

Newsflash

August 2015



Right to left, ActionAid good-will Ambassador, World Athletics hero Haile Gebre Selassie, Getachew Ali, North and West Region Coordinator, Jemal Ahmed, Country Director discussing organizational matter.

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Dear readers,

ActionAid Ethiopia (AAE) is member of the ActionAid International Federation. It envisions a poverty free Ethiopia where every person lives in dignity and prosperity through empowering communities to create change for themselves. It has been supporting the implementation of various development works in Ethiopia since 1989.

AAE aims at strengthening the organizational capability of people living in poverty and supports efforts towards achieving their development and humanitarian/emergency priorities. It works in partnership with community based organizations, local NGOs, the government as well as other development players. Its development priorities include; food security and emergency response, education and women development. Currently, it works across 15 intervention areas to support them modeling in the poverty eradication process.

This issue of our Newsletter carries news briefs and change stories from various locations where we work. Stories pertain to the organization's priority areas of engagement. Stories of women groups who convinced communities to abandon harmful practices, women who shun cultural taboos to assume better life for respective families and that of women who braved old age and assumed self sefficincy are among the stories incorporated in this issue.

The publication is meant to keep ActionAid Ethiopia works with community, its partners and supporters updated on our recent engagements.

We hope you will enjoy reading the stories of how our works in various parts of the country helped people change their lives for better. Your comments and feedback would be of key importance to improve our works.

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Locations of Community Centred Development Areas

Name of CCDPS	Distance from Adiss Ababa	Location
Yem	264 kms	Southern Nations Nationalities & Peoples' Regional State
Decha	480 kms	
Azernet Berbere	255 kms	
Gena Bossa	517 kms	
Kemba	602 kms	
Seru	300 kms	Oromiya
Saba Bouru	589 kms	
Kombolcha	540 kms	
Doba	382 kms	
Girar Jarso	110 kms	
Janamora	920 kms	Amhara
Ankober	172 kms	
Ofla	620 kms	Tigray
Kamashi	561 kms	Benishangul Gumz

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SOME POINTS ON THE STRATEGY MIDTERM REVIEW

To generate learning's and ensure its accountability to the people with whom it works in different parts of the country, to the government of Ethiopia as well as to its partners, stakeholders and supporters, ActionAid carry 2012-2017 strategy midterm performance review process.

The Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) is held at two levels including community and federal level every year.

The Federal level PRRP 2015 was held 14 -15 August 2015, at the Red Cross Training Center. The representatives' of communities, woreda and Regional level government bodies from AAE's intervention areas and representatives of sector offices at Federal level, partners and staff of the organization critically looked into the organization's country strategy 21/2 years performance.

In addition to reviewing AAE's strengths and short falls during the period, the Participants also gave recommendations for incorporation in the upcoming plan of issues they considered AAE's engagement would be beneficial.

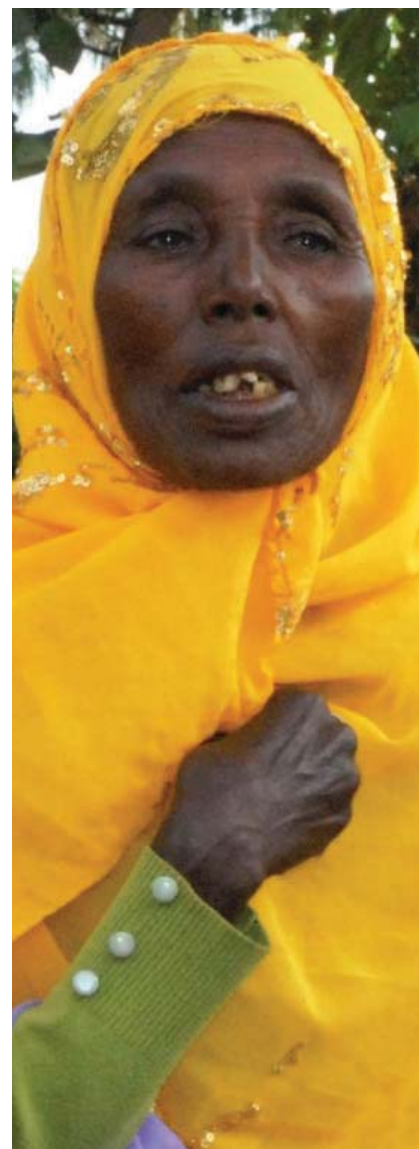
Addressing the opening session of the meeting, Atlet Haile Gebre Selassie, ActionAid's good-will

Ambassador appreciated AAE's engagement with peoples in remote inaccessible villages in different parts of the country. Haile expressed special appreciation to AAE's development works focussing on women and children.

Haile also noted AAE's works directed to raising community awareness and to change their attitude against harmful traditional practices as key component and prerequisite for social and economic transformation of communities.

Testimonies of positive changes in individual, family and community lives dominated the session which also draw important issues of consideration in future engagements of the organization.

Worji Mohammed (bellow) said "Actionaid organized women household leaders living in poverty in Seru, Oromiya Regional State and gave us loans which we used to buy goats. In the past, we used to rent our plots of lands out earning small money in return. Now, however, we understand the benefits of saving. We are even able to buy oxen. Thanks to Actionaid we have clean water nearby. This winter, in relation to the shortage of rain, ActionAid provided us with selected seed; hence, we are practicing in-line crop planting."



Llomit Abebe, left, is a board Chairperson of a saving and credit cooperatives union in Decha woreda of SNNPRS. The union she leads incorporates 17 women's basic cooperatives. Lomitu said that in addition to the economic transformation in her life, her leadership in the cooperative has earned her at most love and respect from her community. This, she said was the reason why her community elected her as member of Regional Parliament. She attributes her election to a regional parliament to the skills and capacity she developed through the support of AAE.



A religious leader from Azernet said. "We believe in the equality of women and men. We have to pass this message consistently to our followers and counter parts in order to have a lasting change on altitude that will have a big impact on the gender relationship."



Asefa Gidey is 16. He is a member of a student's club of Menkere School in Ofla, Tigray Regional State. The club has 39 members of which 19 are

male. He said that his engagement with the club changed his attitude a great deal. "Unlike in the past, and of course against the tradition in our community, I help my mother baking injera and doing other household chorus. In the school, I along with fellow boys in the club advise girls against early marriage. To girls who attained the marital age and are desirous of marriage, we advise them to test for HIV before marriage. We also try to challenge parents not to marry off their daughters premature. Thanks to ActionAid, I am of use to my community," he said.



Mohammed Nasser is the Administrator of East Azernet Berbere Woreda in the SNNPS. He said that his community and especially women and girls suffered due to harmful practices which were rampant in the area. "Now a day, there is a lot of attitude changing trainings. Things have improved. Also irrigation work supported by ActionAid, has enabled farmers harvest two to three times a year. Women were considered to be weak and dependent in our culture, now the change is big as they succeeded in leading huge institutions."

A representative of the Federal Cooperative Agency (bellow) said, "It is amazing that AAE's excellent deeds were not known at my office of the Federal cooperatives

Agency. Recently, we took samples and carried studies on cooperative development works of many NGOs; we were amazed on AAE's unique and effective ways of capacitating cooperatives. We want to partner with AAE in what it works in the field."

In his closing remarks, Jemal said that the above and many more, testimonies of women leadership development in most of the AAE's intervention areas, the fact that AAE supported women have assumed political leadership positions in areas like Decha is pleasant. Their participation in leadership has changed lives of respective families and communities. Women are enabled to share the decision making power over common property. The question is however, how we multiply the number of such inspirational empowered women in all the areas we work, how we can make sure that these best practices are replicated in areas we work and elsewhere.

Jemal went on to say, the fact that boys clubs have been great forums fighting violence against women and girls, testimonies of PTAs transforming schools, planning and executing together with community members, the growth of cooperatives in to union are all the pleasing reflections of the National PRRP.

He further noted that important points raised were also those helpful to revise our strategies including the need to engage in certain activities at federal level, working with youth and that all staff and partners should be champions of visibility sharing AAEs working modalities.

Expressing appreciation to the active participation and important recommendations of the attendants, Jemal said AAE will keenly review the suggestions and consider pertinent issues in its 20/17 plan and future strategies too.

DECHA

2015 Global Action Week on Education: Decha

Ogeya Primary School community in Decha Woreda marked the Global Action Week on education raising awareness about early childhood care and education, improving quality education, sharing responsibility to meet education achievement of sustainable development.

About 200 participants consisting of teachers, school director, students, parents, community representatives, education sector management members were involved at the event. Welcoming speech made by Decha Woreda Finance and Economic Development Office Acting Head and school Director about the role and contribution of teachers, students, school administrators, parents and other community leaders on education strategies and development works.

Some of students sung expressing their gratitude to ActionAid supporting community development and enhancing education quality. Outstanding 15 female from grade 5 to 8, were awarded text books. Finally community representatives and parents suggested their ideas about the event and explained their commitment to contribute to the achievement of education strategies and goals.

SERU

Fatto is able to feed her family

Fatto, 42 has newly joined a Saving and Credit Cooperative supported by AAE in Seru Woreda of Oromiya Regional State. She explains what she gained from being the member of the Negaya Saving and Credit Cooperative as follows:

"I live in Bokie village of Seru woreda. I am a mother of 6 children including two females. I am very happy that

my request for membership of the Negaya cooperative was accepted.

My membership status has enabled me among other things to be nominated as a member of the executive committee of the cooperative, enjoy credit service, participate in dividend sharing, and the like. The loan I received from the cooperative has enabled me to cover costs of fertilizer and improved seeds while I was also enabled to buy an ox. This has liberated me from contracting my small land

out for small share since I was not able to buy seeds, and fertilizer. In addition I had no ox for ploughing my land. This is completely changed currently. This year alone got 30 quintals of wheat from my small land since I used my own ox, seed and fertilizer that I purchased using the credit I got from my cooperative.

Hence, food security of my family this year is secured. I also sold the surplus and used the money for other purposes including financing my children's school."

AZERNET BERBERE



Actionaid changes the life of my family

By Alemnesh Tadesse

Gulte Detamo lives in Anfar kebele, in west Azernet Berbere Woreda of the Southern State. A mother of seven of which two are girls, Gulte is a member and a store keeper of the Afriban Saving and Credit Cooperative. Her cooperative is supported by ActionAid. Before joining the cooperative, her family led a hand to mouth type of life having no land and other means of income.

She joined the cooperative and first took loan of birr 200 which she used to rent a plot of land and start farming. Since then she kept on borrowing and re-paying every year with increasing amount and started to expand farming through land rental and even bought a plot of land.

Currently, her husband, Ato Nuredin is a model farmer. Gulte said, "I cannot thank ActionAid enough for changing my family life. Now we have built two houses and are no more in the old small hut. We have ox, sheep and land to cultivate and plenty of food. Apart from economic progress I have got public exposure communicating with various people at woreda government and serving the cooperative."



Safe City initiative

Women's dependence on the informal economy has been increasing with growth in size and number of towns and cities. The relationship between patriarchy and other social driving forces that underpin the kind of dependence of urban women and girls needs to be addressed with significant participation of women themselves. 'Safe cities' are places where the State, society and families and individuals work together to enable women and girls to lead dignified lives free of factors that inhibit their participation and enjoy the opportunities urbanization avails. Promoting safe city is a practical way to address problems of women and girls living in poverty in urban settings. Hence, the need to create the discussion around safe public spaces is an imperative way to ensure women's and girls' engagement in the process.

In a nutshell, safe cities mean safe public spaces where women and girls can move freely, without fear on streets and on work places while they are struggling to win their livelihoods. It also includes access to water and sanitation, electricity,

transportation and other public amenities at residences and in public locations.

AAE launched its Safe City initiative in collaboration with Pro Pride (local NGO), on February 12, 2015.

In lieu of this, ActionAid – Pro Pride, forged a partnership to mobilize women living in poverty in Addis Ketema Sub-city, Addis Ababa. The launching of safe city agenda was held in the presence of women living in poverty organized into Self Help Groups, representatives of the sub-city administration and representatives of sector offices, schools in the sub-city, small and micro finance institutions, media, and that other stakeholders.

Speaking at the launching session Jemal Ahmed, ActionAid Ethiopia Country Director, noted that the old notions that restrict women to private sphere of life is being challenged on daily basis. Jemal said, women's active participation even in the cities is restricted by detrimental attitudes, behaviours and practices. Hence, the Safe Cities agenda and its subsequent project are aimed at mobilizing women to overcome such setbacks. "ActionAid looks forward

to the pro safe city actions to be taken jointly by women, government and partners including media," he said.

After familiarizing participants with "Safe City" concept, Eleni Tekalign, AAE Women Development Specialist, noted that so far the "Safe cities" radio programmes and other deliberations have been bringing the problems identified to the attention of government and non-government organizations. These helped initiating discussions, mobilizing women and the community at large against attitudes, behaviours and practices that limit mobility and safety of women and girls. They also created synergy among stakeholders, and created space for women and girls to reflect and take action.

A total of 1000 women living in poverty will be empowered to overcome the problems through the project's life span of three years. About 4000 people, half of them females will indirectly benefit by listening to the radio programmes and through earnings of the mothers/wives involved the 2,326,925. 20 birr project.

YEM

Water supply gladdens women's hearts

At the beginning of the Community Centred Development Programme about 12 years ago, water borne diseases was one of the deadly diseases in Yem Special Woreda. Women and children spent considerable time fetching water from distant rivers. Moreover, they wasted much time waiting for their turn in the long queuing at the water point. Many girls were forced to drop out of schools as well.

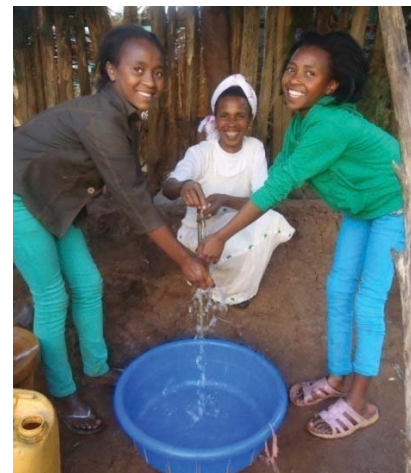
Zenebech Mersha, 40, a mother of 6 children, recounts her problems before the new water scheme was constructed. She said, *My third son, Fitsum Gezmu, and I collected water for the family. He never had ample time to study his lessons as he spent most of the time going to the rivers to draw water. As a result, he did not perform well at school and he was unable to go to college/ university. Somehow, he ended up becoming a mechanic. As a mother, I made a livelihood by making some local beverage. However, my business was often interrupted due*

to acute water shortage. Besides, my children usually suffered from water born disease and I had to spend a lot of money treating them here and there. But things began to take a new turn for the better after ActionAid organized a number of cooperatives and associations in our area. Immediately, I was given the chance to become a member in one of the associations.

