

OROMO SELF RELIANCE ASSOCIATION
(OSRA)

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I. SUMMARY

Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA) has been implementing various development projects comprising of Water supply and sanitation, cereal bank promotion, environmental protection, and community orientations and trainings relevant to all project components and cross cutting issues.

Supply of potable water to the rural farming community was one of the major activities performed by the organization in the reporting year. Eight shallow wells were developed in various rural kebeles of Illu and Tole districts. Like the previous years, all the drilled water wells were accompanied by different sanitation facilities like washing basins, shower rooms and private pit latrines. Attention was given to community awareness creation on the management of the developed schemes, environmental sanitation and personal hygiene. Different donors such as Oxfam America, Watercan Canada, CCFD, ETW and Switzerland Embassy have financed these projects.

Regarding cereal bank promotion, Establishment of new CBs; consolidation works for existing CB, facilitation of grain marketing activities and capacity building trainings were among the major activities performed in this component.

Problems related to protection of environment are global issues in general and specific to Oromia, where most of the forest coverage of the country and high population pressure are not in harmony. To combat the challenges, OSRA has been implementing environmental protection activities in Akaki district. The activities implemented under this component include rising and distributing of different tree seedlings. During the reporting period, various tree seedlings and fruit trees that would improve the livelihood of farm households were raised and distributed to the target communities. Moreover forage legumes to serve as animal feed, as cut and carry system, and to contribute to the improvements of soil fertility were also distributed to the communities in the intervention areas. In total, over 100,000 seedlings of different varieties were raised at the central nursery sites located at Dukem, and distributed to the communities in the intervention areas.

II. PLAN VERSUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

2.1. Water Supply and Sanitation

2.1.1 Water supply

In the reporting period, it was initially planned to develop five water wells (shallow) along with sanitation facilities in different Kebele administrations of Illu and Tole districts. Consequently, seven shallow wells with hand pumps were developed in different villages of Illu district, and one well in Dawa Bise kebele of Tole district. In total, eight shallow wells have been developed in the reporting year. The depth of the wells ranges from 60 to 76 meters with a discharge rate of 1.5 to 2.5 liters/second. OXFAM America, CCFD and Europe Third World financially supported the projects. In total as a result of this intervention, over 500 households (3000 people) were provided access to clean water supply sources and sanitation facilities.

2.1.2. Sanitation structures

Provision of clean water supply alone may not bring about the required changes to the target communities, unless sanitation aspect is also given due consideration. To this end, OSRA incorporates construction of sanitation structures along with all its water projects. In the year 2008, it was planned to construct 13 washing basins and shower rooms. Consequently, during the reporting period 11 washing basins with four partitions, 11 shower houses with two rooms, were constructed in different villages where the water wells have been developed.

2.1.3. Hygiene and sanitation education

- **Community training and sensitization**

This activity was implemented at different levels. First, user community members were sensitized on hygiene and sanitation at each scheme. Further training was delivered to the community members at the schemes. Then, selected users (with equal number of men and women) from each village were trained jointly at the district level. This has given opportunity to the participants from different villages to share their experiences and practices related to personal and environmental hygiene and sanitation. In addition to these trainings, the hygiene and sanitation communicators have reported to address/orient their neighbors and other community members through delivering messages on hygiene and sanitation.

- **Establishment of WATSAN committees, and hygiene & sanitation education communicators**

The water supply and sanitation facilities constructed in the target villages are managed by the user community themselves. Thus, to ensure effective management and sustainability of the schemes, structures need to be established at each village. Accordingly, water and sanitation (WATSAN) committees consisting of seven members (of which two are women) were set up for each water supply and sanitation scheme. The committees are responsible for the day-to-day management of water supply system and sanitation structures constructed in their respective villages. Furthermore, the committee collects users' fee from the community to be used for their schemes maintenance.

