



Newsletter for the month February [adapted and abridged]

Administrative NEWS

The 2026 graduation has been celebrated colourfully

The 2026 graduation ceremony took place on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at the Stay Easy Plus hotel. Ninety graduates were trained in four areas: leather products manufacture, food preparation, garment and hairdressing, and beautification. They underwent theoretical, practical, and apprenticeship training before taking the Certificate of Competency Examination.

Previously, the graduates had been compelled to live on the streets, exposed to labour, exploitation and abused, and they were subjected to unfavourable situations. They deemed themselves desperate and did not ponder their future because of the visible challenges that they faced.

HCE-RDA, in partnership with the women, children, and social affairs offices, discovered and verified these right holders, and offered them the opportunity of enhancing their living circumstances through short-term vocational training.

During the graduation ceremony, the graduates presented the honourable guests with their handmade products from each department. The graduates received their certificates of completion from the Chief Finance Officer of Helsingborg Parish and the Freedom Fund Finance Head.

Distinguished guests from government offices, HCE board members, partners, and other stakeholders participated in the graduation ceremony. The graduates had a wonderful time at the graduation ceremony; their excitement, commitment, and initiation for change were noticeable on their faces. Guests were also encouraged and appreciative for the organization's efforts to improve the lives of these young people.



The 2026 graduate trainees partially



Graduates with their hand made products from the whole department

Light House Program

The story of Yonas Abebaw

Escaping from poverty made my life to ended up on street! I am Yonas Abebaw, and I am 18 years old and was a grade four student but dropped out from my education. I came from the northern part of Ethiopia called Debre Tabor, my birthplace. I have four siblings: two sisters and two brothers. My family led their life through farming. I migrated to the capital city, Addis Ababa, in need of a better life. I was engaged as a shepherd for years in different houses to support my family. However, I could not have enough to support them. One day, I decided to travel to Addis with oxen merchants in a car together with oxen. I was settled for a few months in one of the oxen markets around “Kera”. I spent the night by the side of the fences, resisting the stick of the patrolling police in the nighttime. In the daytime, I carried different things for a very little amount of money and ate leftover foods. When things became worse in the area, I decided to change to Sadist Kilo to find a better place to reside. I spent the night around the fence of offices, paying 20 to 30 birr to guards keeping it. When I went through this situation, one of the HCE-RDA social workers found me while she was looking for the right beneficiaries through the outreach service. She talked to me and understood me, and then she brought me to the organization. The program coordinators and the social workers of the organization discussed with me and accepted my situation and sent me to the boys' home “Light House”. Right now, I am choosing to attend the vocational training in leather goods production. I am very satisfied with the facilities of the Lighthouse. I would have a dream to support my family and siblings not to follow my path. I am very thankful for everything.

NIGAT Project

New CoE's take curriculum based training

Children of employers function as points of entry for eradicating exploitation, abuse, and labor from the lives of child domestic workers (CDWs). To effectively interact with CoEs, the developed curriculum unavoidably had an encouraging effect on their attitudes and behaviors.

In February, 41 CoEs received curriculum-based training in the project's operating domains. The CoE training focuses on CDW rights and protection. The training's primary goal had been to cover safeguard measures and methods for reporting violations.

Trainees' reflections were so encouraging that they definitely aspire to learn more about safeguarding concerns and regulations. Most of them would agree to share their understanding in the household with their parents in order to maintain CDW's right.

Similarly, forty-four employers received sessions of brainstorming designed to assist them alter their attitudes and behaviour regarding their CDWs. The training had a significant and astonishing impact on employers' resistance to sending CDWs to short-term vocational training and other related issues such as reducing workload, paying proper wage and others.

The employers received training to make aware of their responsibility by making very clear on the right of child domestic workers and convention 1156. Some employers grasped their responsibilities and began encouraging their CDWs to attend the training and exhibited supportive behaviour.

Training has been given to older CDWs on entrepreneurship

Older child domestic workers (CDWs) and employers who were chosen to initiate any kind of income generation activities (IGAs) have received training in business entrepreneurship. Since the project provides older domestic workers with both technical and financial assistance, it is able to transform their condition and transition them from being domestic workers to being self-sufficient. Additionally, it is able to provide economic support to employers, which enables them to improve the situation of CDWs who are employed by them.

The intention of the training is to facilitate the personal growth of old CDWs and employers in terms of their capacity and understanding of activities that generate earnings before they engage in any sort of business. In addition, their operations will be coordinated with the sub-city labour and skill offices as well as financial institutions in order to address any difficulties that may arise throughout the process of putting their business into operation.