All of us members engaged ourselves in identifying problems, sharing ideas and experiences in which the water issue was the main agenda. Different groups organized in the area joined efforts in lobbying different stakeholders in the locality. We approached, among others, AAE which responded positively and constructed shallow wells and solved our water problems.

My children now no more travel long distances to get water. We find water close to our homes and our children have no reason to interrupt their education. Thanks to ActionAid, everyone has access to safe water supply either at home or in the immediate neighbourhood.

More importantly, the water project is currently managed by only women. Thus, the community and the local government is starting to understand and change the perception that women are capable of managing such important and strategic asset if they are given the opportunity. This may pave the way for bringing women to leadership positions in social structures. We would like to thank ActionAid for its support.



Zenebech Mersha & daughters collecting water

GENA BOSSA

Water project visit: Gena Bossa CCDP

A team consisting of Italian and Ethiopian staff arrived at Gena Bossa CCDP in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples State to visit the "water Project" in March. The clean water supply project is supported by a philanthropist in Italy. The visitors were warmly welcomed by both community and AAE staff in Gena Bossa. The AAE staff, a team of six men including the only female cook, found it a pleasant challenge to host and feed their Ethiopian and Italian guests. The male hosts shared duties and responsibilities equitably and served their guests as is appropriate. The result was that their guests enjoyed the food to their fill expressing their wholehearted appreciation. We

never enjoyed such a delicious food even in Addis Ababa' said Roberto, one of the Italian guests. Viva Gena Bossa colleagues!

Furthermore, everyone that approached the guests was quick to give testimonies about the wonderful contributions that AAE is making to the community there. Following are a few extracts from the interviewees.

Girma Kocho is a businessman in Decha area. Unlike many residents of the area, Girma is not a member of any of the saving and credit cooperatives or bee keeping associations or any other institution initiated or supported by ActionAid. Yet he says ActionAid's advent to his village has improved his life in many ways.



He said, 'Before ActionAid came to our area, we suffered from lack of basic facilities like roads, schools and clean water supply.' Not only has ActionAid helped us build some of the basic facilities but also enabled us to believe that development is possible.'

Gena Bossa Administrator testifies



Towards the end of the day, the team visited the Gena Bossa Woreda Administrator, Ato Berhanu Dulacho, for a brief interview. The team made the visit without any prior notice but the Administrator welcomed them warmly and offered to give the interview.

The team arrived to review the progress of constructions for the "Wash Project" which is financed by a benovalet Italian. The team posed questions including on the kind of relations that existed between the Woreda government and AAE working staff. The woreda Administrator noted that the project is meant to ease the burden of women, girls & children who queue up for hours to get water from the only source in town. The project, to be managed by women, is also meant to model women leadership development. The project will supply clean water to a total of 5189 people on its completion, the Administrator explained.

Ato Berhanu explained that the Woreda government had been deeply concerned about the water shortage and held frequent discussions with AAE. He said AAE responded immediately making possible the water supply which is greatly appreciated both by GenaBossa community and the local government. Explaining further, he said that previously

available potable water supply met the needs of only 46 percent of the population. This created a lot of inconveniences and problems including frequent quarrels among users. The water project in the making is believed to help meet 100 percent water demand of the population and solve all related problems. It spares students from missing classes while mothers will be relieved from staying out late in the night queuing up for water.

"ActionAid has also been working with the Woreda community in the areas of food security, and education." The Woreda Administrator said adding, "the organization's intervention in irrigation projects has enabled farmers to produce three times as against harvesting once a year during rainy season. The organization empowered farmers to form cooperatives and unions changing their economic and social status. Community members are now familiar with techniques of discussions seeking solutions to their common problems. ActionAid



in collaboration with the media outlets in the area also facilitated conditions for the community to listen to radio programs on hygiene, nutrition and other pertinent issues in their own language. ActionAid has played a key role in reducing harmful traditions and beliefs."

Gena Bosa honey farmers organized

Adanech Asaro and her friends are now organized along new lines to get the most out of their bee farming. The farmers there previously practised traditional methods of bee keeping practices using old equipment and materials.

She explained, "We secured this plot of land for our bee farm from the government and ActionAid provided us with improved bee hives and other honey processing equipment. Within monthes, we succeeded in producing 30 kilos of honey."

Adanech, a mother of three, also engages in teaching the new technology to her fellow members of the Association. She has 300 personal hives in addition to what she shares with other members of the association. She said, "This has helped me change my straw roof into corrugated iron sheets while the life of my children has been improved considerably." Adanech also produces grain and vegetable.

Concluding, Adanech said, "my association now aspires to buy a bus transporting locals to and from towns close by. We want to curb the acute transportation problem in the area where people have to walk for about three hours to reach the nearest town where they purchase necessities."

The Omo Honey Producers Association was originally formed with 11 farmers. Its members have now reached 40. Currently, the association also collects bee products of 66 individual bee farmers in the area. Members of the association process the product using modern equipment. Adanech said, "We extract good quality and quantity of honey and wax this way." Adanech is Vice-Chairwoman of the Omo Honey Producers Association. She attributes her good performance to the skills and confidence she obtained from the training offered by ActionAid.

Another woman, Haile Asebo, one of the association members who received training at the Wolaita Research Centre said, "ActionAid also gave us training while four of our members had been to Wolayita Research Centre for training. I have been in honey business for years before ActionAid intervned in our area and my return remained minimal all the time. Following the training I received, I am now skilled in transferring bees from hive to hive, purifying honey and extracting wax."

OFLA

Women in community guardianship

The Menkere Women Group together with partners have succeeded in modelling a zone where community resists practices that affect physical, social and economic life of women.

Today, every woman in the community has control over the household resources and has entitlement. Rape, uvula cutting and abduction are also significantly reduced due to prevention and protection work done by the groups.

Women groups have been mobilizing collective efforts of women and girls, community elders, religious leaders and local government against patriarchy and its ill effects. The model has been empowering thousands of women and their allies against the harmful practices and beliefs. Sensitizing school community, law enforcement bodies, health institutions and developing district/woreda level women groups and networks has considerably reduced the mal-practices in the areas in which ActionAid operates.

'Today, no marriage takes place without the knowledge and consent of the Women Group in Menkere,' said Hadish Wondimu, a priest working closely with the women groups. 'Originally, watch group members were considered as traitors violating the community's customs and traditions. Now, however, the community considers them as social custodians and community guardians. Hence, they are trusted and respected,' he said.

Initiating the women watch group, AAE in collaboration with the kebele administration organized ten women selected from five rural and one urban kebeles. These along with seven community elders and religious leaders had attended awareness raising training against various forms of gender-based violence on the onset about five years ago.

Thanks to rigorous awareness raising and sensitization works as well as persistence of the group, they are enabled to forge collective actions including campaigns against harmful practices. These coupled with the various economic empowerment interventions by ActionAid have transformed the women who lived in abject poverty into community leaders and positive change agents. Testimonies of some of the leaders and members are outlined below.

Menkere Women Group Chairwoman Assefu Kiros

said, our Women Group was formed in 2001 with membership of 10 needy women. Members have now reached 27 including seven elders and religious leaders. Repeated awareness raising lessons were given on how to fight traditional practices perpetuating poverty among women.



School boys' awareness raising clubs were formed in four schools sensitizing students and especially boys against gender-based violence. Boys have been part of the campaign and cooperate in tipping the Women Group members on individuals exercising harmful practices in schools and respective neighbourhoods. They fought early marriage by convincing parents not to marry off pre-mature girls.

Assistant Chairperson Letekiros Tegegn

explained, 'ActionAid selected the poorest women in the community, most of us single mothers struggling to meet the daily needs of families, as targets of its anti-poverty intervention. Most

of us lived on selling firewood and water before ActionAid organized us into women groups. In addition to sensitization against the ill effects of traditional harmful practices, we were given financial and technical support to initiate a saving and credit cooperative. Every member was provided with seed money of birr 1, 800 which we used to buy sheep for fattening. Personally, I bought a sheep with an offspring. In three months, I fattened and sold the mother for 1,900 birr. The offspring also grew and gave birth to others some of which I sold already. I used the money to buy a cow. Recently, as we took the second loan, I bought additional five sheep.'



She said with a sense of proud satisfaction, 'My life is totally changed. I now send my children to school. I have upgraded my small straw roofed house into a big iron sheet roofed house. Nowadays, slaughtering sheep in celebration of holidays like Christmas and Easter is a trend in my household. The same is true to all members of the Women Group. This was unthinkable to us in the past.'

Religious leaders

The role of religious leaders was key to the minimization of the different forms of harmful practices against women and girls. Some of them even violently opposed any attempts by believers teaching in churches or mosques. Priest Hadish Wondimu, Administrator of an Orthodox church in the area and associate of the women group said. 'Lately, we were able to teach the congregation against the practices and this was a

great boost to our campaign against harmful practices," he added.



"These days the awareness of the community is improved very much. Parents consult the group when they think of marrying daughters off. Every marriage is carried with the permission of the Women Watch Group. Before agreeing to a marriage proposition, the watch group members check the age and the interest of the girl. The girl comes with a letter asserting that she is 18 and above to the Women Watch Group.

In the beginning, the community tried to evade the women group. These days however they are considered as guardians."

Afeworki Retta Ofla Woreda Administrator



Afeworki observed, "ActionAid is our best anti-poverty partner in Ofla Woreda. It has already succeeded in ensuring food security of 3000 women and many more residents in the 10 kebeles. 'ActionAid is the mother of women in poverty.' The work opportunities it created for the youth have also been big support to the Administration. We are grateful and always ready to render every support in the execution of its anti-poverty initiatives."

The women group model has been adopted by the Tigray regional state which has already been working to replicate it in parts other than Ofla woreda.

Making up for time lost

Kopi Abreha, 32, is a leader of a vibrant Women Watch Group that ActionAid initiated in Hashenge, Ofla Woreda of Tigray Regional State. The groups' extraordinary performance in transforming Hashenge into HTPs and violence free zone has earned the group an award from the Ofla government.



Kopi is a female house head. She has led the Hashenge Women Group for about five years now. The mother

of three is a model farmer and an inspirational leader against harmful practices. Kopi is also the leader of Hashenge Women Flock Rearing Project funded by Faro Foundation as well as the association of fishers in her area. She has been practicing exemplary leadership mobilizing her community on traditional practices harmful to women and supporting women and youth in the area out of acute poverty through the cooperatives she leads.

Her multiple exemplary leadership roles as a woman grassroots community leader qualified Kopi for an experience sharing trip to Malawi, March 2015. She says that her Malawi experience boosted her awareness and confidence.

Asked how she balances the responsibilities as leader and member of many associations and the project, Kopi said, "I purposefully engage in as many associations to make up for the time I wasted before I got the awareness about advantages of involvement in similar associations. My daughters support me in the house chorus while my colleagues are a big support in the cooperatives."

The women sheep raring project initiated in Ashenge over four years ago supports 300 women. According to Kopi, members have managed to own up to 17 flocks so far. Kopi for one has 15 sheep as compared to none over four years ago. 'I received four sheep as one of the first round beneficiaries of restocking project. I was able to transfer four offerings of these and now own 15 more. This doesn't include what I killed in celebrations of holidays.'

ANKOBER

Voices inspiring women out of poverty

Radio testimonies of empowered women are inspiring others out of poverty. The AAE supported weekly radio programme, "Setoch Simeru", broadcasts change stories due to AAE's impact on women leadership development in rural Ethiopia.

After listening to stories of women in cattle fattening business, in South Ethiopia, Etifwork Lemma and fellow listeners in Ankober decided to sell their flocks and cattle without men's assistance against the community tradition. "It was a taboo in our culture for women to sell assets of the like. In the past, we were allowed to sell only chicken and other smaller items.

Hence, we hired or sought favour of men to help selling assets," Etifwork said adding, "Women stood somewhere around waiting as the men sold the items. Hence, most of the time prices of the items were left to the discretion of the men selling. We had no choice but to accept the amount they gave us. At times, we also paid for the service."

According to Etifwork and her friends, many women in the area have started following examples of the radio listeners selling cattle on their own. "Women in the area are also showing interest to join us listening the radio broadcast," she said.



"I for one started both fattening cattle and selling on my own after listening to similar stories of women elsewhere. The story gave me the insight about the business I could

carry. I was happy as I learnt that I can sell my cattle as men do. Thanks to the women who shared their testimonies on the radio I have already started leading a decent life," she went on to say.

Etifwork is a member in one of the listener's groups in Gorgo village of Ankober district in the Amhara State. She is a single mother with two children. Before the advent of Padet, AAE's partner to the area, in 2006, she used to sell traditional drinks.

Earnings from the business were not enough to feed her family that she had to toil to make the ends met. Besides, the business which is mostly associated with prostitution had been humiliating. The job also made women susceptible to gender based violence by customers who got drunk taking the liquor. HIV/ AIDs and other sexually transmitted diseases were treats of Etifwork and other women involved in the petty trade.

"Padet came to the rescue of me and other women who earned their living from such lowly businesses. The organization intervened initiating saving and credit cooperatives in Gorgo and it provided us with skills training. With the help of seed money

from the organization, we engaged in cattle and livestock fattening and other petty trades," she said.

According to Etifwork and her friends, the "Setoch Simeru" broadcasts have also been raising their awareness against violence against women that are common yet never challenged evils here.

The national broadcast of change testimonies of individual women and family due to AAE's intervention and empowerment towards sharing power at respective homes, organizations and communities have been on the air for about two years. Stories from women saving and credit cooperative, watch groups and other interventions in almost all the intervention areas have been entertained so far. The radio listeners briefly discuss learnings and possible actions after every session.