The committee is also responsible to mobilize the community, manage and administer fee collected from the users. This money is deposited in the bank account opened by the name of the water users. This is believed to contribute to the sustainability of the project. In addition to the water management committees, 70 hygiene and sanitation education communicators (10 per scheme) were elected. The hygiene and sanitation education communicators were elected in such a way that all the user community in each sub village/"Gere" is well represented. Each hygiene and sanitation education communicator is supposed to teach their neighbors about hygiene and sanitation. Moreover, they are linked to village health extension agents.

- **WATSAN Committee and Hygiene & Sanitation Education Communicators training**

Twenty one (21) WATSAN committee members and 40 hygiene and sanitation education communicators were trained on water supply system management and on hygiene and sanitation. Water management, personal hygiene, food and water hygiene and environmental sanitation were the major topics covered in the trainings. Under environmental sanitation special attention was given to the importance of pit latrine and its management. The trainings were delivered in collaboration with experts from the district water and health offices.

- **Community Technicians Trainings**

With the aim of putting a system for operation and maintenance of the constructed water supply systems, three community members selected from each village in which water wells were developed received training on operation and maintenance of the hand pumps. The trainees are expected to undertake minor maintenance of the hand pumps and replace some of the spare parts whenever necessary. The training was delivered in collaboration with experts from zone water office. In general, 21 people living in the seven villages attended the training.

- **Training of field staff and health extension agents**

In addition to the aforementioned training to the target communities, training of trainers (TOT) was organized on participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) approach. Training materials and manual on the theme were developed and used for the training. Six staff members of OSRA, eight health extension workers and 2 community organizers from Becho and Illu districts water and health offices attended five days TOT training organized at Tulubolo.

Table 1 Summary of Water Projects

S N	Name of the project	Location	Kebele	Villages	Donor	Type & Number of well	Beneficiaries (HH)
1	Illu Water Supply and sanitation	Illu	Alengo,	Alengo, migira, Tulubirke, Bomba	CCFD	4 shallow wells	280
2	Kule Water Supply and sanitation	Illu	Kule Gefersa	Kule1, kule 2 & Firo	Oxfam America	3 shallow wells	210
3	Tole water Supply and Sanitation	Tole	Dawabise	Dawabise	ETW	1 shallow well	70
4	Urago Xade Water supply & sanitation	Bacho	Keta Insilale	Tume, Boji, Abdela, & Deme	Water Can	4 shallow wells*	240
5	Abukeku water supply & Sanitation	Tole	Abukeku	Abukeku	Switzerland Embassy	1 shallow well*	70
6	Keta Soyoma water supply and sanitation	Bacho	Soyoma Genji, Kara Sedek, Lenchafi Kesheme	Yekaf malima, Kusaye, Bonge and Batu	Oxfam America	4 Shallow wells*	250

NB: * These wells were developed in 2007; however the shower rooms and washing basins associated with these wells have been constructed during the reporting period.

2.2. Promotion of Cereal banks/Farmers marketing organizations

2.2.1. Establishment of New Cereal Bank Associations (CBAs)

In the year 2008, it was planned to establish one-cereal banks (CBs) through revolving fund approach in Adaberga district. Accordingly, the CB was established in Bishan Dimo kebele of the district, French Embassy has financially supported this project.

Specific activities undertaken in establishments of this new CB include: mobilization and sensitization of communities in the selected kebele; organization of farmers into cereal bank; facilitate election of executives committees; developing bylaws and internal directives of the association and etc. General orientation and sensitization and specific trainings were also given to members and executive committees, respectively.

2.2.2. Construction of grain stores and Offices

In addition to organization of farmers into a cereal bank association, it was planned to construct three-grain stores. Accordingly, the grain stores were constructed in Adaberga and Akaki districts during the reporting period. Two of the stores were constructed in Adaberga district with financial support of French embassy. The remaining one CB was constructed in Akaki district. Moreover, though not initially planned, offices for two cereal banks in Becho area were completed during the year. These offices were also furnished with essential office furniture such as chairs, tables, benches, shelves and cash safes. The members of respective CBs participated in the construction activities through providing land for construction, mobilization of locally available construction materials and labor.

