

Power In People Power In People Power In People Power In People

## ActionAid Steps Out from Ofla while Entering Raya Azebo

**“With ActionAid, we have seen miraculous changes in our lives; now we want *you* to provide your life changing support to other fellow women and girls next door”- a woman from Ofla**

October 2018, Korem (Tigray), Ethiopia

By: Hailu Nurga (Communications Coordinator)

**A**fter 14 years, ActionAid concluded its program in Ofla district (Woreda) of Tigray region, Ethiopia.

ActionAid Ethiopia, in collaboration with the communities and local government at different levels, implemented multi-faceted development schemes that brought tangible positive impact in the lives of the community with special emphasis on women and girls.

Among the many remarkable impact of our work in Ofla in 2005 in Zata and Faro districts, ActionAid kicked off its integrated development works by forming two women saving and credit cooperatives holding 51 women only members and led by women themselves. At that time, these cooperatives had had a capital of only 40,565 Birr. Today, when ActionAid graduates from Ofla, the number of women saving and credit cooperatives

(SACCO) has reached 18 with 10,186 women members with total capital of 17,626, 020.42 Birr. These cooperatives have played the master role in letting their members engage in diverse income generating activities that enabled them to improve their economic and social status embedded with gender equality.

As the livelihoods of women and girls in that district were characterized by deep-rooted poverty and wider gender inequality, ActionAid has mobilized huge resource to construct roads, school rooms, irrigation schemes, water wells, streams, on top of helping women engage in home-based income generating activities like sheep and goat rearing, beehives, and introduction of fuel-efficient stoves and solar bulbs.

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## From the Country Director



Dear readers,

2018 has been a remarkable year for ActionAid Ethiopia and the dynamics was high and deep since our last update. The country is in reform with significant changes and historic moments. The reform brought a hope to the nation by opening the space and ensuring justice. We started the rollout of our new strategy; ‘Gender Justice and poverty eradication – 2018 – 2023’ in this same year. While we celebrate our successes, it was also a very difficult year where the country’s reform resulted in humanitarian crisis, political tension and challenging security situations.

Regardless of all this dynamics, our staff demonstrated its unity, resilience, commitment and the passion to ActionAid. This could not be achieved without the invaluable support of the Federation, our partners and supporters. A heart felt gratitude to you all for standing by our side in both good and difficult times.

In solidarity!!

Tinebeb Berhane



*A joyous model woman showing her certificate of appreciation to the gathering*

*Steps Out from (page 1)*

After handing over certificate of appreciation to those who exerted exemplary performance to empower women and eradicate poverty from Ofla, Tinebeb Berhane, Country Director of ActionAid Ethiopia, stated that she feels honored that the social transformation that have been brought into effect by the joint efforts of the communities especially, women and girls, government structure and ActionAid with its kind-hearted sponsors is one that can be model for other development initiatives elsewhere in Ethiopia.

Head of Women Affairs of Tigray Regional State, Dr. Yetimwork G/Meskel, said on the occasion that the regional government is very thankful to ActionAid

for its commendable women empowering and life changing works with its exemplary operation philosophy, i.e., transparency, cost efficiency, and believing in the power of our communities particularly women to ensure gender equality and eradicate poverty. “Our regional government would like other non-governmental organizations operating in the region to follow the example of ActionAid to bring better social impacts.”

ActionAid invested a total of Birr 66,266,631.46 for the integrated development works at Ofla during its 14 years stay.

In a related news, ActionAid officially launched its development program in Raya Azebo Woreda (district) of

Tigray Regional State, Ethiopia. The social and economic empowerment of women and girls will be the priority area with disaster risk management ■

## For Your Information

### ActionAid Ethiopia changes its physical address

Action Aid Ethiopia has moved its main office from its former office located around Global Hotel after 27 years to a compound where Consortium of Christian Relief Development Association (CCRDA), Debrezeit road, which is located at the round-about of Addis Ababa Mechanics and Drivers’ Training Center.



