

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. Ten shallow wells were developed in various rural kebeles of Becho and Tole districts. Like the pervious 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, and Switzerland Embassy have financed these projects. Moreover, two schools Abusera in Akaki and Soyoma in Becho have been supplied with clean water sources through linking the schools to the existing bore holes.

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. During the reporting period, farm households in the intervention areas were organized into nine cereal bank associations.

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 initiated implementation of environmental protection activities in Akaki and Becho districts. The activities implemented under this component include rising of different tree seedlings to be planted as homestead and woodlot by farmers. Since few years, these tree seedlings are diversified to include fruit trees targeting income and food diversification of the users and also forage legumes to serve as animal feed, as cut and carry system, and to contribute to the improvements of soil fertility. During the reporting year, over 290,000 seedlings of different varieties were raised at the two nursery sites, one in Becho and the other in Akaki, and distributed to the target communities.

II. PLAN VERSUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

2.1. Water Supply and Sanitation

2.1.1. Deep Well

In food security and water supply project, it was planned to provide potable water for the target community living in two-peasant association, namely Abusera and Dawara Tino Peasant Associations (PAs) in Akaki district. This component consists of drilling of two deep wells, construction of distribution points (reservoir, water points, cattle trough, washing basins and shower rooms) and training of water and sanitation (WATSAN) committees on water management and sanitation and the user communities at large.

Accordingly, the two water supply schemes were developed, except construction of distribution structures in Dawara Tino, which was planned to be accomplished during the reporting period, 2007.

In the year 2007, construction of distribution structures such as Reservoir, water point, cattle troughs, and washing basin and shower rooms and generator house was contracted out to a contractor. Consequently, a reservoir with a capacity of 25m³, water point with 6 facets, washing basin with four compartments, shower house with two rooms, cattle trough and generator house were completed and put into service to the target community. The support extended by Oromia Water Resource Bureau in providing generator and submersible pump during implementation is worth mentioning. The scheme was officially inaugurated in the presence of Belgian Ambassador to Ethiopia, board members, government officials, invited guests and the beneficiary communities in February 2008.



Water tanker, cattle trough, water point and communal washing basins

2.1.2. Shallow Well

In the reporting period, it was planned to develop ten shallow wells along with sanitation facilities in different Kebele administrations of Becho and Tole districts. Consequently, nine shallow wells with hand pumps were developed in five kebeles of Becho district, and one well in Abukeku kebele of Tole district. In total, ten shallow wells have been developed in the reporting year. WaterCan Canada, OXFAM America, CCFD and Switzerland Embassy financially supported the projects. In total as a result of this intervention, over 500 households were provided with access to clean water supply sources.

Communities collecting water



2.1.3. Clean Water Supply for Schools

With the overall objective of creating health and favorable learning and teaching environment, OSRA in collaboration with WaterCan Canada provided clean water supply, sanitation facilities, and hygiene and sanitation training for two selected schools in Becho and Akaki districts. The selected schools were Soyoma primary school in Becho, and Abusera junior secondary school in

Akaki. The planned activities in the project were: connecting the schools to the existing nearby water sources, provision of storage tanks, and construction of water points and hand washing facilities, construction of dry latrines for girls and boys separately, and promotion of school based and community based hygiene and sanitation education.

Accordingly, in the reporting period, for Soyoma School about 500 m length pipeline was connected, storage tank with 5,000 lit. Capacity was provided and two hand washing basins with four facets each and water point with six facets was constructed. In Abusera, a pipelining works of 600 meters connecting the existing borehole, which was developed by OSRA to the school storage tank, has been completed in the year 2007. Three hand washing basins with four facets each were constructed. School communities in both schools are currently utilizing clean water. With regard to sanitation facilities, four blocks dry latrine (two for each school) were constructed and availed for the schools communities. Moreover, school based WATSAN committee was established and the linked with the community based WATSAN committee. Training session was also organized for these committees jointly. Besides, school based health club was established and trained in both schools in the reporting period. The health clubs comprises of 73 students (42 at Abusera and 31 at Soyoma primary school). In general, about 1300 students and communities of the schools were benefited from this intervention. Table 1 and 2 summarizes the water supply and sanitation facilities developed by the project in the two schools.