2.2.3. Trading Activities

In the reporting period, thirteen CBAs in Becho, Illu and Akaki districts involved in grain purchase and sales activities. In total, these CBAs purchased and sold about 764 quintals of different types of grains. The CBAs sold the grains after the general assembly of the respective associations instructed the executive committees to sell the grain in a way that maximize their profit. The table below presents a summary of grain transaction by CBAs.

Table 2 Grain transaction of Cereal Bank associations

SN	Name of CB	District	Total quantity purchased (quintal)	Total cost of purchase (ETB)	Total quantity sold (quintal)	Total sales income (ETB)	Gross margin (ETB)
1	Sedek	Becho	121	58,564.00	121	110,400.00	51,836.00
2	Hachalu Abeti	Becho	94.5	46,651.00	94.15	84,015.00	37,364.00
3	Abdi boru	Becho	48.43	22,178.00	49.23	45,773.30	23,395.30
4	Gudina Boru	Becho	13.81	6,787.70	13.81	11,048.00	4,260.30
5	Dhura Boru	Becho	109	56,047.00	110	88,733.60	32,686.60
6	Gurmu Jiregna	Becho	15.5	7,876.00	15.5	13,153.00	5,277.00
7	Bedhadha boru	Illu	14.8	6,951.30	15	9,315.10	2,363.80
8	Buti	Illu	9.15	4,481.60	9.15	8,219.95	3,738.35
9	Robi Keta	Illu	19.28	9,611.60	19.28	15,138.00	5,526.40
10	Bekelcha	Akaki	10	6,400.00	10*	9,000.00	2,600.00
11	Geda	Akaki	80.26	27,397.00	80	38,039.00	10,642.00
12	Insilale	Akaki	130	60,438.00	130	64,986.00	4,548.00
13	Borota	Akaki	98.66	38,292.00	98.7	49,720.00	11,428.00
	Total		764.39	351,675.20	765.82	547,540.95	195,865.75

2.2.4. Promotion of farmers marketing organization on Value chain program

Promotion of Farmers Marketing Organizations (FMOs) Competitiveness on Agricultural Commodity Value Chains program is being implemented by the consortium of 5 NGOs of which OSRA is one. OSRA has been implementing the program in four districts namely, Akaki, Becho, Ada'a Berga and Illu districts, of Oromia region. A total of 18 FMOs (12 Bacho-Illu Network, 3 Ada'a Barga network and 3 Aqaqi Network) were identified to engage in value chain program from the four districts.

Some of the activities performed in the reporting period include: sensitization of FMOs members on various issues of value chain approach, working capital mobilization and members size, etc; Training of staff and FMO leaders; FMOs were also assisted to prepare business plan; and Office construction for two FMOs.

2.2.5. Training, experience exchange and inter CB meetings

With the objective of building organizational capacity of the cereal banks, various training and experience exchange forums were organized during the reporting period. About 138 leaders of 23 cereal bank associations in the four districts (Akaki, Becho, Illu and Adaberga) were trained on business management skill and grain stock management and quality control. The trainings were provided in partnership with Facilitators for Farmers Access to Remunerative Markets P.l.c, district cooperative and agriculture offices. Apart from the leaders of the CBs, the members of all CBs were sensitized on grain marketing and the concept of value chain approach to marketing.

Organizing experience exchange programs among the cereal banks were one of the activities planned and implemented during the reporting period. One to two days experience sharing program was organized for executive committee members of cereal bank associations operating in Akaki, Becho and Illu districts with the major objective of sharing and learning from one another. Three to five executive committee members drawn from the CBAs and some members attended the event. After having identified one or two cereal bank associations that are thought to have strong management and experience, the executive committees of the remaining associations were taken to these identified CBs. On the programs, invited executive committee members and committee and some members of the host CBs conducted very fruitful discussions. Each CBAs presented and shared their activities, success stories, challenges faced in operation and solutions sought. This has improved the executive committees' capacity to manage their business and make decisions at appropriate time.