A total of 289 women in Ofla, Yem and Ankober CCDPs are organized in to radio listeners groups to actively listen the weekly broadcasts and share their learning back to their communities. The group members send their comments and feedbacks on the broadcasted content to the station that made the process more interactive.

SEBA BORU

Hadhakule braves old age

Hadhakule **Dido** is a member of Misoma Bore Obit Multi-purpose Agricultural Cooperative in "Seba Boru Integrated Community Development Program" supported by Women Development Organization-Rift Valley ActionAid's partner operating in the area, in Oromiya Region State. She narrates her success story as follows.

*My name is **Hadhakule**; I am 70 and have eight children. All are married. My husband died three years ago leaving little of assets behind. I tried to subsist myself vending vegetables but this did not work. Hence, I became dependent on my children.*

Lately, I was lucky joining Misoma Bore General-Agricultural Cooperative Last year buying a share of Birr 1,000.00 from my saving. Fellow members of the cooperative motivated me to embark on maize and coffee business. I am now able to support myself. In addition, my active participation in mobilizing men and women to join the cooperative has increased number of cooperative members. Currently, the membership has reached 57 including eight females. Our capital has also grown to 240,000.00 birr from birr 25,000.00 at the beginning. In 2014, Rift valley children and supported us with different business skill training and provided us with revolving fund of 100,000.00 birr.

This motivated and encourage hard work among leaders and members of the cooperative.

Rift valley children and women Development organization support has been enormous that not only I but every member of the cooperative appreciates. Personally, now I feel that I'm not old and dependent any more. I am rather growing energetic, confident and committed to improve my livelihood. Working with my friends who are elderly yet strong women like me keeps on inspiring and strengthening us all. I have a plan to construct a new house. I will also participate in building a store for our cooperative. I cannot thank the organization enough.

KOMBOLCHA

Awakened PTA members making a difference

by *Hunegnaw Ayele*

Members of Parent and Teachers Association (PTA) of Fallana Kedir Primary school in Kombolcha, eastern Ethiopia are renovating school systems and facilities.

According to Abdella Mumed, 60, the Association spent years of passiveness until AAE's intervention helped them realize their role.

Abdella is the Chairperson of the PTA of the school that was constructed in 1983. The Association has seven members including a teacher who serves as secretary. PTA members now meet once a week to discuss, evaluate school's overall situation and set new plans for the week ahead.

Of late, students never had a voice in the PTA school plans. Hence, the teaching and learning process was extremely poor and not interactive. The school had poor infrastructure with dusty classrooms, and broken benches, and stones as seats. Besides, parents lacked awareness on the advantage of education contributing for low enrolment and high dropout and absenteeism in the school.



According to Abdella, Pharo Education project did a lot to change the situation. He said, "It trained and capacitated us to improve our school management system, resource administration and community mobilization works. As a result, we embarked on renovating classrooms with the support of ActionAid, district

education office and students. We also work to ensure proper discipline among school community (children and teachers) and help in raising school income. Moreover, we fight beliefs and practices forcing girls to miss education. We managed to strengthen the school girls club and succeeded in bringing girls who dropped out back to school. Our fund raising efforts helped the school to support orphans and needy children with basic educational materials such as exercise book, pen and pencils. We carry soil conservation works in school to prevent runoff from the school and protect the buildings from erosion by mobilizing school area communities. We are aspiring to make the school a model in many aspects especially in girl's participation as we did previously."

Abdella went on to say that the Pharo project has supported construction of a block with 4 classrooms, renovated a deteriorated block and provided the school with 200 combined desks. According to Abdella, this attracted drop outs to resume school.

Abdella said, "The Association has a plan to fence the school compound to ensure children's safety and security."

KAMBA

Clean water services

By *Birkneh Twachew*

Before 2004, most of the population of Kamba Woreda drank and used water from ponds, streams, and unprotected springs. As a result, children and women in rural Kamba suffered from water borne disease. Furthermore, children and women spent (25 - 30%) of their time in search of water. This is made history now.

Among the hardest hit of the problem was Zakuna village, located at low land area of the woreda. Thanks to AAE's intervention, currently,

60 households in the village are practicing irrigation farming and the number will increase to 200 households in the near future. Children no more miss classes and women do not need to spend hours in search of water. In addition, livestock now access water close by and farmers are enabled to produce forage for livestock even during dry seasons. Some of the peasants have also started crop diversification.

In the past, the up stream areas were covered with vegetation and the river was clean. People said that there were no significant health problem at that time. However, as the vegetation

cover of the hill decreased and Kamba town expanded, the river water turned unclean because of contamination. Hence, this affected the villagers' health.

Villagers attribute the positive change to AAE's efforts of mobilizing Woreda Water, Mines and Energy Office, Donbe seru Women Water Association and the local communities. This availed clean water for the villagers of Zakuna through pipe extension and one water point construction. As a result, 107 dwellers including 55 females access clean water for sanitation and drinking.



Unprotected water source of the past



Workensh fetching water from the new water point

Workensh Asha, 35 is a resident of Zakuna village in Kamba. She is a mother of 8 including 4 females. She said : "access to clean water service has been serious problem. I grew here and all through my life water was critical problem. We used water from rivers, ponds and springs. However, springs and ponds dry up during dry seasons. Hence, we mostly depended on river flowing crossing Kamba town. Some time we travel an hour fetching the unclean water. We always suffered from diarrhea and stomach ache. Health problems incurred medication cost and affect our productivity.

Now, all is gone and no more sanitation problem. The construction of water in our surrounding has made our life pleasant. Our children have adequate time to attend their education and women have ample time for social life, economic engagement above all, our health is improved.

I am grateful to those who rendered the construction and availed clean water. May God blessed them all."

Partnership subdues Gully

Passa Peasant Association is located in a semi -arid zone where moisture is a limiting factor for crop production, livestock and sanitation. Crop failure because of erratic rain hampered lives of the farmers in the area in the past. Before 30 years an irrigation scheme was constructed. But a gully caused by unwise farming system and flash floods from above catchment made it unbeneficial.

AAE in partnership with district Agriculture Development Office and Passa Peasants Administration reconditioned the small-scale irrigation scheme stretching over 50 meters with flume work with all partners performing different tasks to realize the scheme.

Irrigation association members excavated the earthen canal and directed the water to respective farm land. District Agriculture office covered costs of poll, pipe pillars strengthening the flume, sand and stone for foundation work while ActionAid Kamba program contributed Birr 506,584.42 for flume construction, training, internal support and office and store construction.

Ayinate Ziba, 36 and a father of one daughter lives in Passa village. He narrates the small-scale irrigation benefit while he was shelling his maize in borrowed farm filed.

"I could not find enough words to express my feelings, I felt as though I am born again and I thank ActionAid

and other supporters. I don't have irrigable land in the command area. However, thanks to my elder brother, he gave me a quarter of hectare to grow maize. I produced 15 quintal and sold 11 quintals for 3500 birr. I am so happy to have this amount of money during dry season which was not the case before. I have also food for my family. I will also produce more from the rain-fed land in other areas if the rain starts on time.

As you see, we are preparing the land to sow it again with maize and vegetable to increase our production. We missed this opportunity unlike our neighbours beyond the gully for the last 30 years. The community tried to cross the gully with grooved wood in the past this was washed away the first shower of rain. 'The gully surrendered 'this year and our community has got the chance to produce 2-3 times per year. My elder brother gain 14, 000 birr from irrigation maize harvest on 1.5 hectare land in addition to the household food.

My future plan is to rent irrigable land from the communal land down in the command area and produce cash crops like onion, tomato and pepper in addition to maize. Thank you for your support. It revive our hope for better future to use the resource we have here and we never observed before."



የተወደዳችሁ አንባቢያን

አክሽንኤይድ ኢትዮጵያ የአክሽንኤይድ ኢንተርናሽናል ፌዴሬሽን አባል ነው። ከ1981 ጀምሮ ኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ የተለያዩ የልማት ሥራዎችን ትግበራ ሲያገዝ ቆይቷል። ማህበረሰቦች ራሳቸውን እንዲለውጡ አቅም በመፍጠር ሁሉም ሰው በክብርና በብልጽግና የሚኖርባት ከድህነት የጸዳች ኢትዮጵያን ማየት ራዕዩ ነው።

አክሽንኤይድ በድህነት የሚኖሩ ሰዎችን ድርጅታዊ አቅም በመገንባት የልማትን የማሳካት ጥረቶችን ያግዛል። ከማህበረሰብ ድርጅቶች፣ ከአገር በቀል መንግስታዊ ያልሆኑ ድርጅቶች፣ ከመንግሥትና ከሌሎች የልማት ተዋናዮች ጋር ይሠራል። ቅድሚያ ከሚሰጣቸው የልማት ጉዳዮች ዋናዎቹ የምግብ ዋስትና የአስቸኳይ ጊዜ ምላሽ፣ ትምህርትና የሴቶች ልማት ናቸው። በአሁኑ ወቅት ድህነትን በማጥፋቱ ሂደት ሞዴል እንዲሆኑ በ15 የተሳተፎ አካባቢዎች እየተነቀሳቀሰ ነው።

ይህ መጽሔት ከተለያዩ የተሳተፎ አካባቢዎች የተቀናበሩ አጫጭር ዜናዎችና የለውጥ ታሪኮች የያዘ ነው። ዜናዎቹ በድርጅቱ እንቅስቃሴዎች ቅድሚያ በሚሰጣቸው አካባቢዎች ላይ የሚያተኩሩ ናቸው።

የዚህ ዜና መዕረግ ዓላማ አክሽንኤይድ ኢትዮጵያ አብሯቸው ለሚሠራቸው አጋሮችና ደጋፊዎች የቅርብ ጊዜ እንቅስቃሴዎች መረጃ መስጠት ነው። በአገሪቱ የተለያዩ አካባቢዎች በሚያከናውናቸው ተግባራት ህይወታቸውን ማሻሻል የቻሉ ሰዎችን ታሪኮች ስታነቡ እንደምትደሰቱ ተስፋ እናደርጋለን። በዚህ ዕትም ማህበረሰባቸውን ከጎጂ ትግባራት የታደጉ የሴት ቡድኖች፣ ከሌሎች ሴቶች ተሞክሮ ተምረው የቤተሰባቸውን ህይወት የለወጡ ሴቶችንና በስተእርጅና ድኅነትን ማሸነፍ የቻሉትን ጨምሮ በርካታ አስደናቂ የለውጥ ታሪኮችን ያነባሉ።

አስተያየቶዎና ምላሾችዎ ሥራችንን እንድናጎለብት ቁልፍ ሚና ስለሚጫወቱ ይጻፉልን።

አክሽንኤይድ ኢትዮጵያ

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የአክሽንኤይድ የተቀናጀ የማህበረሰብ የልማት ፕሮግራሞች

የተቀናጀ የማህበረሰብ የልማት ፕሮግራሙ ስም	ከአዲስ አበባ ያለው ርቀት	የሚገኝበት አካባቢ
የም	264 ኪ.ሜ	በደቡብ ብሔር፣ ብሔራሰቦችና ህዝቦች ክልላዊ መንግሥት
ዴቻ	480 ኪ.ሜ	
አዘርንት በርበሬ	255 ኪ.ሜ	
ጌና ቦሳ	517 ኪ.ሜ	
ከምባ	602 ኪ.ሜ	
ሴሩ	300 ኪ.ሜ	በኦሮሚያ ክልላዊ መንግሥት
ሳባ ቦሩ	589 ኪ.ሜ	
ኮምቦልቻ	540 ኪ.ሜ	
ደባ	382 ኪ.ሜ	
ገራር ጃርሶ	110 ኪ.ሜ	
ጃናሞራ	920 ኪ.ሜ	አማራ ክልላዊ መንግሥት ኦሮሚያ
አንኮብር	172 ኪ.ሜ	
አፍላ	620 ኪ.ሜ	በትግራይ ክልላዊ መንግሥት
ካማሺ	561 ኪ.ሜ	በቤንሻንጉል ጉምዝ ክልላዊ መንግሥት



የስልታዊ እቅድ አተገባበር ግምገማ

አክሽንኤይድ ባለፉት ሁለት ከግማሽ ዓመታት ያከናወናቸውን ስራዎችና ውጤቶቻቸውን በመንግስት አካላት በህብረተሰብ በደጋፊዎቹ አስገመገመ። አሰራሩን ለታዳሚዎቹ ግልፅ የማድረግ አላማ በነበረው በዚህ ግምገማ ያገኛቸው ገንቢ አስተያየቶች የድርጅቱን የሚቀጥሉ አመታት ስራዎች ለማሻሻል ይጠቀምባቸዋል።

አሳታፊ ግምገማው ከነሐሴ 8 እስከ 9/2007 የተካሄደ ሲሆን አክሽንኤይድ በየአመቱ ተመሳሳይ ግምገማዎችን በወረዳና በአገር አቀፍ ደረጃ ያካሂዳል።

የስብሰባው ተሳታፊዎች የድርጅቱን ጥንካሬና ድካም አንጥረው በማውጣት ለቀጣይ ስራው የሚጠቅሙ የመፍትሄ ሃሳቦችን ጠቁመዋል።

ስብሰባውን የክፈቱት የአክሽንኤይድ ኢትዮጵያ የበጎ ፈቃድ አምባሳደር አትሌት ሃይሌ ገ/ሥላሴ ናቸው። በመክፈቻ ገንግራቸውም አክሽንኤይድ ከማህበራዊ ተቋማትና አገልግሎቶች እርቀው በተለያዩ ያገራቱ አካባቢ በሚኖሩ ሴቶችና ህፃናት ላይ የሚያተኩረውን የልማት ስራውን አድንቀዋል። የድርጅቱ ንቃተ ህሊናን የማዳበር ስራ ለማህበራዊ ለውጥ መሰረት መሆኑንም ገልፀዋል።

በስብሰባው የተገኙ የማህበረሰብ አባላት በአክሽንኤይድ የልማት ስራ ተጠቃሚነታቸውን በስፋት የገለፁ ሲሆን ለናሙና የተወሰዱ አባባሎቻቸው እንደሚከተለው ተገልፀዋል።