Table 1. Water supply facilities developed

No	Name of the School	Water Supply Facilities	No. of Students		
			Male	Female	Total
1	Soyama Primary school	One Water Tanker (5000 liters of holding capacity) was fixed and connected to the main borehole with 500 meter pipeline	213	204	417
		One water point with six taps and two hand washing facilities with four taps each were constructed			
2	Abusera Primary School	Pipeline of 600meter was connected to the existing tanker (2000 liters of holding capacity)	527	351	878
		Three washing facilities with four taps each			

Table 2. Sanitation Facilities developed by the project

No	Name of the School	Sanitation Facilities		No. of Students		
		Existing	Developed by the Project	Male	Female	Total
1	Soyama Primary school	One block with four rooms	<u>Two blocks:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> One block for boys, one block for girls (each block consists four latrine rooms and two shower rooms) <input type="checkbox"/> Each block is connected with a four tap water point used for hand washing after toilet	213	204	417
2	Abusera Primary School	One block with four rooms	<u>Two blocks:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> One block for boys (divided into eight latrine rooms and two shower rooms) <input type="checkbox"/> One block for girls (divided into six latrine rooms and two shower rooms) <input type="checkbox"/> Each block consists four tap water points used for hand washing after toilet.	527	351	878

2.1.4. 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. Accordingly, during the reporting period 8 washing basins with four partitions, 8 shower houses with two rooms, 32 demonstrative pit latrines were constructed. The performance in the construction of pit latrines was enhanced as a result of campaign made by the Becho district health office this year; almost all farm households prepared their own latrines. As a result, OSRA tried to capitalize on the training and awareness creation on the use and relevance of latrines rather than subsidizing construction of demonstrative latrines. In the reporting period, two water supply schemes out of the ten water wells developed were accompanied by the sanitation structures. Construction of the remaining sanitation structures for the remaining schemes/ villages will be completed in the coming year. Moreover, two dry latrines were constructed for two-cereal bank association with financial support of CCFD.

Table1. Summary of Water Projects

SN	Name of the project	Location	Kebele	Villages	Donor	Type & quantity of well	Beneficiaries (HH)
1	Urago Xade Water supply & sanitation	Bacho	Keta Insilale	Tume, Boji, Abdela, & Deme	WaterCan	4 shallow wells	240
2	Creation of CB & water supply	Bacho	Urago Xade	Urago	CCFD	1 shallow well	60
3	Abukeku water supply & Sanitation	Tole			Switzerland Embassy	1 shallow well	70
4	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

2.2. Cereal bank Promotion

2.2.1. Introduction

A Cereal Bank association refers to a group of farm households having similar concern and organized on voluntary basis. This institution is believed to create an alternative market outlet to safeguard the farming communities from improper market exploitation and serve the members in supplying seed and/or food grain during lean period. Hence, it ensures food security as well as social capital. It also creates a forum where members discuss on their common social and economic issues.

Besides, the profit generated in the process of purchase and sales of agricultural produces enables members to accumulate capital and hence creates a base for self-initiative development.

2.2.2. Establishment of New Cereal Bank Associations (CBAs)

In the year 2007, it was planned to establish ten cereal banks (CBs), of which six will be operated through matching fund modality and the remaining through revolving fund approach. Accordingly, establishment of nine CBs were completed in different kebeles of Becho, Illu, Akaki and Adaberga districts. Six CBs, which operates with matching fund modality, were established in Becho and Illu districts with the support of ICCO. Where as the remaining three CBs, which operate with revolving fund modality, were established in Becho, Adaberga and Akaki districts. CCFD and French Embassy financed the CBs established in Becho and Adaberga, respectively. The one in Akaki district was established from the revolving fund pulled out from the former cereal banks supported by WSM.

Specific activities undertaken in establishments of these new CBs include: mobilization and sensitization of communities in selected villages; organization of farmers into cereal banks; facilitate election of executives committees; developing bylaws and internal directives of the association; mobilization of members' contribution and registration fee, and opening account by the name of a CBA at WASASA MFI. General orientation and sensitization and specific trainings were also given to members and executive committees, respectively.

Table 2. New CBAs established during the year

No	Cereal bank associations (CBAs)			Member size		
	Name	Location	Donor	Male	Female	Total
1	Dhara Boru	Soyoma/Becho	CCFD	70	4	74
2	Sique Women Cereal bank	Adaberga	French Embassy	1	100	101
3	Borota	Borota/Akaki	WSM	68	4	72
4	Badhadha Boru	Alango Tulu	ICCO	46	4	50
5	Burqa Gudina	Jigdu Mida	ICCO	26	1	27
6	Buti	Buti Talgo	ICCO	43	1	44
7	Robi Kata	Kata	ICCO	39	1	40
8	Hawi Boru	Batu Chiracha	ICCO	38	3	41
9	Gurmu Jiregna	Qobo	ICCO	33	3	36
Total						

2.2.3. Construction of warehouse and Offices

In addition to organization of farmers into a cereal bank association, it was planned to construct ten warehouses and eleven offices for the associations. However, only seven warehouses were constructed during the reporting period. Warehouses for two CBs supported by French embassy were not constructed because of delay in release of the fund. Moreover, offices for six CBs were completed during the year. Out of these offices, three 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.