2.2.6. Legalization of CBAs

OSRA has planned to facilitate legalization of six CBAs operating in the three districts during the reporting period. Some of the activities performed in this regard include:

- ✓ Sensitize/orient members of the CBAs on the need to have legal status, the requirement and procedures for legalization, the cooperative proclamation etc.
- ✓ Assist CBAs to revise their existing bylaws as per the proclamation of cooperative
- ✓ Assist the CBAs in developing their business plan
- ✓ Publish the necessary vouchers for eight CBAs
- ✓ Facilitate the general assembly of the CBAs

Consequently, 3 CBAs or FMOs operating in Akaki district have obtained legal certificate to engage in grain marketing activities. The process for five CBs in Adaberga and six CBs in Becho districts are on progress.

2.3. Environmental Protection

Extensive agriculture has been commonly practiced in the project areas of OSRA due to increase in population size, reduced fertility of the land and poor capacity of the community to use yield-increasing inputs. As a result, expansion of farmland to marginalized and forest areas, as well as aggravating deforestation are becoming common and serious problems. To combat this, OSRA has been engaged in environmental promotion and conservation activities to enhance a forestation thereby raising different tree seedlings for distribution among the rural community.

Under this component, it was planned to raise 165,000 tree seedlings of different varieties (*Eucalyptus spp*, different fruit trees, *Gravelia*, *Coffee*, *R. prinoides* etc) at the central nursery sites established at Dukem, Akaki district. However, a total of 100,774 seedlings were raised and distributed to the target beneficiary and surrounding communities on free and sales basis. Due to shortage of water source for the nursery site at a very critical time for germination of seeds, only about 75% of the plan was achieved this year.

2.4. Women Empowerment

Even if women constitute half of the total population in Oromia having immense contribution to overall development, there has been imbalance of power that places them in the disadvantaged position. As the family structure has for long been dominated by patriarchal system, women largely suffer from poverty and discrimination of all forms. This is to say, the rural population at large is governed by societal norms and values that legitimize male dominance over women in ownership and access to resources, participation, decision making and other pertinent spheres. Due to this, women have less opportunity to education, less access to public goods and services and health facilities among others. They are also vulnerable and exposed to incidences of sexual harassment, rape, as well as harmful traditional practices that include female genital mutilation and early marriage.

Hence, apart from mainstreaming gender issues in its all project components, OSRA along with other partner organizations namely: Oromo grass root development initiative (HUNDEE), facilitators for change Ethiopia (FCE), Rift valley Children and Women Association (RVCWA) and

Forum for Oromo Studies (WAQO) has been implementing women empowerment project in Illu and Adaberga districts.

In the reporting period, a series of workshops such as woreda planning workshop, women and men separate and joint workshops were conducted in Adaberga district. Furthermore, human rights education for relevant government functionaries and women's right institutionalization workshops, and eight community conferences were undertaken in both districts- Illu and Adaberga districts.

Prior to implementation of the project in Adaberga district, planning workshop was conducted in Inchini town; the capital of Adaberga district. The workshop was held for two days and 50 participants (34 rural kebele administrations and 16 relevant district line departments) attended the workshop.

After elaboration on the objectives and implementation modalities of the project, the following issues were addressed in the workshop:

- Broadly assessed with the participants on status of women in terms of rights and protection, and identification of harmful traditional practices/ gender-based violence negatively affecting physical, mental and moral integrity of women and girls;
- Analyzed the extent to which women have access to and control over marital property and their decision-making power over use and utilization of household property;
- Subdivided the district into four sub-districts or centers (Inchini, Muger, Olonkomi and Kerkeresa) where the subsequent workshops will be organized and conducted from the point of view of accessibility and population density; and
- Jointly developed selection criteria of potential participants for subsequent workshops based on who will contribute best to the success and quality of subsequent workshops.

