



HOPE *for CHILDREN in* ETHIOPIA

Newsletter for the month April [adapted and abridged]

PROJECT NEWS

Experience sharing session has been conducted between projects

An experience-sharing session has been carried out at the Chenchu operational areas on April 24, 2026. Two Zimbabwean individuals engaged in the orphan and vulnerable children project were invited by the Church of Sweden to take some lessons from the effective and efficient implementation of the socioeconomic empowerment implemented by Hope for Children.

The guests were visited differently in the self-help groups in the Kale Etelo operational areas. The members of different SHGs described their earlier lives before they joined the groups and the impact of being members of the SHGs. They stated that they saved regularly, took loans and engaged in small businesses to diversify their income, working as a group in backyard gardening and on the farm. The Zimbabwean guests offered their concerns and focused on their inquiry, and the members fully responded to their questions. 50 members of the SHGs participated in the session.

The guests also visited the Second Chance Class found in Chenchu Mulo. They explained that they have got lessons from the members of the SHGs as well as the experience of the Second Chance class. The programme coordinator of the Chenchu Branch also presented the fifteen years of tenure to reach the present status of the programme.

Two young Swedish boys, two Zimbabwean personnel and the head office and branch programme personnel attended the experience-sharing session. According to the participants, they are very delighted with what they have observed and heard during the session.



Experience sharing session with SHGs

EDUCATION & SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Sharing the burden of families of kindergarten students

Over the course of the holidays, Hope for Children provides consistent assistance to the families of children who are enrolled in Hope Entoto Kindergarten. During the Easter Sunday holiday, the organization provided the families with wheat flour and edible oil which they had demanded.

The intention has been to share the burden of the families. Most of the families live on a hand-to-mouth income that does not cover the expense of household consumption. Life has become very challenging for these families. In consideration of the actual market situation, the organization initiated sharing the burden of these families to make their holiday brighter.

The families were grateful and thankful for the provision of support at the very essential moment, not seeing the hand of other people as well as not observing their children in their neighbours' homes.



NEW LIFE PROGRAM

The story of Alem Yekoye

Never think of such a terrible life. I am Alem Yekoye, an eighteen-year-old girl. I was able to attend education till grade six due to the hardest moment I went through. I was born and grew up in North Showa. I have seven siblings, two brothers and five sisters. We lost our father at an early age, and the entire responsibility of taking care of eight of us fell upon the shoulders of my mother. I do not have a memory of my father. My mother has faced mental disorder due to the severity of the challenges. I did not get the opportunity to grow up with my father and my mother; instead, I was urged to live with other families by giving domestic service. The family they took me to promised to take care of me like



their children, but after a while things completely changed. I was forced to work hard on tasks for more than ten hours without wages or other privileges. There were large family members, and I served all of them without any rest. Then, I decided to leave their home and came to Addis Ababa. When I came to Addis Ababa, I directly went to the broker's house to find a domestic worker. I was employed to work as a domestic worker in a family of four. However, they mismanaged me by making me work both in the household and in

their grocery (their business). I worked on household tasks in the evening and engaged in grocery shopping in the daytime with 1,500 birr in a month. The workload has disrupted my health and exposed me to severe back pain. Then, I left their house and stayed with my brother, who lived in Addis, engaged in day labour. When I went through this situation, the district volunteer contacted me and supported me to join Hope for Children. Right now, I have resided in the New Life group home with other girls and attended the hairdressing and beautification training. I am very delighted with my current situation, but I all the time think of my disabled sister. The other saddest thing is all my brothers left their home and scattered in different places to fight the challenges of life, and none of us got the opportunity to keep up our education. Only my disabled sister (unable to walk) lives with my mother. My mother has given her small plot to other farmers with shares because she was unable to plough her land. I wish I could support them after I complete my training and earn income.

LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM

The story of Yalew Birhanu

I was born and grew up in a very remote area in Gojam. I have four siblings, two sisters and two brothers. I was the first in my family. My father and my mother were divorced, and my father got married to another woman. My mother has been taking care of my siblings, engaging with farming activity with a small piece of land. I was able to continue my education up to grade three due to the conflict in the region. None of my siblings attended formal education due to the lack of schools providing education in the conflict areas. The situation forced me to leave my birthplace and come to Addis Ababa in search of a better life. However, the reality in Addis was completely different from my anticipation. I ended up with the street life when I came to Addis Ababa. I was forced to eat leftover food from the garbage. In the daytime, I was working as a day labourer and carried goods for little money. As time went by, things became worse in the Addis street. When I went on in this situation, I met one of the volunteers working for Hope for Children, and she took me to the organisation. The programme team asked me questions concerning my former situation and allowed me to be part of the Light House group home. I also started training in garments. I am very happy with my situation, and I wish I would have my own business and support my family.

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Yalew Birhanu in Garment practical training

TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

funded by PAWANKA
Training is given to insure the inclusiveness of marginalized women

The branch HCE-RDA has launched training for the local authorities and key stakeholders on the inclusiveness of rights of isolated marginalized women in the community. It was mentioned that inclusion and respect for marginalized women's rights play a remarkable role in ensuring social justice and national growth.

It was also mentioned that the violation and exclusion of women's rights have a significant pressure in the lives of women in the group discussion.

A discussion was held to create a common understanding on the issue related to the continuation of respecting the rights of women, the reduction of women's vulnerability to assault, and ensuring equality like other mainstream women. [...]



WOMEN SOCIOECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Funded by CHURCH OF SWEDEN
The story of Ambare Yame

I am Ambare Yame, a 60-year-old woman and mother of a daughter. My husband passed away a long time ago. My life became more difficult following my husband's death. I became lonely after my daughter married, which added stress to my life. God comforted me as I passed on the life-threatening circumstance. I was quite destitute economically because I had no income. As I lived in a relatively distant place, I relied on farming to supplement what I need every day. Following my husband's death, I was forced to stare at the hands of people from all over the community, and I endured while attempting to meet my requirements. Then I found the strength to begin working in my backyard gardening, and facing the difficulty of life alone. When Hope for Children came to our Kebele, I received the opportunity to participate in a self-help group and receive guidance on saving and earning money. I got benefits from the program, which allows me to form social bonds with other women. The training provided me with more strength and motivation in my life while also helping me forget about my loneliness. I received improved backyard veggie seeds and seedlings. I worked hard to increase my income through backyard gardening, earning 5,000 birr. Again, the program supplied me with improved sheep, which I replicated, sold, and subsequently utilized to buy agricultural seed. I save money from my earnings with the members of the SHGs and use my savings for medication and other immediate necessities. God and the organization made me forget about yesterday and motivated me to work hard to overcome my instantaneous issues. I am grateful to the organization and the partner who made significant contributions to resolving our socioeconomic challenge.