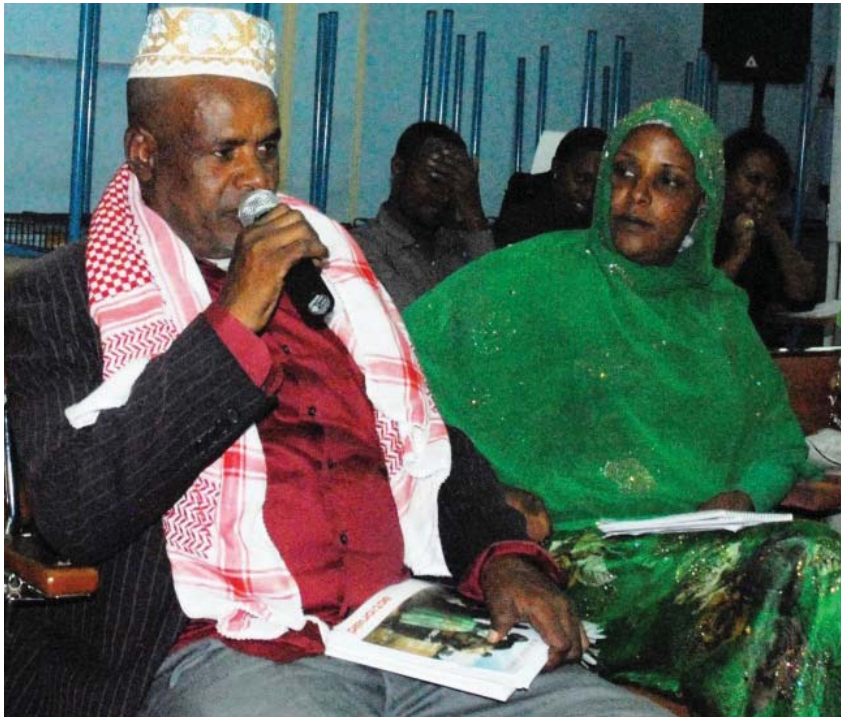
ዎርጅ መሀመድ እንደሚሉት "አክሽንኤይድ በአካባቢያቸው በስፋ ወረዳ በድህነት የሚኖሩ እማዎራዎችን አደራጅቶ ብድር ሰጠ በዚህም መሪዎችንን በትንሽ ብር ስናከራይ የቆየን ሴቶች ፍየሎችን ገዝተን በማራባት እየሸጥን የተሸለ ገቢ

እንድናገኝና መቆጠብም እንድንችል አደረገ። ዛሬ የቁጠባ ጥቅም ገብቶናል መሪዎችንን አስመልሰን እናርሳለን በራም መግዛት ችለናል። በዚህ ክረምት የዝናብ እጥረት ስለገጠመን ከአክሽንኤይድ የሰጠንን ምርጥ ዘር ዘርተን የተሸለ ምርት እየተጠባበቅን ነው።"

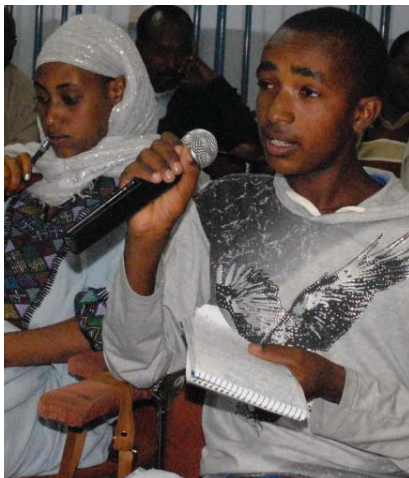
ሎሚቱ አበባ በደቡብ ህዝቦች ክልል ዴቻ ወረዳ ትኖራለች። 17 መስረታዊ የሴቶች ብድርና ቁጠባ ማህበራት ስብሰባ የሆነውን ዩኒየን ትመራለች።



ሎሚቱ እንደምትለው የማህበራቱ አባልና መሪ መሆን የቤተሰብን ኢኮኖሚ እጅግ ከማሳደጉም በላይ በህብረተሰቡ ዘንድ ተወዳጅነትና ታማኝነትን አስገኝቶላታል። "ለክልል ምክር ቤት አባልነት የመመረጤ ሚስጥርም ይኸው ነው" ትላለች።



በደቡብ ህዝቦች ክልል ምዕራብ አዘርነት በርበሬ ወረዳ የሚኖሩ የሃይማኖት አባት በስብሰባው ወቅት ሲናገሩ "በወንዶችና ሴቶች እኩልነት እናምናለን በህብረተሰቡ ዘንድ የአመለካከት ለውጥ እንዲመጣም ይህን ለሃይማኖት ሰዎች መንገር አለብን።"



የ16 አመቱ አሰፋ ግደይ በትግራይ ክልል ከአፍላ ወረዳ የመንከሬ ት/ቤት የተማሪዎች ክብብ አባል ነው። በክብቡ ያለው ተሳትፎ አስተሳሰቡን እንደለወጠለት ሲናገር የሚከተለውን ብሏል። "ዛሬ ዛሬ እናቴን እንጀራ መጋገርም ሆነ ሌላ የቤት ስራ

በመስራት አግዛታለሁ። ይህ ባካባቢያችን ነውር መሆኑ ጎጂ ነው። በት/ቤትም ከሌሎች የክለቡ አባላት ጋር በመሆን ሴት ተማሪዎቹ ያለ እድሜ እንዳያገቡ ወላጆችም እንዳይድሯቸው እንመክራለን። እድሜያቸው ለጋብቻ የደረሰውን ደግሞ የኤድስ ምርመራ ሳይደረግ ጋብቻ እንዳይፈፀሙ እንመክራለን። ለአካባቢዬ ህብረተሰብ ጠቃሚ እንድሆን ስለረዳኝ አክሽንኤይድን አመሰግናለሁ።"

አቶ መሃመድ ናስር የምስራቅ አዘርነት በርበሬ ወረዳ አስተዳዳሪ ናቸው። አክሽንኤይድ ወደ አካባቢያቸው ከመግባቱ በፊት ተንሰራፍተው በነበሩ ጎጂ ባህላዊ ድርጊቶች ያካባቢው ሴቶች ችግር እንደደረሰባቸው ተናግረዋል። "በአክሽን ኤይድ የተሰጡ ስልጠናና ትምህርቶች ያመለካከት ለውጥ አምጥተዋል። ድርጅቱ የሚደግፈው የመስኖ ስራም ገበሬዎችን በአመት ሁለት ሶስቱም ማምረት አስችሏል። በባህሉ ደካማና ጥገኛ ተደርገው ይታሰቡ የነበሩ ሴቶች ትልልቅ ተቋማትን እየመሩ ነው።" ብለዋል።

በስብሰባው የተሳተፉ የፌደራል የህብረት ስራ ማህበራት ኤጀንሲ ተወካይ "የአክሽንኤይድ አስደናቂ

ስራዎች በመስሪያ ቤቱ እንደሚገባ አይታወቁም ነበር። በቅርቡ መንግስታዊ ያልሆኑ ድርጅቶች በህብረት ስራ ማህበራት ላይ ያላቸውን አስተዋፅኦ ለማጥናት በተጠቀሙት ሰዎች ላይ የአክሽንኤይድ ስራዎች የማህበራቱን አቅም በማጎልበት በኩል ልዩና አመርቂ ነበሩ። ድርጅቱ በዚህ በኩል በሚሰራቸው ስራዎች አጋርነታችንን ማጠናከር እንፈልጋለን።"

የድርጅቱ ሃገራዊ ዳይሬክተር ጀማል አህመድ በመዝጊያ ንግግራቸው በስብሰባው ወቅት የተሰሙት ምስክርነቶች በተለይም የሴቶች ከፍተኛ ያመራር ክህሎት መዳበሩ፤ እንደ ዲቻ ባሉ አካባቢዎች የፖለቲካ ስልጣንም ማግኘታቸው ለአክሽንኤይድ አስደሳች ዜና ነው። እነዚህ ሴቶች የህብረተሰቡንና የቤተሰባቸውን ህይወት መለወጥ ችለዋል፤ የንብረት ባለቤት ለመሆን መብታቸውም መልካም ነው ብለዋል። ድርጅቱ እንደነዚህ ያሉ ሴቶች በሁሉ ቦታ እንዲበዙ የልምድ ልውውጡን ማፋጠን በቀጣይ የሚያተኩርበት ጉዳይ ነው ብለዋል።

በት/ቤት ክበባት የተማሪዎች፣ የወላጅና መምህራን ማህበራት የፀረ ያታዊ ጥቃትን መዋጋታቸው፣ በየአካባቢው የህብረት ስራ ማህበራት ወደ ዩኒየን ማደጋቸው የህብረተሰብ እድገትን እያፋጠንን ስለመሆኑ ከስብሰባው ያገኘናቸው ጠቃሚ ግብአቶች ናቸው። ከወጣቶች ጋር ስራ እንዳለብን ተገንዝበናል። ሰራተኞችና አጋሮች ሁሉ እነዚህ ለውጦች በማስተዋወቅ ግምባር ቀደም ሚና ሊጫወቱ እንደሚገባል ታምኖበታል ብለዋል።

አቶ ጀማል ታደሚዎቹን ለንቁ ተሳትፎአቸውና ለስጦታቸው የመፍትሄ ጥቆማዎች ካመለከኑ በኋላ ድርጅቱ የተሰበሰቡትን ሃሳቦች በጥንቃቄ መርምሮ በቀጣይ ስራውና ስትራቴጂው ይጠቀምባቸዋል ብለዋል።

ዴቻ

በዴቻ የ2015 ዓለም አቀፍ ትምህርት እንቅስቃሴ ሳምንት

በዴቻ ወረዳ የሚገኘው አገያ የመጀመሪያ ደረጃ ትምህርት ቤት ዓለም አቀፍ የትምህርት እንቅስቃሴ ሳምንትን በህጻናት እንክብካቤና ትምህርት፣ የትምህርትን ጥራት በማሻሻል፣ ቀጣይነት ያለው ልማት መጋራት ላይ ግንዛቤን በማስጨበጥ አክብሯል።

በዝግጅቱ ላይ መምህራን፣ የትምህርት ቤቱ ርዕሰ መምህር፣ ተማሪዎች፣

ወላጆች፣ የማህበረሰብ ተወካዮች፣ የትምህርት ዘርፍ የአመራር አባላትን ጨምሮ 200 የሚሆኑ ተሳታፊዎች ነበሩ። የትምህርት ቤቱ ርዕሰ መምህር በትምህርት ስትራቴጂዎችና የልማት ተግባራት ላይ መምህራን፣ ተማሪዎች፣ የትምህርት ቤት አመራሮች፣ ወላጆችና ሌሎች የማህበረሰብ መሪዎች ያላቸውን ሚናና ተሳትፎ በማብራራት ንግግር አድርገዋል።

አክሽንኤይድ የማህበረሰቡን ልማት በማገዝና የትምህርት ጥራትን በማሻሻል

ለሚያደርገው ተሳትፎ ተማሪዎች ምስጋናቸውን በመዝሙር አቅርበዋል። ከ5ኛ እስከ 8ኛ ክፍል በትምህርታቸው የላቁ ተማሪዎችም የትምህርት መጻሕፍት ሽልማት ተበርክቶላቸዋል። በመጨረሻም የማህበረሰቡ ተወካዮችና ወላጆች ስለ ዝግጅቱ ያሏቸውን አስተያየቶች ካሰሙ በኋላ የትምህርት ስትራቴጂዎችና ግቦች እንዲሳኩ በቁርጠኝነት የበኩላቸውን ተሳትፎ እንደሚያደርጉ ቃል ገብተዋል።



የምቹ ከተማ እንቅስቃሴ

አክሽንኤይድ ከአገር በቀሉ መንግስታዊ ያልሆነ ድርጅት ከፕሮፕራይድ ጋር በመተባበር የምቹ ከተማ ለሴቶች እንቅስቃሴን የካቲት 12, 2015 ጀመረ።

አክሽንኤይድ እና ፕሮፕራይድ በአዲስ አበባ ከተማ፣ በአዲስ ከተማ ክፍለ ከተማ በድህነት የሚኖሩ ሴቶችን ለማስተባበር በጋራ ይንቀሳቀሳሉ። በመሆኑም በራስ አገዝ ማህበራት የተደራጁ ሴቶች፣ የክፍለ ከተማው አስተዳደርና የሴክተር ቢሮዎች ተወካዮች፣ በክፍለ ከተማው የሚገኙ ትምህርት ቤቶች፣ አነስተኛና ማይክሮ ፋይናንስ ተቋማት መገናኛ ብዙሀንና ሌሎች ባለድረሻ አካላት በተገኙበት ነበር የምቹ ከተማ አጀንዳ የተሰለጠነ።

የአክሽንኤይድ ኢትዮጵያ አገራዊ ዳይሬክተር ጀማል አህመድ በስነ ስርአቱ ላይ ባደረጉት ንግግር ሴቶችን በቤት ውስጥ ገደቦ የሚያስቀመጥ ያረጀ አስተሳሰብ ሊያበቃለት ይገባል። ጀማል ሲናገሩ በከተሞች እንኳን ሳይቀር የሴቶች ንቁ ተሳትፎ በጎጂ አመለካከቶች፣ ጎጂ ባህሪዎችና ልማዶች የተገደበ መሆኑን ገልጸዋል። በመሆኑም የምቹ ከተማ አጀንዳና ቀጣይ ፕሮጀክቱ ሴቶች መሰል መሰናክሎችን እንዲቋቋሙ ለማስተባበርና አቅማቸውን ለማሳደግ ያቀደ ነው።

እሌኒ ተካልኝ የአክሽንኤይድ የሴቶች ልማት ባለሙያ ተሳታፊዎችን በምቹ ከተሞች አስተሳሰብ ዙሪያ ማብራሪያ ከሰጠች በኋላ የምቹ ከተሞች የፊደሮ ፕሮግራሞችና ሌሎች ውይይቶች