Following the planning workshop, women and men separate workshops were conducted for three days each. About 400 women and 400 men attended the workshops held in four centers of the district. The women and men participants of the workshops were assisted to assess their life situation against the concept of equality, their access to and control over property, including land, and the role women have in household decision-making process and their participation in community affairs; women's inheritance rights, and their protection from harmful traditional

practices; the extent to which different marriage forms and arrangements take into account women's interests and concerns. They were also sensitized on the provision of the law regarding different issues and aspects of women's life in the rural context.

After separate women and men workshops, 100 participants (50 women and 50 men) were selected and attended a joint workshop for two days in each center. These workshops were conducted with the following two main objectives: to build common censuses on separately built censuses during men separate and women separate workshops; and to prepare pre conditions required for community conferences/ Seera Tuma/

Following the joint workshops, community conferences were conducted in each of the centers. Accordingly, over four thousand community members attended the colorful community conferences in each of the centers. Similarly, four community conferences were conducted in the four centers of Illu district in the reporting period.

Human rights education to government functionaries and institutionalization workshop were another activities implemented related to women empowerment project. The training was offered to District level officials and Kebele chairpersons as well as for kebele women's affairs and social courts. A total of 284 government functionaries at district and kebele levels participated in this three days workshop held in Illu and Adaberga districts. Participants from the kebeles include kebele chairpersons, social courts, and women associations. The trainings mainly focused on Human Rights Instruments and Conventions, FDRE Constitution in light of Human Rights, The New Family Code of Ethiopia/Oromia, Conventions on the Rights of Women and Children (those ratified by Ethiopia), The Ethiopian Criminal Code in light of Women's and Children's Rights as well as Duties and Responsibilities of Duty Bearers.

As a way of Institutionalizing women's right in the existing government structure, women's right defense committees were established at kebele and district level in Illu and Adabarga districts. The committee at each level comprises of nine members from the kebele/district administrations, elders, social court members at kebele level, women's affairs at kebele and district level, representatives from community based organizations and schools.

2.5. Enhancement of Protection of Basic Services (PBS)

The protection of basic services (PBS) project, which is part of Ethiopia Social Accountability Program, is a new project in Ethiopia that intends to piloting and adapting best practices as well as creating a learning initiative through building stakeholders capacity with the approach. Enhancement of Community Based Basic Service Protection (Pilot) Project was initiated as part of PBS project by Facilitator for change Ethiopia (FCE), OSRA and Impact Integrated Development. Its objective is to improve the provision of quality primary education through institutionalizing social accountability (SA) among service users and providers as well as through the engagement of service providers and the communities.

OSRA has been implementing this project since February 2008 in partnership with FCE and Impact Integrated Development. The project is a pilot project funded by the multi trust fund under the World Bank. Moreover, it has been under implementation in seven districts with emphasis on primary school service mainstreaming gender. OSRA is implementing the project in Becho district. It particularly, targets five kebeles and two primary schools namely; Awash Bune and Bebeli primary schools.

Some of the major activities performed during the reporting period include: baseline survey in the selected schools; familiarization workshops to stakeholders at kebele and district levels; awareness creation workshops on fundamental principles of the constitution, fundamental rights and freedoms, democratic rights, powers and functions of the government and states, and the national policy principles and objectives with particular reference to economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives.

In addition to series of workshops conducted for service users and services providers at various levels, community scorecards exercise were administered for each group. Staffs training on the tools of social accountability and experience exchange programs were also among the activities targeted to build the capacity of the staff.