Women Empowerment project Funded by Church of Sweden

Partners from HELSINBORGS, PARISH has visited the project they supported

A team from Helsingborg, the parish and the head offices has visited the various interventions performed in the Gamo zone, Chenchu district. The team has visited the various members of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and the restoration of biodiversity projects.

The members of the SHGs welcomed the team and presented briefly about the benefit they obtained by being members of the SHGs. Targeted women explained their former situation by comparing it with the present one. Most of the women were very dependent on their husbands to fulfil their needs and even to fulfil the academic resources of their children. Due to their economic scarcity, they were unable to send their children to formal education; rather, they forced their children to generate income and ended up with child labour, abuse and exploitation.

The team had also visited the condition of women in person by visiting their backyard gardens and their living conditions. Demekech Dancha, who dreamt all the time while the team visited her, fulfilled her dream by building a new modern house in the city of Chenchu and renting it. Furthermore, she used her father-in-law's land to produce cabbage for sale. She is one of many strong and dedicated women who are working hard to change their household lives. She has two sons; one of them has already finalised his university education and is employed, and the second one attended Dila University.

Tsehaynesh Beleh, a leader of one of the SHGs, is a role model for women who has a diversified income and completely changed her life by working hard. She received apple seedlings from Hope for Children and reproduced them. Right now, she has...apple trees and earns 60,000 birr every year by selling apples. Additionally, she planted potatoes and brought them to the market. She is able to teach her young boy in the governmental university.

The members invited the team into their home and showed the fruits of the partner. The Helsingborg parish is the one which directly supports the projects.

Territorial Management & Sustainability Project (PAWANKA Project)

Poultry production training and distribution had been performed

Training has been provided to the women who are the focal point of PAWANKA's initiative. The training has been centred on the methods of making poultry products and considering it as a means of undertaking income-generating activities (IGAs). One hundred and ten women took part in the training with the objective of enhancing their knowledge on the methods of producing hens in order to boost their income and guarantee that their children will have everything they require.

In the event that women are able to produce cash from the items, it is predicted that they will be able to provide their children with formal education and ensure that their children keep healthy after they have completed the training. Training was provided to the women who were specifically targeted by the district agriculture expert. Three hundred and thirty chicks were then handed out to the women who were at the forefront of the distribution.

Key stakeholders received training on peace and reconciliation

Key stakeholders received training concerning the issues of securing sustainable peace using the cultural values of the community. The training has been given with the motto "Let us stand together for the peace of our surroundings!" It has been given to the community members from the two structures for the benefit of peace, and in collaboration with the Chenchu and surrounding city administration peace and security offices.

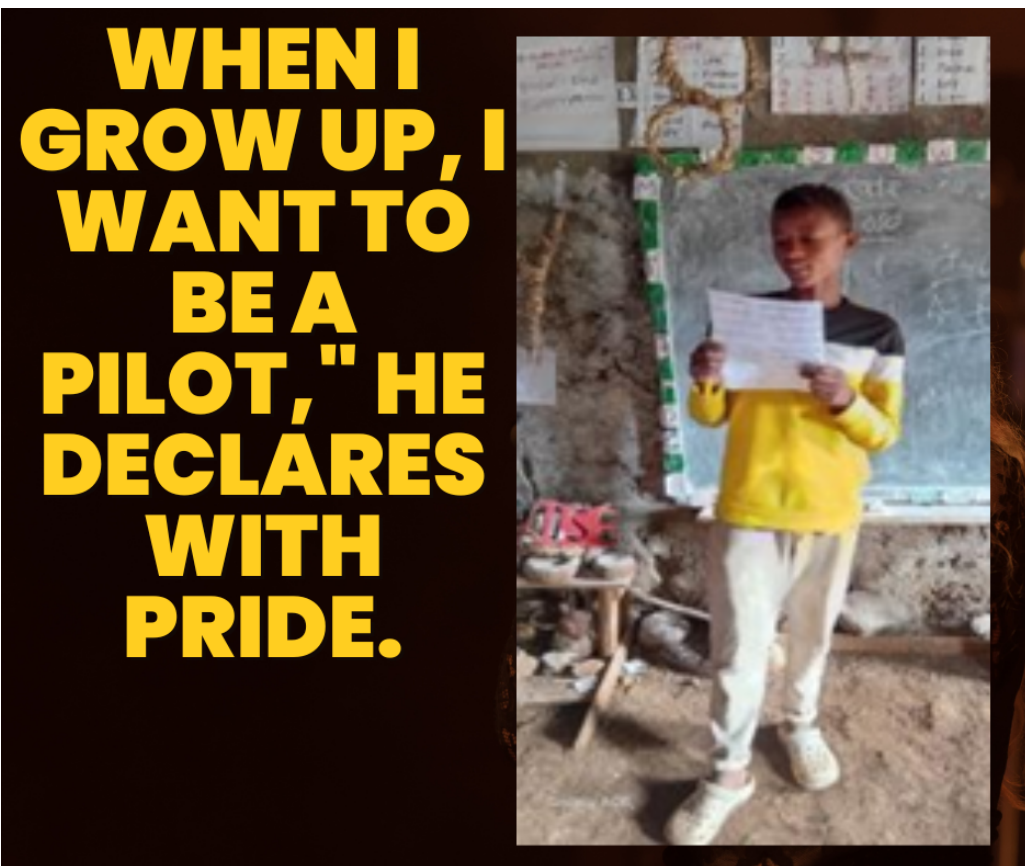
The primary intention of the training was to strengthen the work of the values of peace and the cultural structure of resolution of conflicts before it reaches its climax. Furthermore, it was stated that the training aims to promote the indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms before conflicts bring severe damage to the community.