ችግሮቹ በመንግሥታዊና መንግሥታዊ ባልሆኑ ተቋማት እንዲታወቁ አድርገዋል ትላለች። ይህም ውይይቶች እንዲካሄዱ ሴቶች ማህበረሰቡ የሴቶች እንቅስቃሴዎችና ደህንነት የሚገድቡ ልምዶችን እንዲቋቋሙ ሀብረት እንዲፈጥሩ አድርጓል። በባለድርሻ አካላት መካከል ትስስር ፈጥረው ሴቶች ሁኔታዎችን እንዲገመግሙና እርምጃ እንዲወስዱ አስችሏቸዋል።

በሦስት ዓመት የፕሮጀክቱ ትግበራ ወቅት 1,000 በድህነት የሚኖሩ ሴቶች ችግሮቻቸውን እንዲወጡ አቅም ይፈጥራቸዋል። ፕሮጀክቱ 2,326,925.20 ብር ተበጅቶለታል።

የም

የውሀ አቅርቦት ሴቶችን አስደሰተ

ከ12 ዓመታት በፊት በማህበረሰብ አቀፍ የልማት ፕሮግራሙ ጅምር ውሀ ወለድ በሽታዎች በየም ልዩ ወረዳ ማህበረሰብ ላይ መጠነ ሰፊ ጉዳት የሚያደርሱ ነበሩ። ሴቶችና ህጻናት ውሀ ከወንዞች በማመላለስ ብዙ ጊዜ ያጠፉ ነበር። በመሆኑም በርካታ ሴት ልጆችም ትምህርታቸውን ለማቋረጥ ይገደዱ ነበር።



የ40 ዓመት ዕድሜ ያላትና የስድስት ልጆች እናት የሆነችው ዘነበች መርሻ

አዲሱ ውሀ ከመገንባቱ በፊት የነበሩትን ችግሮቿን እንዲህ ታስረዳለች።

“ለቤተሰቡ ውሀ የምናመላልሰው ሦስተኛው ልጄ ፍፁም ገዝሙና እኔ ነበርን። ልጄ አብዛኛውን ጊዜውን ውሀ ለመቅዳት ወደ ወንዞች በመመላለስ ስለሚያጠፋ ትምህርቱን ለማጥናት በቂ ጊዜ አልነበረውም። በመሆኑም በትምህርቱ ውጤት ስላላመጣ የኒቨርሲቲ/ኮሌጅ ሊገባ አልቻለም። ሜካኒክ ሆነ። እናት በመሆኔ ጠላ ጠምቄ እየሸጥኩ ልጆቼን አስተዳድር ነበር። ሆኖም ሥራዬ ብዙ ጊዜ በውሀ እጥረት ይስተጓጎል ነበር። በተጨማሪም ብዙ ጊዜ ልጆቼ በውሀ ወለድ በሽታዎች እየተሰቃዩ እነሱን ለማሳከም ብዙ ገንዘብ ማውጣት ነበረብኝ። ሆኖም አክሽንኤይድ በአካባቢያችን የሀብረት ሥራ ማህበራትና ሌሎች ማህበራት ማቋቋም ሲጀምር ነገሮች በአዲስ አቅጣጫ መሄድ ጀመሩ። ከማህበራቱ በአንዱ አባል የመሆን ዕድል አገኘሁ።

አባላቱ ሁላችንም የውሀ ጉዳይ ዋና አጅንዳ በሆነበት ችግሮችን በመለየት፣ ሀሳቦችና ልምዶችን ተለዋውጠናል። ከዛም ማህበራቱ ጉዳዮቹን ለአካባቢው አስተዳደርና በየም

ወረዳ ላለው አክሽንኤይድ አሳወቁ። በአካባቢው የተዋቀሩ የተለያዩ ቡድኖች ባለድርሻዎችን በማሳመኑ የጋራ ጥረት አደረጉ። ከሌሎቹ በተጨማሪ ለአክሽንኤይድ ኢትዮጵያ አሳውቀን በጎ ምላሽ ሰጥቶን ጥልቅ የውሀ ጉድጓዶችን በመገንባት የውሀ አቅርቦት ችግሮቻችንን ፈትቶልናል። አሁን ልጆቼ ውሀ ለመቅዳት ሩቅ መንገድ አይጓዙም። ውሀ በቤታችን አቅራቢያ ስለምናገኝ ልጆቻችን ትምህርታቸውን የሚያቋርጡበት ምክንያት የለም። ለአክሽንኤይድ ምስጋና ይግባውና ሁሉም ሰው በቤቱ ወይም በአቅራቢያው ጉዳይ ውሀ ያገኛል።

ከሁሉም በላይ የውሀ ፕሮጀክቱ በአሁኑ ጊዜ በሴቶች ብቻ የሚመራ ነው። በዚህም የተነሳ ማህበረሰብና የአካባቢው አስተዳደር ሴቶች ዕድሉን ካገኙ ትላልቅ ሀብቶችን ማስተዳደር እንደሚችሉ መገንዘብና አስተሳሰባቸውን መለወጥ ጀመረዋል። ይህ ሴቶችን በማህበራዊ መዋቅሮች ውስጥ ወደ አመራር ለማምጣት መንገዱን ይጠርጋል። አክሽንኤይድን ለድጋፍ እናመሰግናለን።”

ጌና ቦሳ

የውሃ ፕሮጀክት ሲጎበኝ፡ጌና ቦሳ ማህበረሰብ አቀፍ የልማት ፕሮግራም

ከሁለት ወራት በፊት ጣልያንውያንና ኢትዮጵያውያን ያቀፈ ቡድን በደቡብ ብሔር፣ ብሔራሰቦችና ህዝቦች ክልል በጌና ቦሳ ማህበረሰብ አቀፍ የልማት ፕሮግራም ‘ውሃ ፕሮጀክት’ን ጎብኝቷል። ‘የውሃ ፕሮጀክቱ’ በአንድ ጣልያንዊ በጎ አድራጊ በገንዘብ የሚደገፍና በአክሽንኤይድ የሚመራ ነው። ጎብኚዎቹ በማህበረሰብና በገና ቦሳ አክሽንኤይድ ሠራተኞች ሞቅ ያለ አቀባበል ተደርጎላቸዋል። ብቸኛዎን ሴት ምግብ አብሳይ ጨምሮ የአክሽንኤይድ ስድስት ወንድ ሠራተኞች ኢትዮጵያውያንንና ጣልያንውያንን እንግዶቻቸውን የማብሰል ኃላፊነቶችን ጭምር እኩል ተከፋፍለው አስተናገደዋል። “አዲስ አበባ እንኳን እንዲህ አይነት የሚጣፍጥ ምግብ አልተመገብንም።” ሲል ሮቤርቶ

የተባለው እንግዳ አድናቆቱን ገለጿል። የጌና ቦሳ ባልደረቦቻችን ምስጋና ይድረሳችሁ!

በተጨማሪም እንግዶቹን የቀረበ እያንዳንዱ ሰው አክሽንኤይድ በስፍራው ላለው ማህበረሰብ ስለሚያደርጋቸው ድጋፎች ምስክርነታቸውን ሰጥተዋል። ከእነሱም መሀል አንዳንዶቹ ከተናገሯቸው የተቀነጨቡ ክፍሎች ቀጥለው ቀርበዋል።

ግርማ ቆጮ በአካባቢው የሚገኝ የንግድ ሰው ነው። እንደ ሌሎቹ በርካታ ነዋሪዎች ሳይሆን በማንኛውም የቁጠባና የብድር ማህበር፣ ወይም የንብ ማንባት ማህበራት ወይም በአክሽንኤይድ የተቋቋሙ መሆናቸውን የሚደገፍ ሌላ ተቋም አባል አይደለም። እንዲህ ሆኖም አክሽንኤይድ በመንደሩ ከመጣ ጀምሮ ህይወቱ በብዙ መልኩ መሻሻሉን ይናገራል።



“አክሽንኤይድ ወደ አካባቢያችን ከመምጣቱ በፊት እንደ መንገድ፣ ትምህርት ቤቶችና የንጹህ ውሀ አቅርቦት የመሳሰሉ መሠረታዊ አግልግሎቶች እጥረት እንሰቃይ ነበር። አክሽንኤይድ ከእነኚህ መሠረታዊ አግልግሎቶች አንዳንዶቹን ለመገንባት ማገዝ ብቻ ሳይሆን ልማት/አድገትም የሚቻል ነገር እንደሆነ እንድናምን አስችሎናል።” ይላል።

ከአስተዳዳሪው አንደበት



አመሻሽ ላይ ቡድኑ የገና ሰላ ወረዳ አስተዳዳሪ ከአቶ ብርሀኑ ዱላቸ ጋር አጭር ወይይት አድርጓል። ቡድኑ ምንም እንኳን ያለቀጠር የሄደ ቢሆንም አስተዳዳሪው ሞቅ ባለ ፈገግታ ተቀብለውታል።

ቡድኑ 'የውሃ ፕሮጀክቱንና በወረዳ አስተዳዳሪና በአክሽንኤይድ ሠራተኞች መካከል ስላለው ግንኙነት በርካታ ጥያቄዎችን አቅርቧል።

“ፕሮጀክቱ ከከተማው ከማንኛውም ቦታ ውሀ ለመቅዳት ሴቶችና ህጻናት ለሰዓታት መሰለፋቸውን የሚያቃልል ነው ብለዋል። በሴቶች የሚመራው ፕሮጀክቱ የሴቶች አመራርን ለማጎልበት እንደ ሞዴል እንዲሆንም የታሰበ ነው። ፕሮጀክቱ ሲጠናቀቅ 5,189 ሰዎች የንጹህ ውሀ ተጠቃሚ የሆናሉ።” ሲሉ አስተዳዳሪው አብራርተዋል።

የወረዳው አስተዳዳሪ በውሀ እጥረቱ በእጅጉ ተጨንቆ ከአክሽንኤይድ ጋር ተደጋጋሚ ወይይት ማካሄዱን ገልጸዋል። አያይዘውም አክሽንኤይድ ወዲያውኑ የውሀ አቅርቦት እንዲኖር በማድረግ በጌና ሰላ ማህበረሰብና በአካባቢው አስተዳዳሪ ከፍተኛ አድናቆት እንደተቸረው ተናግረዋል። በተጨማሪም ቀደም ሲል የነበረው የውሀ አቅርቦት ከሀብረተሰቡ ለ46% ብቻ ተደራሽ ነበር። ይህም በተጠቃሚዎች መካከል ተደጋጋሚ አምባገነንነትን ጨምሮ በርካታ ችግሮች ሲያሰክትል አንደነበር አውስተዋል። በመገንባት ላይ

ያለው የውሀ ፕሮጀክት የሀብረተሰቡን የውሀ ፍላጎት ሙሉ በሙሉ የሚያሟላ ከመሆኑም በላይ ተያይዘው የሚመጡ ችግሮችንም ያስወግዳል። ተማሪዎች ከትምህርት መቅረታቸውንና እናቶችም እስከ ውድቅት ድረስ ውሀ ለመቅዳት በተራ ጥበቃ መጉላላታቸውን ያስወግዳል።

አክሽንኤይድ በተጨማሪም በምግብ ዋስትና ትምህርት ዘርፍ ከወረዳው ጋር ሲሠራ እንደቆየ አስተዳዳሪው አክለው ገልጸዋል። “በመስኖ እርሻ ፕሮጀክቶች የድርጅቱ ተሳትፎ አርሶ አደሮች እንደ ቀድሞው በዓመት አንድ ጊዜ በዝናብ ወራት ብቻ ሳይሆን በዓመት ሦስት ጊዜ እንዲያመርቱ አስችሏቸዋል። አርሶ አደሮች የሀብረት ሥራ ማህበራትን እንዲያቋቁሙና የማህበራዊና ሌሎች ስራዎች ለጋራ ችግሮቻቸው መፍትሄ ለመፈለግ የውይይት ዘዴዎቹን አውቀዋል። አክሽንኤይድ በአካባቢው ካሉ መገናኛ ብዙሀን ማህበረሰቡ በንጽህና አጠባበቅ፣ አመጋገብና ሌሎች አንገብጋቢ ጉዳዮች የራድዮ ፕሮግራሞችን በራሳቸው ቋንቋ እንዲያዳምጡ ሁኔታዎችን አመቻችተዋል። ጎጂ ልማዳዊ ድርጊቶችንና እምነቶችን በመዋጋት አክሽንኤይድ ቁልፍ ሚና ተጫውቷል ብለዋል።

የከጌና ሰላ ንብ አንቢዎች ተደራጁ

አዳኝ አሳርና ጓደኞቿ የንብ ማንባት ሥራቸውን ለማስፋፋት በአዲስ አወቃቀር ተደራጅተዋል። ቀደም ሲል አሮጌ መሣሪያዎችና ግብአቶች ባህላዊ ንብ የማንባት ዘዴዎች ይጠቀሙ ነበር። “ይህን ንብ ማንቢያ መሬት መንግሥት አቅርቦልን አክሽንኤይድ የተሻሻሉ የንብ ቀፎዎችና ሌሎች ማር ማደረጃ መሣሪያዎች ሰጥቶናል። በወራት ጊዜ ውስጥም 30 ኪሎ ማር ማምረት ችለናል።”

የኦሞ ማር አመራቾች ማህበር በ11 አርሶ አደሮች የተቋቋመ ሲሆን በአሁኑ ጊዜ አባላቱ 40 ደርሰዋል። ማህበሩ በአሁኑ ወቅት በአካባቢው ከሚገኙ 60 ግለሰብ ንብ አንቢዎች ምርቶችን ይሰበስባል። የማህበሩ አባላት ምርቶቻቸውን በዘመናዊ መሣሪያዎች ያደራጃሉ። አዳኝ “በዚህ መንገድ ጥራቱ የተጠበቀ ማርና ሰም እናመርታለን።” ትላለች። አዳኝ የኦሞ ማር አምራቾች ማህበር ምክትል ሊቀመንበር ነች። መልካም አፈጻጸሚ በአክሽንኤይድ ስልጠና ባገኘችው ክህሎቶች በራስ መተማመንን በማዳበሯ እንደሆነ ትገልጻለች።

