



HOPE *for CHILDREN in*
ETHIOPIA

Newsletter for the month March [adapted and abridged]

ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

HCE-RDA offered financial support to the victims at Mazo Doyesha Kebele

HCE-RDA offered 400,000 Eth birr to Gamo Zone delegates, Gacho Baba District officials, and Mazo Doyesha Kebele representatives. A devastating natural calamity, a landslide, claimed the lives of 125 community members, including women, children, and older people. As the calamity proceeded to destroy houses, cattle and agricultural areas, many more people were forced to relocate to other districts which require different resources to rehabilitate the victims of the disaster. [...]

HCE-RDE officials handed over academic books to Chenchu Youth Library

Hope for Children in Ethiopia (HCE-RDA) has provided academic books and resources to Chenchu City Administration's youth library. The donation was made with the purpose to enhance the capacity of the youth library by providing essential resources so that the youth can broaden their academic knowledge through the books. [...]



The Vice City administration of the Chencha district while receiving books for the youth library

PROJECT RELATED NEWS

The Head Office MEAL Team supervised the Second Chance program.

The Second Chance initiative in the Konso Zone and Chenchä district is monitored by the MEAL team at the head office, working collaboratively with branch programme personnel and supervisors. The team examined sixteen second-chance classrooms in Konso Zone and seven in the Chenchä district.

The field visit was carried out from a variety of different perspectives, including evaluating the performance of students who finished the second phase of the project, how facilitators administer the learning process, and how to handle students' continuous evaluation, attendance, and lesson plans. As a result, literacy and numeracy tests were put in place to thirty-five students who enrolled in the program in the Chenchä district.

Students' literacy and numeracy skills in the Chenchä vicinity, as well as in some Konso Zone classes, have improved significantly. An additional effort would be needed, notably in the Konso Zone Second Chance Program, to reduce the dropout rate among students in Kena District schools.

According to the head of the zonal education office, three factors contribute to an upsurge in student dropout rates. The first and most crucial is that the community's economic situation is so low that they are unable to meet even their children's basic necessities.

The other reason is that the majority of children aspire to work in various day labour occupations, and the season is termed the farming season, which means that most families compel their children to participate in farming activities. The head of the education office committed to work with the district's education office and community members to reverse the intense dropout rate.



Konso Second Chance Students while they were taking phase two examination

NEW LIFE PROGRAM

Personal Narrative of Orphaned Young Woman

I trust that there is a purpose behind my challenge. I have gone through a number of challenges in these little ages. I am Yabsera Girma, an eighteen-year-old girl. I tried to face the challenges of life at an early age due to the absence of my father and mother. They passed away after they had borne me, so I was forced to live with my grandmother, who lived with my aunt and her husband. I became a burden to other families again. They have two children. Except for my aunt's husband, both my grandmother and my aunt were house mothers. Thus, our lives were hanging on the daily income of my aunt's husband. I was trying to engage in different jobs to support my grandmother and to keep up my education. I worked as a janitor as well as provided tutoring on Saturday and Sunday, but I could not keep it up the way I did due to the passing of my grandmother. Things were completely changed after she had gone. My aunt's husband insisted I live with him rather than with his wife. As his nagging continued seriously, my aunt heard about the situation, and she fired me from the house. I was living with my friends at their home for two years, but it was not comfortable. Therefore, I was obliged to lead my life on the street around the bus and police station. In the daytime, I was engaging in daily labour, carrying bricks and eating leftover food from children attending schools, and in the evening, I was attending my education for years. Life was so hard on the street that I could not resist what was going on there. When I went through the situation, I found somebody who attended short-term vocational training at HCE-RDA. She took me there, and I met the programme coordinator and explained my situation. They accepted me and provided me shelter with other girls in the New Life. Things are going to be a story, and I feel that I am on the right track. I am very grateful and thankful for the provision the organisation provided for me.

NIGAT PROJECT

Impact of the first phase of the project

According to the NIGAT project program coordinator, 31 of the 38 child domestic workers who attended short-term vocational training graduated. Some of them were able to obtain employment while still attending on the job of training. Their domestic work life became set to end as a result of the organisation's intervention.

Brokers who facilitated the employment of domestic workers indicated that they began to use agreements in all forms of employment. They did not enter into any agreements while performing their employment responsibilities. After receiving training and understanding their responsibilities and accountability, they began performing their duties through agreements with elder CDWs and conversations with younger CDWs. This is regarded as a great outcome expected from the project.