2.6. Promotion of Zero grazing and improved heifer production

The project was implemented in four kebele administrations of Akaki and Ada'a districts. The overall objective of the pilot project is to create or improve demand for improved heifer production and zero grazing, and thereby contribute to the alleviation of pressures on grazing land which aggravates degradation of natural resources. The project is envisaged to organize resource poor community members, with at least 50% women, into solidarity groups and provide/grant to some of the group members with improved heifers whereby subsequent offspring will be transferred from one group member to the other under zero grazing system. The heifer transfer mechanism, *daberasa ananii*, is traditional Oromo self help mechanisms where people used to support and care for each other by providing cows.

Some of the major activities implemented in the project include: organizing planning workshops, community sensitization on zero grazing; selection and organizing target groups; training and provision of heifers to the identified beneficiaries. The project has directly benefited 140 households (55% of the target group are women) from the four selected kebeles of Akaki and Ada'a districts. These target beneficiaries were organized into ten groups having 14 members each. Each group has developed its own bylaw and internal rules and regulations on how the offspring can be transferred to those members in the group waiting their turn. Then, 70 heifers (Borena breeds) were purchased in collaboration with district agriculture and rural development offices, and distributed to 70 selected beneficiaries in the groups. Moreover, seeds and seedlings for fodder production were also provided to the target households in the project area.

Table 3.--- Beneficiaries by kebele

District	Kebele	Target beneficiaries		
		Men	Women	Total
Akaki	Insilale	29	27	56
	Chefetuma	-	14	14
Ada'a	Dankaka	14	14	28
	Godino	19	23	42
Total		62	78	140

2.7. Trainings and community sensitization

Building the capacity of the beneficiary communities through sensitization or orientation and specific trainings has been integrated in all projects OSRA implements. In this regard, a number of activities have been accomplished. Community orientation/sensitization on design and implementation of projects, their role and responsibilities in implementation and on issues such as personal hygiene and environmental sanitation were conducted for the target communities in each kebeles.

2.8 Water Management, hygiene and Sanitation

The water schemes developed and sanitation facilities constructed have to be managed by the communities themselves. It is believed that this will contribute to the sustainability of the schemes in particular and the project in general. To meet this objective, a management committee (known as WATSAN committee) consisting of seven members of whom two are women was established in each village where the schemes were developed. Then, these committees were given specific training for two days on topics such as management of the schemes, hygiene and sanitation, and sustainability of the schemes. Besides, separate training sessions were organized for selected individuals from different Kebeles of Illu district on sanitation and gender issues. In general, a total of 40 hygiene and sanitation education communicators were trained in Illu districts.

2.8.1 Environmental Health & Sanitation

Although clean environment is an indispensable element of rapid local development achievements, the heavily biomass based energy consumption is one of the factors causing environmental degradation in Ethiopia in general and in Oromia in particular. Apart from this, most of the rural communities commonly practice open field defecation in the farmland, in the garden as well as under the bush around the home that negatively affect their health.

In order to mitigate such problems, improved stoves were distributed to twenty selected model farm households with the objective of demonstrating alternative source of energy, which minimizes volume of wood materials used as sources of energy, to contribute positively to healthy environment.

Likewise, community members from six kebele administrations of Akaki district were given orientation and training on effects of deforestation, soil degradation, and environmental pollution, personal hygiene and sanitation. The trainings were organized in four centers.

2.8.2 Horticulture Development

Promotion of horticultural crop production is one of the components of 'Food Security and Water Development Project' in Akaki district. The objective is to minimize the extent of vitamin deficiency and create alternative source of income especially for women in the project areas. In this regard, 100 women were organized into ten horticulture producing groups; provided theoretical and practical training on use of vegetables, land preparation, and methods of planting the crops; different horticulture seeds such as beetroot, carrot, Swiss chard, tomato, and cabbage were distributed to the members; agricultural tools such as stubble hoes, digging hoes and rakes were distributed to the group members. Demonstration on food preparation from vegetables was also undertaken.