*Raya Azebo Woreda Administrator giving opening remark*

## ActionAid Supported IDPs worth over ETB 4.2 million in Gedeo Zone

August 30, 2018, Addis Ababa

By Hailu Nurga, Communications Coordinator



*A lactating mother and her children collecting the relief items distributed by ActionAid Ethiopia in Bule town. (Photo credit: Hailu Nurga)*

In a response to the humanitarian support call by the federal and regional government bodies of the Federal Democratic Republic Ethiopia, ActionAid Ethiopia supported non-food items to 7,008 internally displaced persons in Gedeo zone (400km south of the capital, Addis Ababa) at a cost of ETB 4, 276, 905.30 (117,160.93GBP). The budget source is mainly from ActionAid Ethiopia regular budget and support from ActionAid UK. The major target population supported by ActionAid were women (particularly pregnant and

lactating mothers, children and young girls. The items it supplied in two phases (one in mid-July and the other in mid-August 2018) include blankets, cooking pots, buckets, children clothes, laundry soaps and re-usable dignity kits.

Throughout the response, ActionAid Ethiopia ensured participatory targeting, women's leadership, accountability and transparency based on its humanitarian signature. In the meantime, capacities of community structures were strengthened during the response to the emergency.

ActionAid coordinated the response with local government particularly with Women and Children Affairs bureau in regional, zonal and district level and National Disaster Risk Management Commission ■

# Child Sponsorship Training held At Raya Azebo; AAE New Development Area

Sep. 2018, Mehoni, Tigray  
By: Dawit Eshete, Sponsorship Coordinator



**A**s part of capacity building plan of ActionAid Ethiopia, a three day Child Sponsorship Training was given for 43 community members at Mehoni town in Raya Azebo, located in Northern Ethiopia. Participants were drawn from the three program operational areas that AAE intervenes in that cluster and will have diverse role as message

collectors and sponsorship facilitators.

Child sponsorship approach, child protection, community engagement and community volunteerism were among major topics covered through the training. Besides, digital imaging skill was given to help them handle quality children photos as per Action Aid standards. Trainees had

field level practical session and learnt how to train other community members, gather children profile, and children message management per expected standards.

As next step, trainees are expected to serve as community volunteers and play paramount role in AAE child sponsorship at the ground.

## Africa Region Resilience Training of Trainers held in Kenya

By: Tsegaw Lencha, Climate Resilience and Humanitarian Response Specialist

ActionAid Ethiopia delegates attended the Africa Resilience ToT in Malindi, Kenya between Monday 9th – Friday 13th July 2018 for a five-day. Twenty-four participants from sixteen

different African countries were present in the session. The ToT was facilitated by the resilience team from IHART (IP4) and Bangladesh (Resilience delegation), as well as supported

by representation from ActionAid's International Platform 3. The training was organized with the major objective raising awareness of and understanding on the AA resilience framework and learning from different countries' resilience programmes and projects for future alignment.

The five days training thoroughly dealt with resilience introduction; resilience in practice; field trip; measuring, evidencing and advocating resilience; and action planning and next

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steps for national and global engagement. At the end of the five days training the participants graduated as African Resilience Champions and since then they have been undertaking a monthly virtual community of practice (CoP) meeting to share country experience and updates on resilience building initiatives within AA and other actors.

Ethiopian delegates shared AAE experience of resilience work that mainly anchored in the CRSA, HRBA and 3Rs and looks the programme through Feminist Intersectional Analysis. Delegates highlighted the country resilience work focus on conducting participatory vulnerability analysis; undertaking power analysis and do feminist intersectional analysis; engagement in watershed management; resilient livelihood and market linkage through Saving and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) and safe cities.

Going forward, AAE will engage in resilience work through agroecology and food sovereignty; climate justices; environmental conservation and natural resource rights; and women led emergency preparedness, response and prevention programming. The resilience work will contribute to AAE overarching programme goal: achieve Gender justice and poverty eradication by shifting and redistributing power and resources, strengthening the resilience of communities and their organizations and fulfilling rights of people living in poverty and exclusion particularly women and girls ■

## Our Mom Goes Away from Office

By: Meskerem Mekonnen, IT Coordinator



**T**he The clinking sound from the spoons, forks and plates being used, the chatter from colleagues gathered around the buffet, the conversations exchanged between friends sitting across each other in the canteen was all made possible because of Alemitu's cooking for well over 27 years in ActionAid Ethiopia.

