

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



ActionAid Ethiopia donation being transported to one of the stores of National COVID 19 Mitigation Committee in Addis Ababa (Picture taken by ActionAid Ethiopia Communication/Hailu Nurga)



Hand washing basin and Sanitizers ready to be distributed to Local Rights Programmes in different regions

ActionAid Ethiopia Supports National Effort to Combat COVID-19

Local Right Programmes are actively responding to help communities get access to information and sanitary products

April 2020, Addis Ababa: ActionAid Ethiopia has delivered different sanitary and other goods worth about one million Birr to the National COVID 19 mitigation task force established by the government of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to coordinate resource mobilization for the pandemic.

In a ceremony held at Ministry of Peace, ActionAid Ethiopia's Country Director, Tinebeb Berhane, handed over the donation which includes mattresses, bed sheets, and liquid soaps worth about a million Birr. The government would distribute them for the needy affected by the spread of COVID 19. ActionAid Ethiopia is also distributing different sanitary products like sanitizers and hand washing barrels to 8 Local

Right Programs in addition to behavioral change campaigns by disseminating key information to communities. Recognizing that power lies at the heart of poverty and injustice, LRP will closely monitor the realization of AAE's fundamental principles of Human Rights are safeguarded to ensure leadership roles of communities and women are visible at all levels

International Women's Day Celebrated in Dalotcha



Representatives of Women Groups in LRPs from Southern Ethiopia region and ActionAid Ethiopia Country Leadership members after the event in the former ActionAid office, now the district's water service office. (Photo credit: Hailu Nurga/AEE Communication)

Country Programme Leadership reconnected with the community in Dalotcha- AAE's 1st Development Area in Ethiopia

March 2020, 10, Dalotcha: International Women's Day was celebrated in ActionAid Ethiopia in different styles. While the Head office leadership travelled to Dalotcha to celebrate the moment with the community that tasted the fruit of ActionAid in Ethiopia for the first time 30 years ago, Local Rights Programme staff on their part cheered the event with their respective communities conducting different engaging activities with the theme of "The World Stops when Women Stop!".

Arriving at Dalotcha on the event day, the Country Programme Leadership led by the Country Director, Tinebeb Berhane, was welcomed by residents of the area, the local government officials who almost all were small children when ActionAid entered the area 30 years ago. "It was ActionAid that built not only the infrastructures like schools, water, electricity, roads, health facilities, vegetations, you see in this woreda. I can say it built the community,"

one of the teachers in the district said. "It socially constructed the whole community you find in this area now. The many children ActionAid helped them learn in those times are now government officials, high profile professionals like Doctors, professors, business owners, etc. all over the nation and beyond" he concluded.

Present at the celebration were W/ro Aster Keftaw, Head of Southern Ethiopia Nations and Nationalities Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, Ato Kedir Abdela, Administrator of Dalotcha woreda, heads of regional, zonal and woreda level sectoral offices, and ActionAid Ethiopia management team led by the Country Director, Tinebeb Berhane. Representatives of women groups drawn from seven phased out and operational LRPs in Southern Ethiopia were also in attendance during the event and they shared their experiences among themselves.

In her opening speech, W/ro Aster noted that the government is well aware of and thankful to the commendable development works ActionAid Ethiopia has done in that woreda decades ago and she affirmed that her government will exert all its effort to strengthen what ActionAid has worked to bolster the rights and benefits of women out of the socio-economic activities in their localities through engaging them thoroughly.

“ When I saw the vehicle of ActionAid coming to our village after so long years, my eyes were filled with tears out of pleasure as if I met my mom after so many years,” said young girl that completed her primary and high school education in a school constructed by ActionAid twenty five years ago. ActionAid Ethiopia’s Country Director, Tinebeb Berhane on her part said that ActionAid Ethiopia felt very much honored for it was celebrating March 8 with the first community it worked with in Ethiopia-Dalotcha and asserted that ActionAid will continue its solidarity with women and girls to bring about justice in respect to gender and economy in the nation. ActionAid Ethiopia’s Women’s Right Manager, Genet Shume

underscored that there remains a lot to take women and girls as individuals and collectives out of the sufferings they come across due to gender inequality and violation of rights that threaten their lives and entitlements despite the government’s promises and declarations. She also called upon the government to recognize, reduce, and redistribute the unpaid care work imposed on women and girls through gender responsive public services and providing technology supported facilities. Meanwhile, ActionAid Ethiopia Staff in the Country Programme office celebrated IWD with interactive activities emphasizing on discussions and debates on the theme ‘The World Stops when women stop!’. Two questions were dealt with for the general discussion - “What would you do if your care givers at your house strike due to her excessive burden in the house?” and “What would you do if all women leaders in your organization strike?” Men staff served lunch and coffee before and during the discussion.

