



Newsletter for the month OCTOBER

Program NEWS

The program office has monitored the Leku Project

The Leku Project has been evaluated by the program office in collaboration with the Sidama Finance Bureau, the Women, Children, and Social Affairs Bureau, and the Leku City Administration's Women, Children and Social Affairs and Finance offices.

During the evaluation, the branch office program coordinator highlighted the project's accomplishments, challenges, and lessons acquired. Based on the presentation, the experts communicated their questions, feedback, and reflections. As a result, the project manager, the MEAL office, and the branch office's program coordinator all responded to the remarks.

Furthermore, the Sidama Women, Children, and Social Affairs Bureau expert interacted with the targeted leaders of the self-help groups. The intention of the conversation was to talk about the benefits received by the target groups from the initiative, as well as the outcomes noticed in their and their children's lives.

The finance bureau also examined the SHGs' notebooks, savings books, and other financial activities of the SHG members. The experts have shared their thoughts and concerns. The monitoring and evaluation session was held two days.



The experts while discussing with the target leaders of the SHGs

Education and sponsorship program

Partners from Germany visited the Kindergarten

Partners from Germany who work on the Upper KG children and the sponsorship scheme have come to see the kindergarten. They have visited and had conversations with the principal and the teachers of the kindergarten regarding the academic achievement of the upper kindergarten students and the sponsored children attending elementary, secondary and higher institutions.

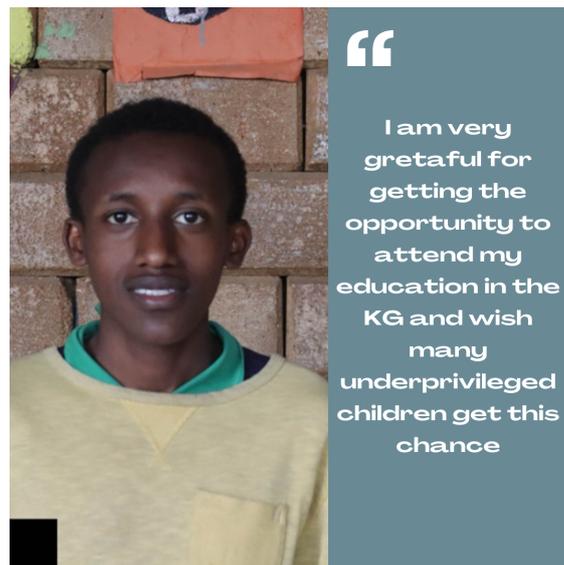
The partners also communicated with children and offered them numerous educational materials to encourage children to attentively attention to their education. The visit lasts for four days, and it was successful.

The story of Former Hope Entoto Kindergarten student

I am Eyosias Demelash, an 18-year-old boy. I still get along with my KG classmates and I will never forget him. I forgot 7th-grade friends but not KG ones. They remain good friends, and I see them often. I don't know how my family found the opportunity that helped me join KG as a child. My mother died when I was 10, so I live with my father. I struggled in school and couldn't focus after my mother's death. I remarked that my mother's death changed my educational achievement and thinking. It was hard for me, especially so young. I am currently in grade 12 at Entoto Amba School. The organisation has continued to support me by supplying school supplies such as notebooks, pens, and shoes year after year. I have never had trouble getting what I need for school. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have received the opportunity. My father would have struggled to provide me with all of the necessary school supplies. I have never had to worry about school supplies or shoes. My father occasionally pays visits to the school to enquire about my progress and behaviour without my knowledge.

Every year, he inspects my classroom, and at home, he evaluates my grades and homework. He is really proud of me. I have never considered dropping out of school, because I realise that education is the key to a brighter future. I am one of the best students in my class, consistently ranking in the top ten every year.

I also said that my former KG classmates are still performing well in school, which I believe is due to the solid foundation they received at KG. Individuals who studied at KG saw a bright future for themselves in their home nation. For me, education represents my future; I believe that by learning, I can alter my life. I want to go to university and major in business and marketing, and I am convinced that I will pass the national exam after graduating from grade 12. I am highly confident in myself. In my spare time, I help my father a lot by cooking, cleaning, and watching football games. I am grateful to thank Hope for Children in Ethiopia-RDA.



The story of Eyosias Demelash

NIGAT Project

Mentoring session was held with school clubs

Twenty-four participants participated in the conference with the purpose of briefing the second phase of the NIGAT project. The workshop was held as an in-depth briefing on the referral links and pathways in the school and a detailed discussion on the topics of safeguarding difficulties. The mentoring is considered highly vital and crucial to reduce any sort of stigmatisation and isolation occurring in the lives of child domestic workers attending formal education.

The school clubs play a remarkable and considerable influence in transforming the attitude and actions of the school community towards CDW students. Furthermore, the club symbolises the rights and protection of any of the youngsters through their awareness creation session.

Experience sharing session was performed with Ministry of Transport

The second phase of the project encompassed an assortment of actions intended for eradicating CDW abuse and exploitation. One of the activities will be carried out with the various transportation hubs, taking into account that some children were intercepted while they were travelling from various rural areas in need of employment for a variety of causes such as poverty, conflict, and others.

The review meeting was convened by HCE-RDA and the ministry office. Twenty-three participants participated in the session to share experiences with intercepting migrant children in urban locations. The program coordinator informed the audience about the HCE-RDA's various initiatives and expressed a strong desire to work with the ministry office to prevent migrants and children from being exploited.

The briefing concentrated on how referral systems underway, procedures, and the responsible office administer CDW referral cases. HCE-RDA obtained information from the Ministry office and reached an agreement to collectively implement the activities under the intervention of the various transport hubs under the Ministry office.