በወላይታ ምርምር ማዕከል ስልጠና የወሰደችው ለላዋ የማህበሩ አባል ሀይሌ አሰቦ እንዲህ ትላለች። “አራት አባሎቻችን በወላይታ ምርምር ማዕከል በአክሽንኤይድ እገባ ስልጠና ተሰጥቷል። አክሽንኤይድ በአካባቢያችን እንቅስቃሴ ከመጀመሩ በፊት ለዓመታት ማር ሳመርት ቆይቻለሁ። ሆኖም ሀልጊዜም የማገኘው እዚህ ግባ የማይባል ምርት ነበር። ስልጠና ካገኘሁ በኋላ አሁን ንቦችን ከቀፎ ወደ ቀፎ በማዘዋር፣ ማርን የማጥራትና ሰም የማውጣት ክህሎቶች አዳብራለሁ።” ትላለች።

አዳኝ ስታጠቃልል “ማህበራ በአሁኑ ጊዜ የአካባቢውን ሰዎች ቅርብ በሆኑ ከተሞች ለማንገዝ አውቶብስ ለመግዛት ያስባል። ሰዎች ለተለያዩ ሽመታዎች ለሦስት ሰዓታት ያህል በእግር ለመጓዝ የሚገደዱበትን በአካባቢው ያለውን የከፋ የመጓጓዣ ችግር ማቃለል እንፈልጋለን ይህም ገቢያችንን ያሳድጋል” ብላለች።

የሦስት ልጆች እናት የሆነችው አዳኝ ለማህበሩ አባላት አዲሶቹን ቴክኖሎጂዎች ታስተምራለች። ከሌሎች የማህበሩ አባላት ጋር በጋራ ንብረትነት ካላት ንብረት ሌላ በግሏ 300 ቀፎዎች አሏት። “የሳር ክዳን ቤቴን በቆርቆር እንደለውጥ የረዳኝ ሲሆን የልጆቼ ህይወትም በከፍተኛ ደረጃ ተሻሻሏል።” ትላለች። አዳኝ እህልና አትክልትም ታመርታለች።

አፍላ

ሴቶች በማህበረሰብ ጥበቃ

በትግራይ ክልላዊ መንግስት የመንከሬ የሴቶች ጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድን ከአጋሮቹ ጋር በመሆን ማህበረሰቡ የሴቶችን አካላዊ፣ ማህበራዊና ኤኮኖሚያዊ ህይወት የሚጎዱ

ልምዶችን የሚፋለምበት የመንከሬ ቀበሌ በሞዴልነት ይታወቃል። ፍቺ የፈጸመች እያንዳንዷ ሴት በቀድሞ ጊዜ ልብስዋን ብቻ ጠቅልላ እንደምትወጣበት ጊዜ ሳይሆን በአሁኑ ወቅት ከንብረት የድርሻዋን ትካፈላለች። ቡድኖቹ ባደረጓቸው አንቅስቃሴዎች አስገድዶ

መድፈር፣ እንጥል መቆረጥና ጠለፋ በከፍተኛ ደረጃ ቀንሰዋል።

የሴቶች ቡድኖች የሴቶችን፣ የአገር ሽማግሌዎችን፣ የኃይማኖት አባቶችንና የአካባቢ አስተዳደሮችን የጋራ ጥረቶች ሲያስተባብሩ ቆይተዋል። ሞዴሉ

አስፈጻሚ አካላትን፣ የጤና ተቋማትን ግንዛቤ ማዳበሩና የሴቶች ጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድኖች ትስስሮችን ማጎልበቱ አክሽንኤይድ በሚሠራባቸው አካባቢዎች አንጉል ድርጊቶችን እንዲቀንሱ አድርጓል።

“በአሁኑ ጊዜ በመንከሬ ያለው የሴቶች ጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድን ሳያውቀውና ሳይስማማ ጋብቻ አይፈጸምም።” ይላሉ ከሴቶች ጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድኖች ጋር በቅርብ የሚሠሩት ቄስ ሃዲሽ ወንድሙ። “ቀደም ሲል የጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድን አባላት የማህበረሰቡን ልማዶችና ባህሎች የሚጥሱ ህገ-ወጦች ተደርገው ይወሰዱ ነበር። በአሁኑ ጊዜ ግን እንደ ማህበራዊ የማህበረሰቡ ዘቦች ይታያሉ። በመሆኑም እምነት የሚጣልባቸውና የተከበሩ ሆነዋል።” ይላሉ።

አክሽንኤይድ ከቀበሌው አስተዳደር ጋር በመተባበር የሴቶች የጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድን እንዲቋቋም ቅድሚያውን በመውሰድ ከአምስት የገጠርና ከአንድ የከተማ ቀበሌዎች የተመረጡ አሥር ሴቶችን አደራጀ። ከአምስት ዓመታት በፊት ፕሮጀክቱ ሲጀመር የቡድኑ አባላት ከሰባት የአገር ሽማግሌዎችና የኃይማኖት መሪዎች ጋር በተለያዩ ጾታን መሰረት ያደረጉ ጥቃቶች ዙሪያ የግንዛቤ ማዳበሪያ ስልጠናዎች ወስደዋል።

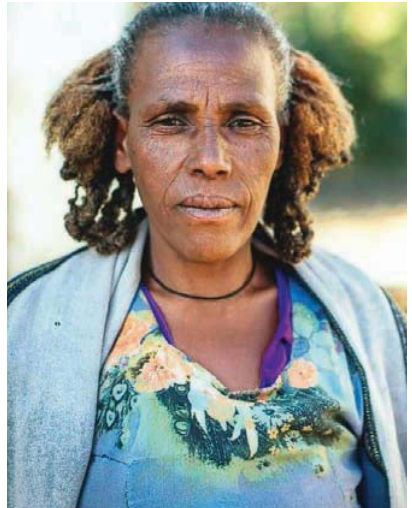
ለሴቶቹ ቡድኖች የግንዛቤ ማስጨበጫ ሥራዎችና የቡድኑ ጸናት ምስጋና ይግባውና የፀረ-ጎጂ ልማዶች ዘመቻን ጨምሮ የጋራ እንቅስቃሴዎችን ማስተባበር ችለዋል። እነኚህ የአክሽንኤይድ ኤኮሎጂያዊ አቅም ግንባታ ተሳትፎን ጨምሮ በከፋ ድህነት የሚኖሩ ሴቶችን ወደ ማህበረሰብ መሪነትና የለውጥ አራማጅነት አሳድገዋል። የአንዳንዶቹ መሪዎችና አባላት ምስክርነቶች ቀጥሎ ቀርበዋል።



የመንከሬ ሴቶች ቡድን ሊቀመንበር አሰፋ ኪሮስ እንዲህ ትላለች፤ “የእኛ

ቡድን የተመሰረተው በ2001 በአሥር ሴቶች አባልነት ነበር። በአሁኑ ጊዜ ግን የአባላት ቁጥር ሰባት የአገር ሽማግሌዎችና የኃይማኖት መሪዎችን ጨምሮ 27 ደርሷል። የሴቶች ድህነትን የሚያባብሱ ባህላዊ ልማዶችን እንዴት መዋጋት እንደሚቻል ተከታታይ የግንዛቤ ማስጨበጫ ትምህርቶች ተሰጥተዋል።

በአራት ትምህርት ቤቶች ተማሪዎችን በተለይም ወጣት ወንዶችን ስለ ጾታዊ ጥቃት ግንዛቤ በማስጨበጥ የወንድ ተማሪዎች ክብር ተቋቁመዋል። ወጣት ወንዶች በትምህርት ቤትና በመኖሪያ አካባቢዎች ጎጂ ልማዳዊ ድርጊቶችን የሚፈጽሙ ግለሰቦችን ለሴቶቹ ቡድኖች በመጠቀምና በመተባበር የዘመቻው ተሳታፊ ሆነዋል። ወላጆች ዕድሜያቸው ያልደረሱ ሴት ልጆችን ለጋብቻ እንዳይሰጡ በማሳመን ያለ ዕድሜ ጋብቻን ተፋልመዋል።



ምክትል ሊቀመንበር ለተኪሮስ ተገኝ እንዲህ ተላለች፤ “አክሽንኤይድ ለፀረ-ድህነት ተሳትፎው በማህበረሰቡ ውስጥ የቤተሰባችንን ዕለታዊ ፍላጎቶች ለማሟላት የምንዋትትና ቤተሰባችንን ለብቻችን የምናስተዳድር እናቶችን መረጠ። አክሽንኤይድ በሴቶች ጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድኖች ሳያደራጀን በፊት የማገዶ እንጨትና ውሀ በመሸጥ እንተዳዳር ነበር። ጎጂ ልማዶች የሚያደርሷቸውን ጉዳዮች በተመለከተ የግንዛቤ ማዳበሪያ ከመስጠቱ ሌላ የቁጠባና ብድር ህብረት ሥራ ማህበር ለማቋቋም የገንዘብና የቴክኒክ ደጋፍ ተደርጎልናል። እያንዳንዳችን አባላት የምናደልባቸው በጎች ለመግዛት የተጠቀምንበትን 1,800 ብር ተሰጥቶናል። በእኔ በኩል ጠቦት ያላት በግ ነው የገዛሁት። በሦስት ወር ውስጥ እናትየዋን አድልቤ 1,900 ብር

ሸጥኳት። ጠቦቷ አድጋ እሷም ወለደችና እነሱንም ሸጥኳቸው። በገንዘቡም ላም ገዛሁበት። አምስት ተጨማሪ በጎችንም ገዛሁ።”

“ህይወቴ ሙሉ ለሙሉ ተለውጧል።” ትላለች በኩራት ስሜት። “አሁን ልጆቼን ትምህርት ቤት እልካለሁ። የሳር ክዳን ቤቴን በቆርቆሮ ክዳን ለውጫለሁ። በአሁኑ ጊዜ እንደ ገናና ፋሲካ በመሳሰሉ በዓላት ቤቴ በግ ማረድ የተለመደ ነው። በሴቶች ጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድን ያሉ ሴቶች በሙሉ እንዲሁ ናቸው። ይህ ቀደም ሲል የማይታሰብ ነበር።”

የኃይማኖት አባቶች



በሴቶች ላይ የሚደርሱ የተለያዩ ጎጂ ልማዶችን በመቀነስ ረገድ የኃይማኖት አባቶች ሚና ቁልፍ ነበር። በአካባቢው የሚገኘው የኦርቶዶክስ ቤተክርስቲያን አስተዳዳሪና የሴቶች ማህበር አጋር ቄስ ሀዲሽ ወንድሙ አንዳንድ አማኞች ቤተክርስቲያኖችና መስጊዶች ልማዳዊ ድርጊቶችን ስለማስቆም እንዳይናገሩ በኃይልም ጭምር ሲቃወሙ እንደነበር ያስታውሳሉ። “ከቅርብ ጊዜ ወዲህ ግን ጎጂ ልማዶችን ስለመዋጋት ለምዕመናን ትምህርት እየሰጠን ነው። ይህም በጎጂ ልማዶች ላይ ለምናካሂደው ዘመቻ ከፍተኛ እገዛ አድርጎልናል።” ብለዋል።

“በአሁኑ ወቅት የማህበረሰቡ ግንዛቤ በእጅጉ ተሻሻሏል። ወላጆች ልጆቻቸውን መዳር ሲፈልጉ የሴቶች ቡድንን ያማክራሉ። ጋብቻ የሚፈጸመው የሴቶች ቡድኑ ይሁንታ ሲሰጠው ነው። የሴቶች ጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድን አባላት በማንኛውም የጋብቻ ጥያቄ ላይ ከመስማማታቸው በፊት የልጅቷን ዕድሜና ፍላጎት ያጠናሉ።” ይላሉ ቄሱ።

አፈ.ወርቂ ረታ፣ የአፍላ ወረዳ አስተዳዳሪ



“አክሽንኤይድ በአፍላ ወረዳ ምርጥ የፀረ-ድህነት አጋራችን ነው።” ይላሉ አቶ አፈ.ወርቂ። “ለ3,000 ሴቶችና በ10 ቀበሌዎች ለሚገኙ በርካታ ነዋሪዎች የምግብ ዋስትናን አረጋግጧል። አክሽንኤይድ የድሀ ሴቶች እናት ነው። ለወጣቶች የፈጠራቸው የሥራ ዕድሎች ለአስተዳዳሪ ትልቅ ድጋፍ ሆነዋል። ለዚህም ከፍተኛ ምስጋና እያቀረብን የፀረ-ድህነት እንቅስቃሴውን በተግባር ለማገዝ ማንኛውንም ድጋፍ ለመስጠት ዝግጁ ነን።”

ከአፍላ ወረዳ ሌሎች ክፍሎች የሴቶች ጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድንን በተግባር እያዋለ የነበረው የትግራይ ክልላዊ መንግሥት ሰራራን በሞዴልነት ወስዶታል።

የባከነ ጊዜን ለማካከል



የ32 ዓመቷ ኮፒ አብረሀ በትግራይ ክልላዊ መንግሥት አፍላ ወረዳ ሐሽንጌ አካባቢ አክሽንኤይድ ያቋቋመው የሴቶች ጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድን መሪ ነች። ማህበሩ ሐሽንጌን ከጎጂ ልማዳዊ ባህሎች የሀይል ጥቃቶች ነፃ በማድረግ ላበረከተው ልዩ አስተዋጽኦ ከአፍላ አስተዳዳሪ ሽልማት ተበርክቶላቸዋል።

ኮፒ ቤተሰብዋን ብቻዋን የምታስደዳር ሴት ነች። በአሸንጌ የሴቶች ማህበርን ለአምስት ዓመታት መርታለች። የሦስት ልጆች እናት የሆነችው ሞዴል አርሶ አደር ሌሎችን የምታነቃቃ መሪ ነች። ኮፒ የፋር ፋውንዴሽን የሚረዳው ሐሽንጌ ሴቶች የበግ እርባታ ፕሮጀክትና በአካባቢው የአላ አስጋሪዎች ማህበራት አባል ናት።

ማህበረሰቡን በማስተባባር ሴቶችን የሚጎዱ ጎጂ ልማዳዊ ድርጊቶች እንዲወገዱና የአካባቢው ሴቶችና ወጣቶች

ከከፋ ድህነት እዲላቀቁ በምትመራቸው ማህበራት በኩል የሚያስመሰግኑ ተግባራትን አከናውናለች። ከዝቅተኛ ማህበረሰብ ዘርፈ ብዙ አስደናቂ የአመራር ሚናዎቿ የተነሳ ኮፒ ለልምድ ልውውጥ መጋቢት 2007 ወደ ማላዊ እንድትሄድ አስችሏታል። የማላዊ ጉብኝቷ ግንዛቤዋንና በራስ መተማመኗን እንዳደበረሰች ትናገራለች።