The training embraced primitive administrative systems, types of conflicts, sources of conflicts and types of conflict resolution mechanisms. The community members had taken the responsibility of sharing the benefit of peace, guarding their own peace and playing a remarkable role in keeping their own peace.

The elderly people, religious leaders, women, youth, influential people and other key stakeholders participated in the training and recommended the training should be given to other areas.



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**WHEN I
GROW UP, I
WANT TO
BE A
PILOT," HE
DECLARES
WITH
PRIDE.**

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Second Chance Project (Chencha & surrounding districts)

Teklie Tadese's story

Tekile Tadese is fourteen years old boy. He is a second-chance student at Kogota Woreda Tula Primary School. His parents were poor, hence he had never attended school before coming to Second Chance. As a result, he has been given to foster parents for deployment of domestic animals. He pretends to study and moves up; his friends attend school every day. After an awful year, he returns to his parents and lives with them. He enrolled in a second-chance schooling program at Kogota Woreda and Tula Primary School.

He is thrilled and delighted to be joining Second Chance, as are his parents. The class baseline result at the start of the first week is zero readers. Tekalign Tesfaye, his facilitator, became good friends with him, keeping an eye on his development, and encouraged him to get involved all of the activities each day to further develop his self-esteem and adaptability. He are able to establish simple sentences, read 61 words per minute, and grasp the idea of mathematical operations. He took satisfaction in studying at home and reading different materials. "When I grow up, I want to be a pilot," he declares with pride. Tekile's success story serves as a fantastic example for children and inspires teachers to work hard for every student in their own school.

Second Chance Project (Konso Zone)

Refresher training for Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) teachers

ALP instructors received refresher training at Konso Secondary and Preparatory School in Karat Town. The Konso Zone Education Department leadership formally started the session. Mr Ashenafi Berisha, head of the Konso Zone Education Department, and Mr Geresu Katale, vice head of the Education Department, delivered the opening speeches. The four-day training plans to concentrate on linguistic proficiency and pedagogical skills.

Three days were spent standardising and enhancing the writing system grammar of Affan Konso Orthography. A day has been dedicated to focus on current teaching practices that will enhance student involvement and participation in the classroom. The refresher training was completed effectively, and the majority of the teachers acknowledged the importance of such refresher training in developing teachers' capacity for the betterment of students' result.

Parental meeting has been carried out in different kebeles

Parental meetings have taken place throughout the kebeles in which the Second Chance Project functioning with the intention of discussing the presented overview of the academic progress and the teaching-learning process of students attending in the Second Chance classes during phase two.

The group also discussed on student absenteeism and the reasons behind the increase student dropout rates. The parents expressed their concerns about lessons missed and discussed on approaches to reducing absenteeism and dropout rates. Participants emphasised the shortcomings of the teaching-learning process and developed collaborative solutions to address them.

The discussion concluded by identifying the particular tasks and obligations of different stakeholders - parents, facilitators, school principals, and relevant kebele officials - in promoting student achievement.



Refresher training for Accelerated Learning Program Teachers



Meetings with members of the SHGs whose children attend in the Second Chance Project