

OROMO SELF RELIANCE ASSOCIATION (OSRA)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2010

DECEMBER, 2010
Addis Ababa

SUMMARY

During the fiscal year 2010, Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA) has implemented different community based development projects comprising of Integrated Water supply, Hygiene and Sanitation, Promotion of farmers marketing organizations (value chain), environmental protection, vegetable production, food preparation and consumption and promotion of anti harmful traditional practices and community capacity building trainings relevant to all the project components on the ground.

Supply of potable water, hygiene and sanitation 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, Ilu and Tole districts. Similar to the water [points developed in the previous years, all the drilled water wells were accompanied by different sanitation facilities like washing basins, shower rooms and private pit latrines. Due attention was given to community awareness creation on the management and operation of the developed schemes, environmental sanitation and personal hygiene. Different donor organizations such as, Watercan Canada, CCFD, and TROCAIRE have financed the projects.

Regarding Farmers marketing organizations, cereal bank promotion, Seed multiplication, consolidation works for existing CB, facilitation of grain marketing activities and capacity building trainings were among the major activities performed under this component.

Environmental protection and rehabilitation activities were also implemented in Tole district with the support of TROCAIRE as part of integrated water supply, sanitation and hygiene project. Environmental protection issues are global issues which must be focused up on by GO and NGOs operating in Oromiya, where there is high forest coverage of the country threatened by the ever growing population pressure. To combat the challenges, OSRA initiated implementation of pilot environmental protection activities in Tole district. The activities implemented under this component include rising and distribution of different tree seedlings and planting materials on degraded areas, chekdam construction and raising the awareness of farmers on environmental conservation and rehabilitation through training.

Women groups who were organized in groups receive training on vegetable production, food preparation and consumption. During the reporting period women groups comprising of 57 members were engaged in vegetable production both on their home steads and on communal area

in the form of demonstration using drip irrigation system around the water point developed by the budget support from TROCAIRE.

II. PLAN VERSUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

2.1. Water Supply, Hygiene and Sanitation

2.1.1 Becho and Ilu water supply and sanitation project

Becho and Ilu water supply and Sanitation project has been implemented in seven communities of selected peasant associations of Becho and Ilu districts South-West Shoa zone of Oromia Regional State. The project implemented with the objective to improve the health and well-being of the selected communities through provision of safe water supply, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion that in turn contribute for better living conditions. The project comprises three inseparable components, namely provision of safe water supply, construction of sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion. This day the project has been serving 429 households with total population of 2,254.

2.1. 2 Potable Water Supply

The development of water wells activities included drilling water wells to the depth of 59-65m depth based on the variation of ground water table and topography of the village, casing, pump installation, wellhead construction and pump testing and fencing around developed water wells. Accordingly 7 water wells have been completed. All these activities have been completed within already set time table. During the reporting period all the developed water wells providing quality and quantity of water to 429 households with 2,254 total populations in selected communities.

Table 2: Summary of Developed Water wells and Beneficiaries

S/N	Name of village/community	Well depth in meter	Estimated Yield in liter per second	No of house hold	Total beneficiaries		
					M	F	T
1	Abiyi	59	2	89	243	234	477
2	Darimu	65	1.5	42	112	107	219
3	Gemafali	65	2	59	162	143	305
4	Bili /Bantu	65	2	68	223	173	396
5	Koticha	61	2	45	137	119	256
6	Digalu	59	2	65	158	123	283
7	Mangura	61	2	61	163	155	318
	Total			429	1200	1054	2254

Establishment of WATSAN/WASH Committee

To ensure community ownership and management of the developed water schemes the WATSAN committees have been established in all developed water wells. The selection of the committee

members was undertaken by the general assembly of the user communities. Each WATSAN committee comprises of 7 members out of which 3 are female. To ensure gender equality the females are not only WATSAN member but also have position that enable them to make important decisions.

