevance of the training and pledged to put what they learnt in the workshop into action.



Environmental protection training at the city administration hall

Ayni Fund project

Supervised the various activities of Ayni Fund project

The Ayni Fund project was successfully and efficiently completed following different interventions. The donors were pleased with the project's implementation and the ongoing engagement with the organization.

To reinforce and preserve the project's outcome, program workers' pay monthly visits to the targeted women. Women have already begun to make fuel-efficient stoves, and use them to save time when preparing injera and reduce firewood consumption. Women have expressed profound thanks for the introduction of fuel-efficient stoves.

Furthermore, the team observed horticulture and land preparation for the sowing of various seeds provided to the group. Women's total initiative and determination to improving their circumstances has been astounding.

Though most women in the district have endured many obstacles, they are strong enough to overcome them; they are also noted for their vigilant temperament, which causes things to happen rather than waiting for anything to happen.



Women are making fuel efficient stove as they took training how to make it

Members of the SHGs took training

Members of various self-help groups have received training with the intention of promoting and enhancing women's participation in the community on a daily basis. 62 SHG members attended the training session, which covered a variety of topics that focused on inspiring and motivating women's participation in the various issues within the community.

The training sought to increase women's awareness and capacity to be responsive and directly participate in the community's social interactions, rather than distancing themselves from the various issues that concern them.

Preventing children from being trafficked and migrating, as well as saving money to sustain the learning of their children were two major burning issues that were given much attention. Because this is the season when schools are closed, many children are forced to leave their hometown in search of revenue to finance the expense of academic resources for the upcoming year. During the program, mothers are encouraged to keep their children from migrating and being trafficked, as well as exposing them to child work and exploitation in urban areas. The trainers advised mothers to continue saving for their children's academic needs while also taking out loans from the group to supplement their income. Members discussed on the issues and agreed to build on it to avoid child migration and trafficking.

On the contrary, the community also provided training on harmful traditional practices in order to discourage early marriage and save mothers' lives from traditional midwives. Many traditional practices are on the risk of disappearing.

Training provided for women reached at cluster level

An expert from the district association office delivered training to women at the self-help group. 85 women took part in the training. The objective is to increase women's knowledge and understanding of the benefits of cluster associations. It was stated that organising women at the cluster level contributes to increasing and strengthening both the number and capacity of women in the association. Furthermore, it contributes to assembling and increasing financial resources and job prospects for women.

The trainer confirmed to the women that instead of participating in self-help groups, they could work at the cluster level to acquire influence and recognition from the district association office. Furthermore, SHGs should be gradually transformed and formalised to become legal enterprises through cluster association.

Women were determined to be introduced to the district local government associations. They also noted that the designation will bring them benefits, including the ability to expand the cluster association to the cooperative level.

In other news, five women received improved cows. The provision increases and diverts their income. There is a strong culture surrounding the dissemination of improved cows. The firstborn (calf) would be given to another member of the self-help group, which fosters strong ties and creates a family dynamic.



Members of the middle age women while they were taking family planning training

Members of the SHG made a discussion on the various issues



Second Chance program

Monitoring and Evaluation has been carried out

The second chance project was monitored and assessed in collaboration with the Chenchu and Kogota district education offices. The professionals evaluated the learning process, student performance and attendance rates, and other pertinent elements.

It was discovered that fifteen students dropped out of the initiative during the third phase as a consequence of internal displacement of their families. In addition, two students died before taking the placement tests.

Furthermore, six hundred seventy-three second-chance students were given placement examinations to determine if they would advance to the next grade level. The students' results will be provided this week, and a conversation is held with their parents to encourage and support their children to continue their educations.



Monitoring and evaluation of the performance of students who attended the second chance in collaboration with the district education offices