Contributed by: Hailu Nurga/ /AAE Communications



W/ro Aster Keftaw making the opening speech during March 8 celebration

ACTIONAID Ethiopia responds to Climate Change Crisis in Northern Ethiopia

Outbreak of desert locust continues to pose huge threat to wider areas of Ethiopia

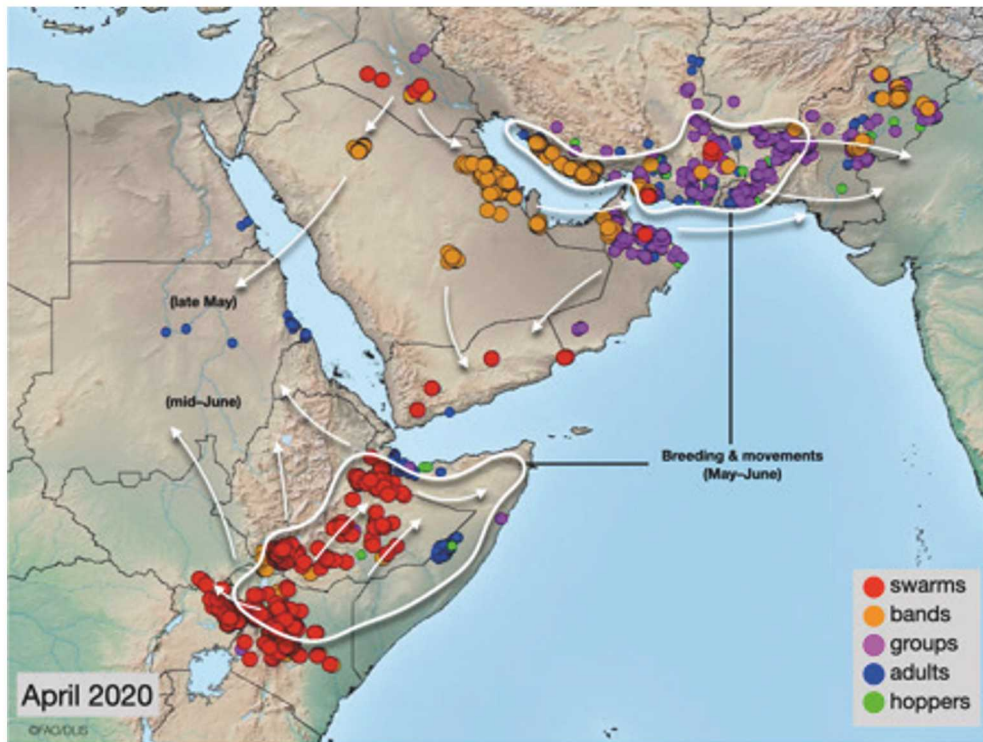
W/ro Bire Ambaw, 55, lives in Betizaz Kebele of Janamora Woreda. Her husband with whom she lived for more than 30 years died three years ago and she is living with one of her granddaughters. Erratic rain and drought hit her village for four years in row and because of this she needed a lifesaving food aid to sustain her life and the life of her beloved granddaughter. She has no livestock as she sold all her goats in May 2017 and her livelihood was dependent on her 0.125 hectares of land which she rented to a farmer. However, it has been four years since she got her grain because of his inability to produce.