Table 1: Summary of water, sanitation and hygiene committee

S/N	Name of community/Village	Number of WATSAN committee	Sex		
			M	F	T
1	Abiyi	7	4	3	7
2	Darimu	7	4	3	7
3	Gema Ali	7	4	3	7
4	Bili	7	4	3	7
5	Koticha	7	4	3	7
6	Digalu	7	4	3	7
7	Mangura	7	4	3	7
	Total	49	28	21	49

2.1.3 Construction of Sanitation Facilities

After strong community mobilization and consultation had taken place the construction of one block shower with two rooms and one washing basin with four compartments nearby developed water schemes have been constructed for all the seven selected communities. During the reporting period these facilities are rendering proper services for all the households included in the village particularly the students allowed to use every Sunday and Saturday to take bath and wash their clothes.

2.1.4 Hygiene

The selection and training of community hygiene and sanitation communicators has been successfully conducted during the fiscal year. Based on this 105 hygiene and sanitation communicators selected from 7 communities have been trained to change the hygiene and sanitation behaviors of their respective communities.

Water, sanitation and hygiene committee (WASHCO/WATSAN) training

To ensure the sustainability of the water and sanitation facilities the capacity building trainings have been conducted for 49 WATSAN members on the issues of management of water and sanitation facilities in their respective kebeles. They have developed the concept on the roles and responsibility of WATSAN committee in the overall management, operation and maintenance of the water points.

On top of this, the training of health extension workers, development agents and teachers on community hygiene and sanitation has been conducted during the reporting period.

2.1.5 Water Caretakers Training

Empowering the user communities to ensure the sustainability of the water schemes are very important. In light of this the training of 21 water caretakers has been conducted in effective management of water and sanitation facilities. The training incorporated both theories and practices. The trainees have practically exercised on hand pump installation, dismantling and minor operation and maintenances.

3. Tole Integrated Water Sanitation and Hygiene Project

Tole integrated water supply sanitation and hygiene project has been implemented in Oromia regional state, southwest shoa Zone Tole district Abukeko kebele. The project was designed with the overall objective of improving health and wellbeing of the targeted community through provision of safe water supply, sanitation facilities and hygiene practices, environmental protection and vegetable production.

During the reporting period the project has been fully completed and providing services for more than 94 households. The project had three components namely water supply hygiene and sanitation, environmental protection and vegetable production.

Planed Activities by components

3.1. Water Supply

The development of water wells activities include drilling water well to the depth of 60m, casing, pump installation, wellhead construction, pump testing and fencing around developed water well. All these activities have been completed within already set time table. The developed water well is currently serving more than 94 households.

Table 4: Summary of Developed water point and Beneficiaries

S/N	Name of village	Depth of developed well	Estimated yield in liter per second	No of house hold	Total beneficiaries		
					M	F	T
1	Abukeko	60	2	94	243	228	471



Abekeku water well ready for use by the community

WATSAN/WASH committee Establishment and Training

For proper management of water schemes and sanitation facilities WASH committee has been selected from the user community based on their willingness and ability to manage the water schemes. To enhance the capacity of the committee training was provided on the issues of their role and responsibility, WASH Facilities management, hygiene and sanitation promotion and monitoring and follow up of constructed facilities.

All the members have got the role and responsibilities to play, particularly to ensure gender equality and empower women the women of WATASN members have been assigned in positions like casher, secretary and hygiene and sanitation promoters.

Table 3: Table showing WATSAN committee members

S/N	Name of community/Village	Number of WATSAN committee	Sex		
			M	F	T
1	Abukeko	7	4	3	7

3.2. Construction of Sanitation Facilities

One block shower with two rooms and one washing basin with four compartments have been constructed nearby developed water well and providing full services for the user community.

3.3 Hygiene components

In order to ensure the sustainability of the water schemes and attain the desired objectives hygiene component should be integrated with the sanitation facilities. This is believed to bring behavior change among the community as far as personal and environmental sanitation is concerned. In

light of this, intensive community hygiene and sanitation promotion sessions have been conducted in targeted village.

Accordingly, the training of 15 hygiene and sanitation education communicators has been conducted during the fiscal year which was selected among the user community.