The same is true at transport hubs. Many more young children are intercepted in the hubs and reunited/reintegrated with their families before being subjected to child labour, exploitation, and violence. The hub established an official Telegram group to disclose publicly all day-to-day information about child trafficking and migration. The organization provided case management training to transportation hub employees. The Ministry of Transport office has been extremely supportive in assisting our organization in intercepting children from remote locations. Furthermore, many more elder CDWs' lives were transformed as a result of intensive counselling. Many more CDWs intended to drop out of the training; some wanted to attempted suicide, while others lived with hopelessness and stress. The office has taken significant steps to improve the situation of these trainees. There are still many trainees who require counselling to improve their attitudes and behaviors. Despite various hurdles, the initiative was able to achieve the desired outcome of its efforts.

PAWANKA PROJECT

Establishing community coalition to resolve disputes

A community coalition has been formed with the intention of resolving any disputes that have erupted in the area. The coalition is composed of twenty members, including elderly people, diverse community representatives, marginalised women, and other key stakeholders. The purpose of the formation meeting is to build members' capacity to effectively mediate any type of dispute and resolve conflicts before they escalate.

Seventy people attended the meeting, and primarily to their active participation, an enduring coalition was successfully formed. Members received initial capacity-building training to learn fundamental mediation and dispute resolution methods. Early indicators showed that community engagement improved in resolving slight variations before they escalated into major conflicts.



Women involvement in the protection of natural resources

The natural resource preservation programs emphasised the important role of women's participation in responsible management of natural resources. As it is widely recognised, women have an intimate connection with natural resources, hence their entire commitment and participation in natural resource protection is regarded as *fundamental*.

Because the area has been subjected to many types of natural disasters, preventing deforestation, mitigating soil erosion, and encouraging sustainable agriculture methods unavoidably contribute to the prevention of diminishing natural resources.

Thus, seven women have received training on how for protecting natural resources through sustainable agricultural techniques, the importance of reforestation, and other relevant topics. Furthermore, participants' understanding of how to develop environmentally friendly ecological behaviours improved. The program successfully delivered the desired message of encouraging women to set priorities for the protection of natural resources.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FUNDED BY CHURCH OF SWEDEN

The story of Etnesh Chora

I am Etnesh Chora, a forty-year-old uneducated mother. I am married and have six daughters. My spouse worked in farming and traditional weaving. Our agricultural activities consisted of backyard gardening and cultivating false banana trees. False banana trees, on the other hand, have primarily been destroyed by natural calamities. We had such an incident regularly, which exposed us to major concerns. We occasionally lost them and had to work during the day to support our children. We lacked a steady source of revenue to meet our everyday needs.

I am currently a member of a self-help group where I receive numerous supplies intended to improve the lives of my children and household. I acquired poultry products from the organisation and nurtured them, as well as producing and selling a new mattress. Furthermore, I borrowed money from my savings to buy seeds to cover the ground with wheat seed. Again, I received an apple seedling and planted it in our backyard garden. This year, I made more money by selling apples and chicken items. I returned the loan without any difficulties. My life has been transforming since I joined the self-help group. I am quite appreciative for any assistance I received from the organisation.



SECOND CHANCE PROJECT (Chencha)

Monitoring and evaluation has been carried out

Monitoring and evaluation has been carried out by the district education experts. The experts evaluate the accomplishment of the second phase of the project and assess the status of students. An assessment examination has been administered to evaluate the numeracy and literacy skills of students. Woreda education office experts were involved in the monitoring and evaluation session.

Additionally, experience sharing with cluster supervisors, school principals and education office experts has been performed. Eighteen participants were involved in the experience-sharing sessions. The participants illustrated the importance of such experience-sharing sessions and the lessons they have taken.



SECOND CHANCE PROJECT (Konso Zone)

The certificate is handed over to HCE-RDA in recognition of the educational effect registered in the Konso Zone

The Konso Second Chance office received a certificate of recognition from the zone administration and the education office. The certificate is handed over to the organisation's representative during a mid-year educational conference hosted by the Konso Zone Education Department. During the event, the challenges of bringing education quality in the region, improving student performance and community participation to improve the absenteeism rate of students have been the discussion points raised at the event.

The role of the Second Chance programme in bringing back dropouts and over-aged children to school has been clearly mentioned in the conference.