AAE intervened in life saving food aid to people living in poverty especially women, elderly and people with disabilities. "I remained empty handed when my goat died of the drought. My last harvest was back in January 2015 and since then I have nothing to sell to get money and buy food items. We had the chance of borrowing from traditional lenders by using our farmlands as collateral. So, if I couldn't get this support of 90 Kgs of Maize and 9 kgs of bean, we may lose our life with my granddaughter." She said.

could not leave their villages in search of job opportunities, but she fears the drought will



Birre collecting beans from ActionAid's relief station (Picture taken by: ActionAid Ethiopia)



Source: FAO

continue and people may die. This kind of support is very good to save their lives. "AAE is becoming our father since -2016 it gave us water, gave us sheep though we lost them because of the drought and last year we were supported with maize, sorghum and bean and this year we are receiving additional grains. Who can do this for us?" She concluded.

The erratic rainfall of the last harvesting year has kept 433,11 house holds (234,56 persons) in 21 kebeles of the Janamora woreda/locality to be in dire need of food aid for a period of 3 to 9 months based on the severity of the drought. Among these, 23,036 people in 10 Kebeles need life saving food aid for at least 9 months till the next harvesting period.

Hence, based on the recommendation from the woreda stakeholders, ActionAid Ethiopia on its part had to shift its budget for DRR and responded to the needy 978 drought affected people in two of the 10 critically affected Kebeles and 53 internally displaced persons for three months from May to July 2019. The resource allocated for the project stated in the agreement was Br 722,300.00 for the purchase and distribution of 463.95 quintal of maize and 46.40 quintals of beans.

In a related information, desert locust outbreak, which is affecting the Horn of Africa, SW Asia and the Red Sea, is posing a huge threat to lives of millions in Ethiopia as recent assessment report released by different national and international food security and agriculture stakeholders. The outbreak is said to be the worst of its kind in its 25th years for Ethiopia and Somalia-and the worst Kenya has seen for 70 years. The outbreak is exacerbating impacts of climate change and livelihoods already being felt in this region. (UNOCHA 2020 CERF Release).

In Ethiopia, where floods and ethnic conflicts had already affected harvest, the locust infestation has destroyed hundreds of squares of KM of vegetation first in Amhara and Tigray Regions (UNOCHA, 2020) and recently expanding to Somalia, SNNPR and potentially Oromia.

Swarms continue to be present throughout eastern areas, including the Ogaden, while some continue to move to the south and into the Rift Valley. Another generation of breeding will increase locust numbers further. Aerial and ground control operations are in progress but need upscaling.

The Impacts of Desert Locust

Currently, the impact of the DL is mostly on livelihood and productivity of our communities as farmers were forced to harvest earlier to prevent the disaster. Experts from Ministry of Agriculture indicate that farmers had to harvest crops early/ before maturity which leads to low productivity and negative effect on livelihood. Given its damage on pasture lands and vegetation on some areas, cattle are also affected significantly which is also a livelihood mechanism for both pastoral and agricultural communities. Despite the lack of concrete data by the government at the national and regional levels, it is evident that as the DL consumes staple food and cash crops (sorghum, teff, coffee, khat etc), the impact on the livelihood of communities is significant.

At the LRP level, however, we have concrete information. For example, one of our LRP called Raya LRP which is in southern Tigray bordering to Afar and North Wollo of the Amhara Region was one of the affected areas by the first and second seasons of locust infestation. It is reported that, in order to tackle the locust invasion, the local government has mobilized a total of 72,573 people to mitigate the invasion through traditional and modern mechanisms. As a result, 40,283.5 ha of land and 794.5 ha land have been protected through traditional and chemical methods respectively.

Despite the impact of this outbreak, ActionAid Ethiopia's technical and financial capacity to respond is very limited. Due to this limitation, ActionAid Ethiopia's focus was mostly on tracking LRP specific information to identify its impact on our communities and see if emergency response is critical.

ActionAid Ethiopia Program Team, based on the information from its LRPs and other partners, is closely following up the outbreak to regularly update its information and identify needs. At the national level, AAE is a member of the DRM-ATF Coordination platform where it jointly identifies areas of collaboration for funding opportunities and joint action.