3.4 CLTS TOT Training

So as to improve hygiene and sanitation practices of the project targeted community community-led total sanitation training of trainers (CLTS TOT) has been provided for health extension workers, health supervisors, water office field workers, students and teachers representatives and OSRA field staffs. A total of 27 participants have attended the CLTS training conducted for four consecutive days in Tulu Bolo. The training methodologies incorporated fact presentation, group work, group discussion, and group presentation and practical field exercise at community level and school.



Triggered women to have open defecation free Community on CLTS Field Exercise



Community mapping to locate Defecation areas during CLTS training field Exercise

3.5 PHAST TOT Training

The main objective of PHAST training was to equip the participants (OSRA field staffs, districts health supervisors, water office field workers, Health extension workers, school teachers and students) with the knowledge, skills and confidence of PHAST approach, tools and applications which in turn enable them to implement the approach and tools at grass root level to bring hygiene and sanitation behavior change in schools and the communities.

Participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation training of trainers (PHAST TOT) has been conducted to improve the hygiene and sanitation practice of the community in the project area. PHAST is based on participatory methods focused on programs likely to be successful than those which impose solution on communities.

The application of participatory methodologies (PHAST) for WASH change is a process rather than event. PHAST application requires time to create awareness, build capacity from consensus. It is the most important approach for community hygiene and sanitation behavior change and empowers community to fight against WASH related diseases.

The number of participants attended the training were 35. The training was conducted for three consecutive days at Tulu Bolo.



PHAST TOT Trainees group Exercise

3.6 Vegetable Production

57 women were organized in to three groups and received training on vegetable production, food preparation and utilization. In addition to this, 7 kg of various vegetable seeds and hand tools were provided for the women groups to support vegetable production.

The women groups were also provided with land around the water point constructed by OSRA to conduct vegetable production demonstration using drip irrigation system by using the water from the water point located in the nearby area.

3.7 Environmental Protection

Community sensitization and awareness creation on environmental protection and rehabilitation of degraded areas has been conducted during the reporting period. In addition to this, one day training was conducted on soil and water conservation and environmental rehabilitation activities for 21 farmers out of which 3 were women.

The raising and distribution of indigenous tree seedlings and planting materials were also conducted in collaboration with district office of agriculture. The seedlings were planted on degraded areas to prevent further erosion and degradation of the farmers plot.

On top of this, the construction of 100 meters stone check dam was conducted to rehabilitate areas with gully formation and also to prevent further gully formation in the area.

4. Promotion of Farmers Marketing Organizations Competitiveness on Agricultural Commodity Value chain

4.1 Introduction

Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA) is one of the consortiums of six NGOs competitiveness on Agricultural Commodity Value Chains. The organization is undertaking the project in three administrative zones (West Shoa, East Shoa, and South West Shoa) and four districts (Ada'a Berga, Akaki, Becho and Ilu) of Oromia Regional State. The project is being implemented with 18 FMOs (3-Akaki, 3-Ada'a Berga, 5-Ilu, and the rest 7-Becho) from a total of 24 cereal banks that have been established in the same districts.

4.2 Planned Activities and major accomplishments during the fiscal year are discussed as follows.

3.2.1. Provision of Matching Fund

One of the value chain activities desired to be undertaken in the fiscal year was providing the FMOs with financial support in the form of matching fund so that it will mitigate financial constraint that was among the bottlenecks limiting capacity of bulking voluminous harvest. Accordingly, OSRA planned to give the fund to four farmer organizations.

In line with the plan three FMOs namely Bedhadha Boru, Gurmu Jiregna and Gudina Boru have received a matching fund amounting to Birr 26,500.00, each.