2.2.4. Trading Activities

i. Cereal Banks in Akaki Districts

Four CBAs in Akaki district involved in grain purchase and purchased a total of 1,914 quintals of different types of grains during the reporting period. The general assembly of the respective associations instructed the executive committees to sell the grain in a way that maximize their profit. However, despite repeated efforts the CBs could not sell their grain as expected. Of the total grains purchased by the CBs, about 499 quintals of grains were sold till December 31, 2007, while about 1,297 quintals were sold in January and February. The table bellow presents a summary of grain transaction by CBAs.

Table 3. Grain transaction of Cereal Bank associations in Akaki Districts

SN	Name of CBAs	Donor/yr established	Grain purchased		Grain sold		Gross Profit	Remark
			Qt	Birr	Qt	Birr	Birr	
1	Bekelcha	Wsm/1999	696.26	303,875.00	581.29	284,393.00	(19,482)	Unsold 114 qt
2	Guddissa	Wsm/2004	437.69	167,993.00	430.53	158,390.64	(9,602.36)	Unsold 7
3	Geda	Wsm/2004	495.75	156,733.00	498.05	150,276.70	(6456.30)	
4	Insilale*	WSM/2006	284.4	119,310.00	286.00	118,628.00	(682)	
Total			1,914.00	747,911.00	1,795.87	711,688.34		

* 87 quintals were sold to members

ii. Cereal Banks in Becho Districts

In the reporting year, six CBAs were engaged in grain purchase activities, out of which three are operating under matching fund modality. In general, these CBs purchased 1,336.39 quintals of different types of grain during the season. However, not all the CBs sold all what they have purchased. About 973 quintals of the total purchased grains were sold as of December 31, 2007. The detail of the purchase and sales activities is shown in table 4 bellow.

Table 4 Grain transactions of CBAs in Becho Districts

SN	Name of CBAs	Donor/Yr established	Grain Purchased		Grain sold		Gross Profit	Remark
			Qt	Birr	Qt	Birr	Birr	
1	Sedek*	WSM/2001	671	274,099.05	671	300,395.64	26,296.6	
2	Gudina Alegore***	CCFD/2005	293.80	117,844.00	237.26	110,105.70		57 qt unsold
3	Hachalu Abeti **	CCFD/2006	293.59	116,616.00	292.32	133,497.65	16,881.65	
4	Abdi boru	ICCO/2006	46.5	18,057.00	45.70	21,210.50	3,153.50	
5	Gudina Boru	ICCO/2006	23.5	9,449.00	17.69	8,402.75	(1046.25)	
6	Burqa Gudina	ICCO/2007	8.0	3,074.00	8	3,434.00	360.00	
Total			1,336.39	539,139.05	1,272	577,046.24		

* 8 quintals were sold to members

** . 62.32 quintals were sold to members

*** 5 -sold to members

iii. Cereal Banks in Ada'a berga Districts

Five cereal banks purchased 1,584 quintals of grain. Because of problems related to escalating price of grains for seed and food, members of the CBAs appealed for grain on credit basis to their respective associations. Consequently, the general assembly of each association passed a decision on terms of grain sales to members. Accordingly, 222 quintals of grain was sold to members of the five CBAs in the district. As the decision of the general assembly of respective CBAs, the loan will be repaid in cash after harvest. The detail on purchase and sales activities is given in table 5 below.

Table 5. Grain transaction of CBAs in Ada'a berga Districts

SN	Name of CBAs	Donor/Yr established	Grain Purchased		Grain Sold		Gross profit	Remark
			Qt	Birr	Qt	Birr	Birr	
1	Borofa *	WSM/2000	385.50	115,587.00	386.16	139,310.20	23,723.20	
2	Worobo **	French Embassy/2005	238.44	91,056.10	116.04	49,449.90	-----	122.04 q unsold
3	Hunde Gudina ***	French Embassy/2005	262.70	92,136.43	47.94	14,805.39	-----	215 q unsold*
4	Qubse ****	Oxfam America/2005	361.67	131,969.12	372.00	153,921.66	21,952.54	
5	Gudetu *****	Oxfam America/2005	336.02	121,848.00			-----	Not sold
Total			1584.33	552,596.65	922.14	357,487.15		

* 48 quintals sold to members ** 75 quintals sold to members *** 39.5 quintals sold to members **** 36 quintals sold to members ***** 37.5 quintals sold to members

2.3. Environmental Protection

Under this component, it was planned to raise 300,000 tree seedlings of different varieties (*Eucalyptus spp*, different fruit trees, *Gravelia*, *Coffee*, *R. prinoides* etc) at two different districts, Akaki and Becho, in the reporting period. However, a total of 296,425 seedlings were raised and distributed to the target beneficiary and surrounding communities on free and sales basis. The trees were planted on individuals' homestead and woodlots plantations. In addition, OSRA participated in the tree planting campaign undertaken in the district during the verge of the Ethiopian Millennium celebration. It provided tree seedlings for free and logistic supports during the plantation activities in both districts.