Contributed by: Mihret Belete, Assefa Mulugeta and Lamrot Fikre/AAE;(reliefweb.int and fao.org websites were used as source of information)

AAE Hands over Programmes in Seru Abas and Garar Jarso LRPs to Communities

Their solidarity lasted for fourteen years

January 2020: ActionAid Ethiopia hands over programmes to two Local Rights Programmes (LRP) in the concluded fiscal year. Seru and Garar Jarso LRPs are believed to have made significant progress in making the lives of women and girls better in terms of access to basic services like school, legal service, health, protection from gender-based violence, and participation in the socio-economic endeavors of their respective communities.

ActionAid Ethiopia implemented its development and right programmes in Seru by itself through the deployment of its staff whereas in Garar Jarso, it covered the overall financial needs for an implementing partner called ANPPCAN (African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect).



The **programme** directly benefitted over **40,000 people** living in **poverty** and **gender injustice** through several projects

Over one thousand two hundred community members, religious leaders, and government officials applauded the achievements of ActionAid Ethiopia in changing the lives of people in general and women and girls in particular in Seru Abas and Bele Geskar Woredas by allotting over 115 million Birr. The programme directly benefitted over 40,000 people living in poverty and gender injustice through several projects designed to tackle the structural causes of poverty including Gender Based Violence, violation of social, economic and political rights of people, especially women and girls. These among others include eradication of female circumcision and other harmful traditional practices from the two woredas, establishment of Multipurpose Cooperatives, Saving and Credit Cooperatives and Unions, Women Watch Groups, construction of numerous schools with their furniture, distribution of locally produced energy-

saving stoves, construction of safe drinking water spots and warehouses to stock grains of Multipurpose Cooperatives and Unions.

In Garar Jarso and Fitcha area development programme, ActionAid allocated and utilized a total of 50 million Birr for the implementation of the Garar Jarso Integrated Child/Women-focused Development Programme that was fully implemented by ANPPCAN. The programme included child protection and participation, education, food security and emergency response, women development, primary health care and HIV/AIDS.



One of the Schools constructed by AAE and ANPPCAN during the life of the project (Pic: ActionAid Ethiopia)

Elfeta Women Watch Groups Inspire Gvt



One of the study group members of Oromia Justice Bureau presenting the findings of the study. (Picture: ActionAid)

The regional government decides to adopt the model throughout Oromia Regional State

Ambo, Ethiopia, Dec.-2019 Like many areas in Ethiopia, Elfeta Woreda (locality), one of the 22 Woredas of West Showa zone, has been known for its high prevalence of gender-based violence.

It was this widespread social problem that forced ActionAid Ethiopia to appraise and select the woreda and establish Elfeta Local Rights Programme, a.k.a., LRP. This was done after identifying the problem during its phase in assessment and during one and half year entry period programme.

To fight gender-based violence (GBV) and women's right deprivation, ActionAid Ethiopia's Elfeta LRP with the financial support it got from its funding partners, organized women living in poverty in Women Watch Groups. All members of WWG and their partners such as traditional leaders, elders and school clubs got paralegal training and awareness on GBV. The integrated approach of WWG and their partners has brought remarkable change in women's right and reduced GBV in Elfeta.

This achievement attracted the attention of zonal and regional administrators and made them decide to make a thorough study about WWG model approach by allotting budget and assigning their key staff including leaders from bureau of justice, police, and women affairs. The result of the study

convinced the research team and policy makers not only to certify the Women Watch Groups organized by ActionAid but also to apply it in the government structure to address issues of gender-based violence in the region at large.

On December 6, 2019, in a ceremony organized by ActionAid and Oromia regional state's bureaus of justice, women's affairs, and police commission, the findings of the WWG model were presented to gatherings of stakeholders and were discussed.

Head of West Shoa zone justice department, Mr, Petros who led the study in the woreda said, "What ActionAid is doing in the woreda is something no one can imagine in the government sector, but we are lucky to have such a unique women's right partner like ActionAid that inspired us to look into ourselves as to what can be done for the prevalence of justice and equality in all terms."

Women Watch Groups presented their experiences, the supports they got from AAE, and how this structure have helped them fight gender-based violence that were committed and to be committed on women and girls in their wereda.

Finally, the WWGs were awarded with Certificate of Recognition by the Region's Bureau of Justice while ActionAid received certificate of recognition from west Shoa zonal Administration.

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