Family planning and HIV/AIDS

2.8.3 In addition to the training, 10 HIV/AIDS patients received monthly financial support

In order to combat the problem that the ever-increasing population growth creates on development, orientations and trainings on family planning and HIV/AIDS was incorporated in the project and provided to 200 communities in the project areas in Akaki districts. During the reporting period, 20 students who are orphans had received materials such as exercise books, pens, bags and school registration fees. Moreover, IEC materials were developed and used in the community sensitization and various trainings.

2.9. Other activities and events

- External evaluation of food security and water development project and visit by WSM delegates

An external evaluation of the project was conducted by a team comprising of an expert from South Research, Belgium and two local consultants from Ethiopia in May, 2008. The objective of the evaluation was to assess the relevancy, effectiveness, and impacts of different components of the project. It was further aimed at examining the sustainability of each component and thereby come up with recommendations for better future planning and intervention.

Consequently, the evaluation report has come out with positive and constructive results and changes in terms of the concrete benefits that accrue to the target beneficiary communities. Furthermore, the evaluation has identified areas that require further strengthening so that the results and impacts brought by the intervention will be sustained.

Following the evaluation, a delegate from WSM led by the secretary general visited the project areas in September 2008 so as to validate the findings of the evaluation and discuss with the local partners on the recommendations formulated and the way forward. The delegates held discussions with the beneficiary communities on the field and the staff of the organization and validated the findings of the evaluation. The delegate further discussed on how to incorporate the recommendations and future collaboration of WSM with the organization.

- External evaluation of promotion of zero grazing and improved heifer production project

The evaluation of the pilot project was conducted in October 2008 by TAM Consult. The evaluation assessed the performance and impacts of the project using key evaluation criteria/questions such as relevancy, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

Consequently, the findings of the evaluation indicated that the project has achieved the intended objectives and resulted in encouraging outcomes to the target beneficiaries. However, the evaluation showed a lot need to be done to further strengthen the solidarity groups and linking the groups to artificial insemination (AI) services at the district agriculture and rural development offices.

Table 4 Summary of physical Plan versus achievements of the year 2006 & 2007 and achievement variation of the two years

No.	Project	Unit	2006			2007			2008		
			Plan	Achieved	% age	Plan	Achieved	%	Plan	Achieved	Variation
1	Water supply and sanitation										
	Deep well	No.	-	-	-						
	Shallow well	"	7	8	114.3	10	10	100	5	8	3
	Washing basins	"	7	8	114.3	10	8	80	13	11	(2)
	Shower rooms	"	7	8	114.3	10	8	80	13	11	(2)
	Pit latrines	"	14	23	164.3	80	32	40			
2	Cereal banks establishments										
	New CB	No.	3	3	100	10	9	90	1	1	0
	Construction of CBs' offices	"	-	-	-	11	6	54.5	2	2	0
	Construction of CBs' warehouses	"	-	-	-	10	7	70	2	2	0
3	Environmental protection										
	Seedling raised & distributed	No.	137,500	120,000	87.3	300,000	296,425	98.8	165,000	100,774	(62,226)

No.	Project	Unit	2006			2007			2008		
			Plan	Achieved	% age	Plan	Achieved	%	Plan	Achieved	Variation
4	Trainings & sensitization										
	Water and sanitation	"	1,115	1,075	96.41	1250hh	1950	156	350hh	500hh	150hh
	Horticulture development	"	50	68	136	80hh	140	175	100	100	0
	Family planning & HIV/AIDS	"	100	80	80	181hh	140	77	450	200	(250)
5	Gender sensitization workshops	"	20	20	100	13events	13	100			

3 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

3.1. Challenges

One of the main challenges faced in the reporting year is the escalating price of construction materials and costs of drilling companies because of inflation. This has resulted in delay of some activities and even reduction of some project activities.