2.4. Gender Empowerment

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 district.

In the reporting period, a series of workshops such woreda planning workshop, women and men separate, and joint workshops were conducted.

Prior to implementation of the project, the planning workshop was conducted for two days in Teji town; the capital city of Illu district. Forty-seven participants drawn from relevant line departments and kebele administrations 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 where subsequent workshops will be organized and conducted from the point of view of accessibility and population density; and
- Jointly developing 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. On these joint workshops, participants were made to differentiate the distinction between biological and social construct; they were also sensitized on the family Code and Penal Code to demonstrate and explain what the law says regarding all issues under the discussion. Finally, consensus was reached to bring the issues to the community at large in community conference, which will be held in the coming year were identified on these workshops.

Men separate workshop



Joint workshop



2.5. 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.

2.5.1. 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 two days for selected individuals from different Kebeles of Becho district on sanitation and gender issues. In general, a total of 89 hygiene and sanitation education communicators were trained along with 70 members of the WATSAN committee in Becho and Tole districts. Moreover, similar trainings were provided to target communities and WATSAN committees in Dawara Tino Peasant Associations. Besides WATSAN committee, practical training was organized for selected individuals from each water scheme so that they will serve as community technicians. They are responsible to maintain minor maintenances if incase needed.

2.5.2. Environmental Health & Sanitation

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.

Furthermore, 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.

2.5.3. 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, 80 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 for

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. Besides, orientation and trainings on modern agricultural technologies and some agricultural extension methodologies was given to target farm households.

2.5.4. Family planning and HIV/AIDS

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 project and provided to 140 communities in the project areas in Akaki districts.

Moreover, along with the district health center, five days trainings was organized and provided for 17 traditional birth attendants and village health workers so that the trainee will be able to provide improved family planning, reproductive health information and services of delivery to the beneficiary community especially in rural areas where there is no health services and/or facilities.

Table 6 Summary of physical Plan versus achievements of the year 2006 & 2007 and achievement variation of the two years

No.	Project	Unit	2005			2006			2007			Yr 2007 achievement over yr 2006	
			Plan	Achieved	%	Plan	Achieved	% age	Plan	Achieved	%	Variation	%
1	Water supply and sanitation												
	Deep well	No.	-	-	-	1	1	100					
	Shallow well	"	7	8	114.3	9	10	111	10	10	100	-	
	Washing basins	"	7	8	114.3	9	10	111	10	8	80	(2)	
	Shower rooms	"	7	8	114.3	9	10	111	10	8	80	(2)	
	Pit latrines	"	14	23	164.3	34	36		80	32	40	(4)	
2	Cereal banks establishments												
	New CB	No.	3	3	100	5	3	60	10	9	90	6	
	Construction of CBs' offices	"	-	-	-	9	8	89	11	6	54.5	(2)	
	Construction of CBs' warehouses	"	-	-	-	3	2	67	10	7	70	5	
3	Environmental protection												
	Seedling raised & distributed	No.	137,500	120,000	87.3	387,500	337,487	87	300,000	296,425	98.8	(41,062)	
4	Trainings & sensitization												
	Water related	"	1,115	1,075	96.41	1,587	1,371	86.39	1250hh	1950	156		
	Horticulture development	"	50	68	136	160	177	111	80hh	140	175		
	Family planning & HIV/AIDS	"	100	80	80	129	127	98	181hh	140	77		
5	Gender sensitization workshops	"	20	20	100	2	2	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. Another challenges faced was that CBAs could not sell their grain in time as planned due to low prices of cereals during sells time compared to the time of purchase.

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 is a member of steering group of CB promoting NGOs. The organization has learnt a lot from these partnership and synergy among sister organizations like Hundee, FCE, etc. It was learned that a concerted effort could help in bring a bout significant changes in terms achieving the intended objectives, which is improving the livelihood of the target communities. The organization has also been implementing Gender empowerment project along with other four NGOs namely: HUNDEE, FCE, RVCWA, WAQO. This also gave us an opportunity to share experiences and learn from our partners.

4. CONCLUSION

During the reporting period, different projects that have contributed to the betterment of the livelihood of the target rural communities have been implemented. The major components include: water supply and sanitation; cereal bank promotion; environmental protection; women empowerment; and community training. With regard to water supply and sanitation, nine shallow wells were drilled in different Kebeles of our intervention areas in Becho and Tole districts and the community has access to potable water. These shallow wells were accompanied with washing basins and shower rooms. Two primary schools in Becho and Akaki were also supplied with clean water from the existing nearby boreholes in the year. Farm households in our project areas were also assisted to organize themselves into cereal bank associations. Accordingly, nine new cereal bank associations were established in the reporting year. Moreover, trainings were offered to the beneficiaries on different topics related to every components of projects implemented in the year.