Ayni Fund Project

The story of Kaone Gosalo

Kaone Gosalo, a 65-year-old resident of Boyena Tupa kebele in Chenchu district, once faced significant hardship alongside her husband. With all their children having moved to urban areas, their livelihood was precarious, marked by limited resources and an uncertain future. Their daily existence was a struggle, a common plight for many in rural communities without access to sustainable economic opportunities. However, Kaone's life took a transformative turn with her participation in a women's economic empowerment project. This initiative provided her with crucial resources and training, fundamentally altering her economic landscape. She received improved sheep, poultry, vegetable seeds, and false banana seedlings. These provisions were not merely handouts but catalysts for self-sufficiency. Kaone diligently applied the knowledge gained from the project, cultivating vegetables and false banana seedlings. Her efforts quickly bore fruit, allowing her to produce a surplus that she now sells in the local market. This newfound ability to generate income has brought stability and dignity to her household, moving her from a state of dependency to one of economic agency. The project's intervention has not only improved her financial standing but also empowered her as a contributing member of her community, demonstrating the profound impact of targeted development programmes on individual lives and local economies.

No Child Left Behind project

School bags were distributed to students embraced in the project

The head office provided schoolbags to one hundred children who attended formal education to promote the initiative. Previously, they got educational resources that would maintain them in formal education, with the intention of encouraging children to attend classes in school. The Leku City Administration is regarded one of the most densely populated districts, with significant poverty noted. There are numerous families that were unable to send their children to school.

During the distribution, a mother indicated that she sent two of her children to work as domestic workers in Hawassa owing to her desperate financial situation. She left with three children, one of whom is involved in the initiative; she is also given financial assistance to expand her small business to sustain the education condition of her child. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the project for allowing her to practice saving, enabling her to make speeches to others, and transforming her perspective about herself.

The distribution was administered by the head of the City Administration's Women, Children, and Social Affairs office and the chairman of the Women's League. They also shared their advice and encouragement with the children who gathered to acquire their schoolbags. The children and their families are also grateful for the provision, and the families have promised to work on their children's education.

Resources in cash and in material has been offered to members of the SHGs

Members of the Self-Help Groups were provided with financial and material resources. Forty mothers were interviewed concerning the type of business they would like to organize and their business experience. According to the conversation, most mothers encounter life without the assistance of their partner. Their spouse was either left in bed due to a serious sickness or worked at a low income, such as day labor. They nevertheless possess a great desire to expand in order to better influence the lives of the household members.

The mothers are chosen in collaboration with the City Administration's Women, Children, and Social Affairs office, the branch program coordinator, and the finance section. The shortlisted women have been engaged in a variety of small-scale enterprises to support their families, but financial constraints have impeded their expansion. Seventy SHG members also received young female goat to diversify their income and maintain their households.



Children attended in formal education received schoolbags



The Leku City Administration Women and Children Affair office head handed over the bag to targeted children

Women Empowerment “Church of Sweden” project

The success story of Tsehaynesh Shate

Her name is Tsehaynesh Shate, and she is a woman who is fifty years old and illiterate. There are two girls and four boys among her six children. Her husband is a farmer. Providing for the needs of our children and sending them to school was a challenge that we faced with much difficulty. We were putting in a lot of effort by wandering to different locations to increase our income and support ourselves. Having been through challenging circumstances, I have gained knowledge from them. We were only involved in farming operations, and we did not have a steady source of income. This was owing to the fact that there was a scarcity of farmland in the region, which was caused by the most densely populated districts. We have done our utmost to improve the lives of the home members.

We prayed and remained hopeful throughout. When Hope for Children in Ethiopia-RDA introduced the Self-Help Group, I became part of the group, getting various training. After I had participated in the SHGs, my awareness, attitude, and behaviour with respect to savings, loans, and other concerns shifted. I tried to make ends meet with my income by growing vegetables in my backyard and raising livestock. Right now, I am able to send my children to school, more effectively handle my household, and save money in partnership with the other SHG members. I am grateful to HCE-RDA for transforming my way of thinking and doing things.



**We have done
our utmost to
improve the
lives of the
home members**



Tsehaynesh Shate



Second Chance Project (Chencha & Kogota Project)

Training has been given to the school community

Training has been given to one hundred twenty-seven school communities to strengthen the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP). School principals, supervisors and ALP teachers participated in the training. The training has been given for four days. As it is clearly known, there are hundreds of ALP classes in Chencha and Kogota Woredas.

The intention of the training is to apply the approaches (pedagogy) of the Second Chance with the aim of encouraging dropouts and over-aged children to formal education. Thus, the ALP classes will continue the work of the Second Chance classes in the governmental schools with the same fashion and implementation of the Second Chance classes to provide education and reintegrate those children into formal education.

The participants witnessed that this program needs strong engagement and focus to practice it, and the Woreda education office should give much attention to the program to support underprivileged students.

Konso Second Chance Program

Meeting was held with members of the Self-Help-Groups

A meeting was organised to talk about the various obstacles that students were encountering. The meeting was conducted in three kebeles: Kume, Kaho, and Busso. The intention of the gathering was to feed students frequently who participated in the second chance program so they would not miss their lessons. Furthermore, interactions with families have taken place in order to reduce student absence and to monitor student retention at school.

On the contrary, awareness meetings have taken place for SHG members on saving, structuring SHGs into sub-groups, and looking over their children's activities, such as absenteeism and dropouts. In general, mothers were instructed on the second chance project's overall mission and fundamental values so that they would be willing to take their children to school and support their education. In addition, the role and responsibilities of the various key stakeholders were throughout discussed for the excellence of the second chance students.



Meetings with the members of the SHGs in various Kebeles