

Newsflash

AAE Celebrates IWD 2023 with different Activities



Semen Bench & Shey Bench LRP

ActionAid Ethiopia (AAE) Semen Bench LRP participated in 2023 IWD events and celebrations from kebele/school/ level up to regional levels. The organization's achievements in empowering women and girls were acknowledged with certificates.



Students from Kuka high school and students from Genja high school in Shey Bench in Kuka kebele and Semen Bench, respectively

celebrated International Women's Day with different activities:

- ❖ School girls discussed the historical context of March 8 and a strategy for future struggles to uphold their rights.
- ❖ Schoolgirls competed in different sports events.
- ❖ Girls in grades 9 and up took part in the question-and-answer session.

Males made up 576 of the Semen Bench Genja high school participants, while females made up 652 of the total 1228. There were 212 male participants and 150 female participants in all at Shey Bench. Kuka High School. Girls who excelled in sports and question-and-answer competitions received dictionaries and other reading materials from ActionAid Ethiopia.



IWD in Shey Bench Woreda Level

Participants in the IWD event included, among others: The following individuals are participated in the event:

- 160 female civil servants.
- 21 rural health advisors
- 21 women representatives from Kebele
- 3 Kebele SACCO Leaders
- 3 WWG leaders
- 10 WCY office leaders, a total of 218 women attended the event.

The main points of discussion were:

➔ The reason/s why March 8 is celebrated- Participants discussed on documents prepared by the Women's, Children and Youth Affairs Office.

➔ The rise in girls' disobedience towards their families and cultures, as well as the measures to be taken to stop such actions- raised by police participants.

The significance of childhood vaccination as emphasized by health extension workers.

➔ Effects of cervical cancer-explained by health extension workers.

➔ The leadership's inability to curtail and end VAWG in the community- brought up by women's organizations.

The participants then had a heated discussion and finally decided to struggle



and work to make the situation better moving forward. One courageous woman at the conference spoke about her battle



to become the kebele chairwoman. She is now the deputy chairwoman of the Shonga kebele and is well-liked in her



neighborhood. She claims that she is serving both men and women equally. "Using my position, I presided over and



guided several guys in the meetings,' she added. She advised the women gathered in the event by saying "if you want to become the woreda and zone administrator: **Fight for your rights and be visionary!**"

IWD Celebration at Bench Sheko Zone /Zonal Level/

A total of 215 people from 6 woredas participated in the event arranged by the zonal Women, Children and Youth (WCY) affairs office. The SPA project officer Yohannes Alemayehu gave information about the goal of AAE and gave explanation on how to avoid harmful tradition practices (HTP) and violence against women and girls (VAWG). He also



encouraged women to fight for their rights. At the closure of the event, the zone WCY affairs office awarded AAE with certificate of recognition.



Southwest Ethiopia Region IWD Celebration Event / Regional Level

Women delegates from six zones took part in the event accompanied by engaging songs, poems, and performances by kids from Azene Wube private school. Two fathers and four moms were present to accept the prize given to their kids by AAE. The gathering included six other high-performing saving and credit cooperatives as well as six



women's organizations. Military officials with elaborate decorations took their seats in a queue. Higher officials from the regional state participated in the event.

These were the main topics covered during the event:

- According to a concern voiced by the regional teachers association, the maternal leave that is granted by proclamation for women does not apply to female teachers.
- The shortage of GBRP/ gender based responsive budget- raised by WCY affairs office workers.
- The front leaders didn't assist in advancing women to middle level leadership.



- The issue of statutory-level women's health insurance services was raised by health workers.
- Health workers' concerns about the possibility of cervical cancer and fistula instances.
- The necessity for the regional teacher's organization to organize female teachers under a federation.

During the conversation, the participants were assigned tasks and shared responsibility to handle difficulties and what must be done right away. The awards program began towards the conclusion of received recognition from the speaker of the Regional House of Federation. The recognition was accepted in a similar manner by the other five.

the show with greater emotion and intensity. First: The stage organizer called the top six SACCOs, and among those, the AAE-supported Beha women's SACCO from Decha woreda came in first and

The second recognition program recognized six girls who scored highly on their Ethiopian university entrance exams as the finest of the best. While the students had already left for their different universities, their parents were there to receive the reward that AAE had purchased for the students



i.e., a high-quality touch-screen mobile phone that will aid them in their university studies.



entered the platform while crying. Although she didn't have a good phone like other girls, the mother expressed her gratitude to everyone. This concluded the award ceremony and made all the contestants cry alongside her. The LRP coordinator then gave the students the

The moment the stage manager called the name of one of the students, the audience's emotions were completely altered. The student's mother sobbed out, saying, **"My daughter has no father. I have raised her alone. I never thought she would reach this level."**

"I sell Injera in the open markets to support my family, the next mother said as she

congratulations message sent from Mrs.

Tinebeb Berhane, AAE Country Director. Finally, AAE received a certificate of appreciation stating that it has consistently supported WCY affairs operations. The overall number of participants was 147, including 45 men and 102 women.

AAE Awarded Students Information.

S/N	Name of student	Zone	Achieved point	Type of award	The relative who took the award
1	Emebet Saify	Bench sheko	545 /700	Mobil and certificate	Genet Tades/ mom/
2	Betlihem Mengesha	Konita	435/700	Mobile certificate and	Wagaye worku/mom
3	Samirawit Adamu	Sheka	462/700	Mobile	Getie Belay
4	Tigist Legese	Dawiro	488/700	Mobile certificate and	Amarech mekuriya /mom/
5	Selamawit Mola	Kaffa	502/700	Mobile certificate and	Mola Tamiru/father
6	Sayat Mesifin	Kaffa	431/600	Mobile certificate and	Mesifin Mengesha/father

Participants' summary

S/N	Event	Participant			Remark
		M	F	T	
1	Kuka high school /shey Bench	212	150	362	
2	Genja high school / semen Bench/	576	652	1228	.
3	Shey Bench at woreda level	10	208	318	
4	Bench sheko zone/at zonal level/	7	208	215	
5	Southwest Ethiopia/regional level	45	102	147	
	Total	850	1220	2070	