የበርካታ ማህበራት አመራሪና አባልነቷን ከፕሮጀክቱ ጋር እንዴት እንደምታጣጥም ስትጠየቅ፣ “በመሰል ማህበራት የመሳተፍ ጥቅሞችን ግንዛቤ ከማዳበሪያ ቀደም ብሎ ያባከንኩትን ጊዜ ለማካከል ሆነ ብዬ በበዙ ማህበራት እሳተፋለሁ።” ትላለች። “ሴት ልጆቼ በቤት ውስጥ ሥራ ሲያግዙኝ የሥራ ባልደረቦቼ በማህበራቱ ትልቅ እገዛ ያደርጉልኛል” ትላለች።

ከአራት ዓመት በፊት በአፈላ አሸንጌ አካባቢ የተጀመረው የሴቶች በግ እርባታ 300 ሴቶችን ይረዳል። ኮፒ እንደምትለው አባላቱ በአሁኑ ወቅት እስከ 17 በጎች አሏቸው። ኮፒ ራሷ 15 በጎች ያሏት ሲሆን ከ4 ዓመት በፊት ግን አንድም አልነበራትም። “በመጀመሪያ ዙር አንዷ ተጠቃሚ ሆኜ አራት በጎች ተሰጡኝ። አሁን 15 አሉኝ። ይህ በበዓላት ምክንያት የማርዳቸውን በጎች አይጨምርም” ትላለች።

አንኮበር

የሚያበረታቱ ድምጾች

የመወሰን አቅማቸውን ያዳበሩ ሴቶች በሬድዮ የሚሰጡት ምስክርነት ሌሎችም ከድህነት እንዲላቀቁ እያበረታታ ነው። ‘ሴቶች ሲመሩ’ የሚለው በአክሽንኤይድ በሚደገፈው የሬዲዮ ፕሮግራም አክሽንኤይድ በገጠራቱ ኢትዮጵያ የሴቶች የአመራር ክህሎትን ለማጎልበት የሚያደርገው እገዛ ውጤትና የለውጥ ታሪኮች ይተላለፋሉ።

በደቡብ ኢትዮጵያ በከብት ማድለብ የተሰማሩ ሴቶችን ታሪኮች ከሰሙ በኋላ እጥፍወርቅ ሞላና በአንኮበር የሚገኙ ሌሎች አድማሮች ከማህበረሰቡ ልማድ በተቃራኒ በጎቻቸውንና ከብቶቻቸውን ያለወንዶች እርዳታ በራሳቸው ለመሸጥ ወሰኑ። “ለሴቶች ትልልቅ ንብረቶችን መሸጥ ክልክል ነበር በባህላችን። በቀድሞ

ጊዜ ዶሮዎችና ሌሎች ጥቃቅን ነገሮች ብቻ ነበር እንድንሸጥ የሚፈቀድልን። በመሆኑም ንብረቶችን ለመሸጥ ወንዶችን ወይ እንቀጥራለን ወይ እንዲተባበሩን እንጠይቃለን።” ትላለች አጥፍወርቅ። “ወንዶቹ ንብረቶቹን እስኪሸጡ ሴቶቹ ራቅ ብለው ይጠብቋቸዋል። በመሆኑም ወንዶች ዋጋ ብለው የሰጡንን ገንዘብ ከመቀበል በስተቀር አማራጭ አልነበረንም። አንዳንድ ጊዜም ለአገልግሎቱ እንከፍላቸው ነበር።”

እጥፍወርቅና ጓደኞቿ ከብቶችን ራሳቸው መሸጣቸውን ሲሰሙ በአካባቢው የሚገኙ ብዙ ሴቶች ምሳሌያቸውን መከተል ጀምረዋል።

“ለምሳሌ አኔ በሌሎች አካባቢዎች ያሉ ሴቶችን ታሪኮች ከሰማሁ በኋላ በራሴ ከብቶች ማድለብና መሸጥ ጀመርኩ። የሰማኳቸው ታሪኮች ልሠራቸው



ስለምችላቸው ነገሮች አርቁ እንዳስተውል አድርገውኛል። እንደ ወንዶቹ ሁሉ ከብቶች መሸጥ እንደምችል ሳውቅ ተደስቻለሁ። ልምዳቸውን በሬድዮ ላካፈሉን ሴቶች ምስጋና ይግባቸውና የተረጋጋ ኑሮ መምራት ችያለሁ።” ብላለች።

እጥፍወርቅ በአማራ ክልል በአንኮበር ወረዳ ጎርጎ መንደር ከሚገኙ የአድማጮች ቡድኖች የአንዷ አባል ነች። ቤተሰቧን ለብቻዋ የምታስተዳድር የሁለት ልጆች እናትም ናት። በአካባቢው የአክሽንኤይድ አጋር የሆነው የባለሙያዎች ለልማት ማህበር እንቀሳቀሴ ከመጀመሩ በፊት በ2006 ባህላዊ መጠጦች ትሸጥ ነበር።

ከሥራዋ የምታገኘው ገቢ ቤተሰቧን ለመመገብ በቂ ስላልነበር መልፋት ነበረባት። በተጨማሪም ከሴተኛ አዳሪነት ጋር የሚያያዘው ሥራ አሳፋሪ ነበር። ሥራው በተጨማሪ በሰከሩ ወንዶች ለጸታዊ ጥቃት ተጋላጭ ያደርጋት

ነበር። ኤች.አይ.ቪ/ኤይድስና ሌሎች በግብረ ሥጋ የሚተላለፉ በሽታዎች ለእጥፍ ወርቅና በዚህ ሥራ ለተሠማሩ ሴቶች የየሰቱ ሰቀቀን ነበር።

“የባለሙያዎች ለልማት ማህበር ለእኔና በዚህ ተግባር ለተሰማሩ ሌሎች ሴቶች ደረሰልን። ድርጅቱ በጎርጎ የቁጠባና ብድር ህብረት ሥራ ማህበር በማቋቋም የክህሎት ማዳሰሪያ ስልጠናዎች ሰጠን። ድርጅቱ በሰጠን ሥራ መጀመሪያ ገንዘብ በክብት ማድለብና በሌሎች ሥራዎች ላይ ተሰማራን።” ትላለች።

እንደ እጥፍወርቅና ንድኞቿ ቃል የሴቶች ሲመሩ ፕሮግራሞች በስፍራው የተለመዱና በዝምታ ይታሉ ስለነበሩ በሴቶች ላይ የመፈጸሙ የህይወት ጥቃቶች ግንዛቤያቸውን አዳብሮላቸዋል።

በአክሽንኤይድ ድጋፍ ሴቶችን በቤታቸው፣ በድርጅቶችና በማህበረሰቦች ለውሳኔ ሰጪነት የማብቃት እንቅስቃሴ

የተለወጡ ሴቶችና ቤተሰቦች ምስክርነት ብሔራዊ ስርጭቱ ለአንድ ዓመት ተኩል ያህል ሲተላለፉ ቆይቷል። ከቁጠባና ብድር ህብረት ሥራ ማህበራት፣ ከሴቶች ጥቃት ተከላካይ ቡድኖች የተገኙ ታሪኮችና በሁሉም ማህበረሰብ አቀፍ የልማት ፕሮግራሞች ያሉ ተሳትፎዎች እሳካሁን ሲተላለፉ ቆይተዋል። በየአንዳንዱ ስርጭት ወቅትም የፕሮግራሙ አድማጮች ስለተገኙ ትምህርቶችና ስለሚወስዱዋቸው እርምጃዎች አጭር ወይይት ያደርጋሉ።

በአፍላ፣ የምና አንኮበር ማህበረሰብ አቀፍ የልማት ፕሮግራሞች በአጠቃላይ 289 ሴቶች ሳምንታዊውን ፕሮግራም በሚከታተሉ ቡድኖች ተዋቅረዋል። ትልቁን ድርሻ የሚወስደው አንኮበር ሲሆን 193 አድማጮች አሉት።

ሰባ ቦሩ

ሀደሀኩሌ እርጅናን ድል ነሱት

ሀደሀኩሌ በአሮሚያ ክልላዊ መንግሥት የአክሽንኤይድ አጋር የሆነው ሪፍት ቫሊ ችልድረን ኤንድ ውመን ደብሎ-ፕምንት ኦርጋናይዜሽን የሚታገዘው የሴባ ቦሩ የተቀናጀ የማህበረሰብ የልማት ፕሮግራም ስር ያለው የሚሰማ ቦሬ ኦቢት ዘርፈ ብዙ ግብርና የህብረት ሥራ ማህበር አባል ናቸው። የስኬት ታሪካቸውን እንዲህ ይተርካሉ።

ስሜ ሀደሀኩሌ ይባላል። ዕድሜዬ 70 ሲሆን ስምንት ልጆች አሉኝ። ሁሉም ትዳር ይዘዋል። ባሌ የሞተው ከሦስት ዓመት በፊት ሲሆን ምንም ያህል ጥሪት አልተወልጃም። አትክልት በመሸጥ ራሴን ለመደገፍ ሞክርኩ፣ ግን ይሄም አልተሳካልኝም። በመሆኑም የልጆቼ ጥገኛ ሆንኩ።

ያለፈው ዓመት ከቁጠባዬ 1,000.00 ብር በማውጣት አንድ አክሲዮን በመግዛት የሚሰማ ቦሬ አጠቃላይ ግብርና ህብረት ሥራ ማህበር አባል ሆንኩ። መሰል የህብረት ሥራ ማህበር አባላት በበቆሎና በቡና ሥራ እንድሳተፍ አበረታቱኝ። በአሁኑ ጊዜ ራሴን መርዳት ችያለሁ። በተጨማሪም ወንዶችና ሴቶች የህብረት ሥራ ማህበሩን እንዲቀላቀሉ በማስተባበር ባደረግሁት ተሳትፎ የህብረት ሥራ ማህበር አባላት ቁጥር ጨምሯል። በአሁኑ ጊዜ 8 ሴቶችን ጨሮ የአባላት ቁጥር 44 ደርሷል። በ2004 ሪፍት ቫሊ ችልድረን ኤንድ ውመን ደብሎ-ፕምንት ሮጋናዜሽን የተለያዩ የሥራ ክህሎቶች ስልጠና በመስጠትና የ100,000.00 ብር ተዘዋዋሪ ፈንድ በመፍቀድ እገዛ አድርገውልናል። ይህም በማህበሩ አመራሮችና አባላት የሥራ መንፈስን ይበልጥ አነቃቅቷል። በዚህ የተነሳ የአባላት ቁጥር በአጭር

ጊዜ ወደ 57 እንዲያድግ አድርጓል። የሴቶች አባላት ቁጥር በእጥፍ የጨመረ ሲሆን ካፒታላችንም ከ25,000.00 ወደ 240,000.00 ብር አድርጓል።

ሪፍት ቫሊ ችልድረን ኤንድ ውመን ደብሎ-ፕምንት ሮጋናዜሽን እገዛ ከፍተኛ ከመሆኑ የተነሳ እኔ ብቻ ሳልሆን ሁሉም የማህበሩ አባል ምስጋናውን ያቀርባል። እኔ በአሁኑ ጊዜ እርጅናን ጥገኝነት አይሰማኝም። እንደውም እየጠነከርኩና በራስ መተማመኔም እየጨመረ ህይወቴን ለማሻሻል ቁርጠኛ ሆኛለሁ። አዛውንት ግን ጠንካራ ከሆኑ ወዳጆቹ ጋር በጋራ መሥራታችን ስሜታችንን ከማንቃቱም በላይ ጉልበትም ሆኖናል። አዲስ ቤት የመሥራት ዕቅድ አለኝ። ለህብረት ሥራ ማህበራችን አዲስ መጋዘን ሲሠራም እሳተፋለሁ። ሪፍት ቫሊ ችልድረን ኤንድ ውመን ደብሎ-ፕምንት ሮጋናዜሽን የማመሰግንበት በቂ ቃላት የሉኝም።

ከምባልቻ

የተነቃቁ ወላጆችና መምህራን

በሁነኛው አየለ በምስራቅ ኢትዮጵያ፣ በኮምቦልቻ ወረዳ የሚገኘው የፋላና ከድር የመጀመሪያ ደረጃ ትምህርት ቤት የወላጆችና የመምህራን ማህበር (ወ.መ.ማ.) አባላት የትምህርት ቤቱን ስርአትና መገልገያዎች እያደሱ ነው።

የ60 ዓመቱ አቶ አበደላ ሙመድ እንደሚሉት የአክሽንኤይድ እንቅስቃሴ

ሚናቸውን እዲረዱ እስካስቻሉቸው ጊዜ ድረስ ወ.መ.ማው ዓመታትን ያለምንም እንቅስቃሴ አሳፏል።



አብደላ በ1983 የተገነባው የትምህርት ቤቱ ወ.መ.ማ. ሊቀመንበር ናቸው። ወ.መ.ማ.