Her accomplishments are not engraved on a trophy, but she lived a life in perfect service to ActionAid Ethiopia. There is no trophy for that. There is only us, her children who because of her care and nurture took on the day's challenge by the horns and pushed forward to accomplish ActionAid Ethiopia's mission to the extreme. Her work ethic makes her unique and exemplary to the organization. Though she is weary with old age and retired from cooking for us, she embodies the great women in our lives who made an impact. It is through them, their stories and struggles that we create a legacy that fosters wonderfully intelligent and passionate humans who can choose their own paths.

Alemitu cooked many nutritious tasty meals for us and our guests over the years and planted colorful memories in our hearts. She really loved the AAE-family. She used to stand behind the takeout window and make sure the table is filled with different menus suitable for all staff like our mothers do when they entertained guests at home. Her remarkable skill allowed her to supervise whether everyone had their share before they went back to their daily routine in the office. Simply put, she is our mom away from home!

The dining room's ambiance was lively because of her mystic and the way she used food to bring us closer together and make the newbies feel welcomed in the family is one of the few reasons why we love and respect her so much. Looking back at the times the staff spent having lunch in the canteen, most of the friendships were formed because of her. That was her biggest contribution to ActionAid Ethiopia!

And for that we could never thank her enough or ever repay her but will forever remain in our hearts! ■



## ActionAid Misses Big Name

By: Tinebeb Berhane, Country Director

We lost one of our Senior Management Team members, Dr. Menberu Lulu (PHD) In May 2018. Dr. Menberu was with ActionAid Ethiopia for the last 15 years under different positions with a capacity of Fund Raising. His value addition in the organization was priceless. We remember Dr. Menberu as the most dedicated, hardworking, sociable and professional person. He was a friend and a dear colleague to all of us. Menberu was Married and father of two. AAE is thankful for all who showed solidarity in such dreadful moment..

## Highlights of the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) V Roll-out

By Sitina Redi, Head of Human Resources and Operation Department

ActionAid Ethiopia (AAE) has started the implementation of its new CSP (V) this year. Following the launching of the new CSP, a holistic change management plan has been developed and is being implemented.

As any change involves adopting new mindsets, strategies, processes, policies, practices and behavior, a planned and structured approach is believed to be in place to help align the organization with the change and manage the process. Accordingly, the following actions were taken as part of the process of change management:

### As a result, AAE achieved:

- Revision of strategic policies I.e. Partnership, procurement and Finance
- Developed its comprehensive program and organizational shift framework underpinned with MEL framework
- Defined concept of Unpaid Care Work; our single policy agenda
- Developed the Intersectional Feminist Analysis and Feminist Transformational leadership guide
- Reviewed its fit-for-purpose and cost-effective staff structure

As we go along in 2019 the rest of plan will be executed with great coordination, organizational leadership and team spirit.

## ActionAid Ethiopia Opens Day-care Center for Minors.

As an organization that strives to bring Feminist lense in our work atmosphere AAE is conscious of burden of care to our staffs, communities and who ever visit our office with minors. For that ActionAid Ethiopia opens a day care center in its Head Office in Addis. The center is functional in weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.





## Our Vision

A just, equitable and sustainable Ethiopia in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity and, freedom from poverty.

## Our Mission

To achieve gender justice and poverty eradication, by working with Women and Girls, people living in poverty and exclusion, their organizations and supporters.

## Our Values

Mutual Respect,  
Equity and Justice  
Integrity  
Solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion  
Courage of Conviction  
Independence  
Humility  
Excellence

## About Us

ActionAid Ethiopia, established in 1989, is a Gender Equality and Poverty Eradication organization. In Ethiopia ActionAid works to challenge various forms of social challenges and build capacities to create empowered mass of communities especially women and girls living in poverty and exclusion to fulfil their basic needs, ensure redistribution of productive resources and build their resilience. We prioritize to work with Women and Girls and their organizations, networks, civil society organizations, national and local government and other allies to overcome gender inequality and structural causes of poverty.

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