Facilitation of legalization of the FMOs couldn't be speeded up as initially expected. Convincing the respective district cooperative offices to cooperate and assess the status of FMOs was not easy initially. In fact, the cooperation of the offices varies from place to place. Almost all initially resisted to recognize the FMOs as marketing cooperatives as opposed to multipurpose cooperative established by the respective offices. After repeated discussion and lobbying, we managed to ease the tension and got their support. The root cause for the resistance on the part of the cooperative office has been lack or limited knowledge on the rules of the land and the activities of the FMOs in relation to that of multipurpose coop.

3.2. Lessons learned

During the course of implementation of different projects, we have learned that bringing the intended behavioral changes on the part of the target groups takes time and requires more efforts. Consequently, it is realized that trainings, sensitization and awareness creation activities need to be given equal emphasis as service provision.

OSRA has been implementing three projects in partnership with other similar NGOs such as FCE (value chain promotion, PBS and women empowerment projects); HUNDEE (women empowerment and value chain promotion projects); Rift Valley Children and Women Association (RVCWA) and WAQO (on women empowerment project); ERSHA and CDI on value chain promotion project. This networking with similar NGOs has given opportunities to learn from others and share our experiences. The organization has learnt a lot from these partnership and synergy among sister organizations. It was learned that a concerted effort could help in bring about significant changes in terms of achieving the intended objectives, which is improving the livelihood of the target communities.

4 CONCLUSION

During the reporting period, different projects that have contributed to the betterment of the livelihood of the target rural communities has been implemented.

The major components include: water supply and sanitation; cereal bank promotion; environmental protection; women empowerment; protection of basic services, promotion of zero grazing and community training. With regard to water supply and sanitation, eight shallow wells were drilled in different Kebeles of our intervention areas in Illu and Tole districts and the community has accessed potable water. These shallow wells were accompanied with washing basins and shower rooms.

Farm households in our project areas were also assisted to organize themselves into cereal bank associations. As a result, farmers in the project areas have got alternative marketing outlet for their produce. Apart from economic benefits, CBAs have been contributing to strengthen social linkage among members of the CBAs as they give members a forum where they can discuss various issues pertinent to their livelihood. Moreover, trainings were offered to the beneficiaries on different topics related to every components of projects implemented in the year.

These days the issue of environment and development become the concern of the global agenda as it mainly affects human security in terms of basic needs, threats and calamities. In lieu of this fact, OSRA engaged to continuously promote the environmental protection as one of its main program components. The undertakings in this respect show that the communities become aware to avoid cutting of trees and has been engaged in planting various indigenous trees.

The series of workshop and customary law setting methods applied while implementing the women empowerment project depict that the project has been designed to tackle the problem women face in an appreciative enquiry ways through maintaining the communities' own culture. Changes brought in this manner lead to the conclusion that women proved their equal right with men in all walks of life not only before formal laws, but also before the set customary laws. Likewise, as the community values its culture more, practical changes have been realized with respect to respecting women's right as per the customary laws endorsed during the community conferences.

The implementation of Enhancement of Community Based Basic Service Protection Project is a new initiative that brings closer service users and providers for common end. So far, the target kebeles and schools realized the duties and responsibilities of duty bearers as well as internalized the issue of accountability, answerability and responsiveness with respect to protecting and improving primary education service delivery status.

The target community started to apply those various trainings and community sensitizations offered

in areas of water management, hygiene and sanitation, environmental health and sanitation, horticulture development, family planning and HIV/AIDS during the year 2008. It can thus be said that the types and the contents of the trainings were designed in such a way to effectively address the concern of the target communities.

In general, all the project components implemented have been addressing the prime needs of the target communities. These projects have been initiated from the communities themselves, as they want to take their parts to be self reliant than depending on external body to tell them what to do. The communities are also capable to use and manage the project outputs in sustainable manner as far as projects are not imposed by outsiders.

Hence, the indigenous nature of OSRA and its familiarity with the local people further created best opportunity on how to work with the local institution for development. Besides, OSRA implements projects in partnership with relevant government stakeholders and local NGOs through learning and adapting best practices with strong project management and coordination skills.