ማህበሩ እንደ ጸሀፊ የሚያገለግል አንድ መምህርን ጨምሮ ሰባት አባላት አሉት።

ተማሪዎችም የትምህርት ቤት ዕቅዶች ላይ ድምጽ አልነበራቸውም። በመሆኑም የማስተማር መማር ሂደቱ እጅግ ደካማ ነበር። የትምህርት ቤቱ መሠረተ ልማት ደካማ ሲሆን መማሪያ ክፍሎቹ የቆሸሹ፣ ጠረጴዛዎቹ የተሰበሰቡና መቀመጫዎች

ድንጋዮች ነበሩ። በተጨማሪም ወላጆች ስለትምህርት ጥቅም በቂ ግንዛቤ ስላልነበራቸው በትምህርት ቤቱ ተማሪዎች ቁጥር ዝቅተኝነት፣ በከፍተኛ ደረጃ ትምህርት የማቋረጥና ከክፍል የመቅረት ችግሮች ነበሩ።

አብደላ እንደሚሉት ይህን ሁኔታ ለመለወጥ አክሽንኤይድ ክፍ ያለ አስተዋጽኦ አድርጓል። “የትምህርት ቤቱን አመራር በማሻሻል፣ በሀብት አስተዳዳርና ሀብተሰብን በማደራጀት ዘርፎች ስልጠና በመስጠት አቅማችንን ገንብቶልናል። በመሆኑም በአክሽንኤይድ በወረዳው ትምህርት ቢሮና በተማሪዎች እገዛ የትምህርት ክፍሎችን የማደስ

ሥራዎች እየሠራን ነው። በተጨማሪም በትምህርት ቤቱ ማህበረሰብ (ህጻናትና መምህራን) ስነ ስርአት በማስፈጸም የትምህርት ቤቱን ገቢ በማስተካከል እገዛ እያደረግን ነው። በተጨማሪም ሴቶች ትምህርት እንዲያመልጣቸው የሚያስገድዱ እምነቶችና ድርጊቶችን እንፋሰማለን። የትምህርት ቤቱን የሴት ተማሪዎች ክብብ በማጠናከር ትምህርት የሚያቋርጡ ሴቶችን ተመልስው እንዲመጡ ማደረግ ችለናል። የእርዳታ አሰጣጥ እንቅስቃሴያችን ትምህርት ቤቱ ወላጅ አልባና ድጋፍ ፈላጊ ህጻናትን እንደ ደብተር፣ እስክራብፍና እርሳሶች የመሳሰሉ መሠረታዊ የትምህርት መሣሪያዎች እንዲያገኙ አድርጓል።

የትምህርት ቤቱን አካባቢ ማህበረሰቦች በማስተባበርም ህንጻዎቹ እንዳይጎዱ በትምህርት ቤቱ የአፈር ጥበቃ ሥራዎችን እንሠራለን። ከዚህ በፊት እንዳደረግነው ሁሉ ትምህርት ቤቱን በብዙ ዘርፎች በተለይም በሴቶች ተሳትፎ ሞዴል ልናደርገው አቅደናል።”

አብደላ እንደሚሉት አክሽንኤይድት 4 መማሪያ ክፍሎች ያሉት ህንጻ ግንባታ በማገዝ፣ ያረጀ ህንጻን በማደስና 200 የተሟሉ ዴስኮችን በመስጠት ተሳትፎ አድርጓል። ይህ መሻሻል ትምህርት ያቋረጡት እንዲመለሱ አበረታቷቸዋል።

ምዕራብ አዘርነት በርቦሬ

አክሽንኤይድ የቤተሰቦች ሀይወት ለውጦታል

በአለምነሽ ታደሰ

ጉልቱ ዴታሞ በደቡብ ክልል፣ በምዕራብ አዘርነት በርቦሬ ወረዳ አነፋረ ቀበሌ ነዋሪ ነች። ባለተዳርና ሁለት ሴቶችን ጨምሮ የሰባት ልጆች እናት ነች። ጉልቱ በአክሽንኤይድ የሚረዳው የአፈሪባን የቁጠባና ብድር ሀብረት ሥራ ማህበር መጋዘን ጠባቂ ነች። በተጨማሪም የሀብረት ሥራ ማህበሩም አባል ነች። የሀብረት ሥራ ማህበር አባል ከመሆኗ በፊት ቤተሰቧ ከእጅ ወደ አፍ የሆነ ኑሮ ይመራ የነበረ ሲሆን መሬትም ሆነ ሌላ የገቢ ምንጭ አልነበራቸውም።

“የማህበሩ አባል ሆኜ በመጀመሪያ የ200 ብር ብድር ወስጄ አነስተኛ መሬት በመከራየት እርሻ ጀመኩ” ትላለች። ከዛን ጊዜ ጀምሮ በተከታታይ እየተበደረችና በየዓመቱም ብድሯን እየመለሰች መሬት በመከራየትና በመግዛትም የእርሻ ሥራዋን ማስፋፋት ቀጠለች። በአሁኑ ጊዜ ባለቤቷ አቶ ኑረዲን ሞዴል አርሶ አደር ነው። “አክሽንኤይድ ቤተሰቤን በመለወጥ የማመሰግንበት ቃላት ያጥሩኛል። አሁን የምንኖረው በአርጌ፣ አነስተኛ ጎጆ ሳይሆን ሁለት ቤቶች ሠርተናል። በሬ፣ በጎች፣ የምናርሰው መሬትና በቂ ምግብ አለን። በኤኮኖሚ ከመሻሻል ሌላ በወረዳው አስተዳደር የተለያዩ ሰዎችን በማገኘትና የሀብረት ሥራ ማህበሩን በማገዝ በህዝብ አክብሮት አግኝቻለሁ።”



ከምባ

የንጹህ ውሀ አቅርቦት

በብርቅነህ ተዋቸው



ከ2004 በፊት አብዛኛው የከምባ ወረዳ ነዋሪ የመጠጥ ውሀ የሚያገኘው ከኩሬዎች፣ ከአነስተኛ ወንዞችና ጥበቃ ከማይደረግላቸው ምንጮች ነበር። በመሆኑም በገጠራማው ከምባ ህጻናትና ሴቶች በውሀ ወለድ በሽታዎች ሲሰቃዩ ኖረዋል። በተጨማሪም ህጻናትና ሴቶች ከ25%-30% የሚሆነውን ጊዜያቸውን ውሀ ፍለጋ ያባክኑ ነበር። ይህ ሁሉ በአሁኑ ወቅት ይህ ታሪክ ሆኗል።

ችግሩ ከከፋባቸው ስፍራዎች አንዱ በወረዳው ቆላማ ስፍራ የሚገኘው የዛኩና መንደር ነው። በአክሽንኤይድ ተሳትፎ በአሁኑ ጊዜ በመንደሩ 60 ቤተሰቦች በመስኖ እርሻ እየተጠቀሙ ሲሆን ይህ ቁጥር በቅርብ ጊዜ ወደ 200 ያድጋል። ህጻናት የትምህርት ጊዜ አያመልጣቸውም፣ ሴቶችም ውሀ ፍለጋ ሰዓታት ማባከን ቀርቶላቸዋል። በተጨማሪም ከብቶች በአቅራቢያቸው ውሀ የሚያገኙ ሲሆን አርሶ አደሮች በበጋው ወራትም ቢሆን ለከብቶቻቸው መኖ ማዘጋጀት ችለዋል። አንዳንድ አርሶ አደሮችም የሰብል አይነቶችን ማለዋወጥ ጀምረዋል።

ተበከለ። የመንደሩ ነዋሪዎች ጤናም እንዲሁ ተቃወሰ።

መንደርተኞቹ ይህንን ለውጥ አክሽንኤይድ የወረዳውን የውሀ ማዕድንና ኤነርጂ ቢሮ፣ የዶንቤሴሩ የሴቶች ውሀ ማህበርና የአካባቢውን ማህበረሰቦች ለማስተባበር ያደረገው ጥረት ውጤት ነው ይላሉ። ይህም ቧንቧ በመዘርጋትና አንድ የውሀ ማከፋፈያ በመገንባት የዛኩና መንደር ነዋሪዎች ንጹህ ውሀ እንዲያገኙ አስችሏቸዋል። በመሆኑም 55 ሴቶችን ጨምሮ 107 ነዋሪዎች ለንጹህና አጠባባቅና ለመጠጥ ንጹህ ውሀ እንዲያገኙ አስችሏቸዋል።



የመስኖ ሥራ ማሻሻያ

የፓላ አርሶ አደሮች ማህበር የውሃ ችግር ለሰብል ምርት፣ ለከብት እርባታ፣ ለንጽህና አጠባበቅ መሰናክል ሆኖ የኖረበት ከፊል በረሀማ አካባቢ የሚገኝ ነው። ባለፉት ጊዜያት ወቅቱን በማይጠብቅ ዝናብ ምክንያት የሚከሰተው የሰብል መበላሸት በአካባቢው ያሉ አርሶ አደሮችን ህይወት ሲያመሳቅለው ቆይቷል። ከሠላሳ ዓመታት በፊት የመስኖ እርሻ ተመስርቶ ነበር። ሆኖም በጎሊ ቀር አስተራረስ ምክንያት የተፈጠረ ባይና ከበላይ ካለ ምንጭ የሚመጣ ደራሽ ጎርፍ ከጥቅም ውጪ አደረገው።

አክሽንኤይድ ከወረዳው የግብርና ልማት ቢሮና ከፓላ አርሶ አደሮች ማህበር ጋር በመተባበር 50 ሜትር የሚዘረጋ አነስተኛ የመስኖ ሥራ አሻሽሎ አደራጅቶታል።

የመስኖ ማህበር አባላት ከቦዩ መጀመሪያና ከቦዩ መጨረሻ ወደየእርሻዎቻቸው የሚሄዱ ቦዮች ቆፍረዋል። የወረዳው የግብርና ቢሮ የምስራቅን፣ ማጠናከሪያ ቧንቧ አምዶችን፣ ለመሠረት ሥራ የሚውል የአሸዋና የድንጋይ ወጪ ሲሸፍን የአክሽንኤይድ ከምጣ ፕሮግራም

ለስልጠና፣ ለውስጥ ድጋፍ፣ ለቢሮና ለመጋዘን ግንባታ 506,584.42 ብር ሰጥቷል።

የአንድ ሴት ልጅ አባት የሆነው የ36 ዓመቱ አይናቴ ዚባ የሚኖረው በፓላ መንደር ነው። በውሳኔ ባገኘው የእርሻ መሬት ላይ በቆሎውን እየሸለቀቀ የአነስተኛ የመስኖ እርሻ ጥቅሞችን ይዘረዝራል።

“ስሜቴን ለመግለጽ በቂ ቃላት የሉኝም። እንደገና የተወለድኩ ያህል ነው የተሰማኝ፣ ለዚህም አክሽንኤይድን አመሰግናለሁ። በመስኖው ክልል የእርሻ መሬት የለኝም፣ ወንድሜ በቆሎ የምዘራበት ሩብ ሄክታር ሰጠኝ። 15 ኩንታል አምርቼ 11 ኩንታሉን በ3,500 ብር ሸጥኩ። በፊት እንዲህ አልነበረምና በበጋው ወራት ይህን ያህል ገንዘብ በማግኘቴ በጣም ደስተኛ ነኝ። ለቤተሰቤም ምግብ አግኝቻለሁ። ዝናቡ ወቅቱን ጠብቆ ከጀመረ በሌሎች መሬቶቼ ተጨማሪ ምርቶችን ለማምረት አስባለሁ።

እንደምታዩት ምርታችንን ለመጨመር በቆሎና አትክልት ለመዝራት መሬቱን

እያዘጋጀን ነው። ከቦዩ ማዶ እንዳሉት ጎረቤቶቻችን ሳይሆን ላለፉት ሠላሳ ዓመታት ይህ ዕድል አምልጦናል። በዚህ ዓመት በዚህ ወገን ያለው ማህበረሰብም በዓመት ከ2-3 ጊዜ የማምረት ዕድል አግኝቷል። ታላቅ ወንድሜ በ1.5 ሄክታር መሬት ላይ ለቤት ከሚውል ምርት ሌላ ከበቆሎ የመስኖ እርሻ 14,000 ብር አግኝቷል።

የወደፊት ዕቅድ እዚሁ መሬት ማግኘትና እንደ ሽንኩርት፣ ቲማቲምና በርበሬ እንዲሁም በቆሎ የመሳሰሉ የገበያ ምርቶችን ማምረት ነው። እዚህ ያለንና ቀደም ብለን ነገሬ ያላልነውን ሀብት በተሻለ ለመጠቀም ተስፋችንን አለምልሞታል።”



ሴና

በሺህ የሚቆጠሩ ሴቶችና አጋሮቻቸው ጎጂ ልማዳዊ ድርጊቶችን እምነቶችን እንዲቋቋሙ ኃይል ሆኗቸዋል።

የትምህርት ቤቶች ማህበረሰቦችን፣ የህግ የ42 ዓመት ዕድሜ ያላት ፋቶ፣ በአሮሚያ ክልላዊ መንግሥት በሴና ወረዳ በአክሽንኤይድ የሚታገዝ የቁጠባና ብድር ሀብረት ሥራ ማህበር አባል ሆናለች። የነጋያ ብድርና ቁጠባ ሀብረት ሥራ ማህበር አባል በመሆኗ ያገኛቸውን ጥቅሞች እንዲህ ትገልጻቸዋለች።

“የምኖረው በሴና ወረዳ ቦኬ መንደር ነው። ሁለት ሴቶችን ጨምሮ የስድስት

ልጆች እናት ነኝ። በነጋያ ሀብረት ሥራ ማህበር የአባልነት ጥያቄዬ ተቀባይነት በማግኘቴ ደስተኛ ነኝ።

“አባልነቴ ከሌሎች ጥቅሞች በተጓዳኝ የሀብረት ሥራ ማህበሩ ሥራ አስፈጻሚ ኮሚቴ አባል እንድሆን፣ ብድር እንዳገኝ፣ ትርፍ እንድካፈልና በመሳሰሉት ጠቅሞኛል። ከሀብረት ሥራ ማህበሩ ያገኘሁት ብድር የማዳበሪያና የተሻሻሉ ዘሮች ወጪዎቼ የሸፈነልኝ ሲሆን በሬም መግዛት ችያለሁ። ይህም ዘርና ማዳበሪያ መግዛት ባለመቻሌ አነስተኛ መሬቴን ለትንሽ ገንዘብ ከማከራየትና የማይረባ ገንዘብ ከመቀበል አድናኛል።

በተጨማሪም ማረሻ በሬ አልነበረኝም። በአሁኑ ጊዜ ይህ ሁኔታ ሙሉ ለሙሉ ተለውጧል። በዚህ ዓመት ብቻ ብድሩን በመጠቀም በራሴ በሬ በማረሴና ማደበሪያና የተሻሻለ ዘር በመግዛቴ ከትንሹ መሬቴ 30 ኩንታል ስንዴ አስገብቻለሁ።

በመሆኑም በዚህ ዓመት የቤተሰቤ የምግብ ዋስትና ተረጋግጧል። በተጨማሪም ትርፉን ምርት ሽጮ ገንዘቡን የልጆቼ የትምህርት ቤት ወጪ ጨምሮ ለሌሎች ተግባራት አውየዋለሁ” ትላለች።