4.2.2. Rewarding the best performing three FMOs

As a tool of stimulating good performance approaches and inducement for further motivation, OSRA planned to reward the FMOs which stood from first to third in their visible performances. In

order to overcome likely biasedness of evaluating bodies, committees comprising five people were formed in each the three networks. The team consists experts from cooperative promotion office (from zonal and district level), OSRA area office coordinator, and value chain project focal person. The process involved 18 organizations established in the above four districts. The three rewarded FMOs were Abdi Boru, Sedek and Hawi Boru and hence been provided with a financial reward of Birr 22,000.00, Br.16,500.00 and Br. 11,500.00 respectively from first to third in that order during the early 2010.

4.2.3 Capacity Building Training and Experience Exchange Visit

Building organizational capacity of the farmers' organizations is one of the foremost pertinent issues receiving immense attention. Consequently, demand driven experience exchange visits and training programs were facilitated for FMO leaders so that technical capacity shall no more remain hindrance to bring about envisaged results. Exchange visits are of two kinds: internal and external, representing for learning among FMOs promoted by the same agency, and FMOs established by different NGOs in that order. Both target to impart lessons which can easily be observed on the ground and then easily adapt to their local context.

In the fiscal year, internal and external exchange visits were facilitated for 51 and 43 committee members respectively. Accordingly, FMO leaders from Akaki have visited a strong multipurpose cooperative named "Godino" and a union called "Ada'a Lome" which are located in East Shoa Zone of Oromia. For those from Ada'a Berga, well performing FMOs were identified from HUNDEE promoted similar organizations in Dendi district whereas two strong FMOs of FC in Dawo and Becho were selected and served the same purpose for FMO leaders in Becho-Ilu network.

Another component of capacitating leaders was facilitation of various trainings, particularly in connection to business management. With this regard, a solid three day training program has been organized and provided by FFARM for: Becho-Ilu, Akaki, and Ada'a Berga networks separately at their respective locality. In this training a total of 102 leaders have received trainings on vital specific topics following an assessment which revealed the need for this action. Moreover, in line with the same intention, various trainings and sensitizations were frequently given to more than 600 FMO members in collaboration with cooperative promotion office of the respective districts.

4.2.4. Value chain Mapping, Clustering and linkage Facilitation

Another activity planned to carry out during the reporting period was revisiting value chain analysis mainly for the selected commodities, teff and wheat. It was intended to lineup the FMOs grain trade activities with market dynamics. As per the plan, there was an expectation to conduct market assessment once a year for teff and wheat. Consequently, efforts have been exerted to update farmers on the latest market conditions. In fact, it has been attempted to link FMOs with potential buyers including big traders and marketing agents in the terminal market, and consumer association in Addis Ababa. But, the FMOs could not decide to sell at a price which is of course much lower than average money spent per quintal during purchase period. This hesitation has led nearly to stagnation of all business transactions.

Another task during the year was networking of FMOs and facilitation of their linkage with different bodies. With regard to networking the FMOs, OSRA further organized the 24 CBs/FMOs into other five smaller and informal groupings, technically termed as cluster on the basis of homogeneity of their products and also their geographic proximity. The strategy was sought to make the FMOs combine their fragmented efforts to acquire better financial position and business management skills which enables to deal with potential buyers. As opposed to attempts, due to change in the market conditions which in general exhibited declining trend, it went out of track; in a sense that FMOs could not proceed as desired.

Establishment of strong attachment among relevant/interdependent bodies belongs to the strategies designed for continuity of the current efforts. With consciousness about the same fact, OSRA was providing supports to these farmer organizations in collaboration with local government authorities, seed enterprises, research institutes, and other partners as situation demands. As an element of value chain activities for the year, efforts were made to help FMO leaders approach those institutions having prominent role for enhancement of living situations for the target farming communities. With similar thought, an intensive deal was made with Oromia Seed Enterprise to insist the institution engage in multiplication of improved seeds with Becho-Illu network FMOs. However after long journey, the institution decided to stop with the reason that plots are much fragmented and that makes monitoring visits quite difficult. Synonymously, OSRA was facilitating trainings related to agriculture technology transfer with the help of agricultural research institutes like: that of Holota and Bishoftu. Moreover, for achievement of the same aspiration, farmers selected for improved seed multiplication from Becho-Illu were trained on agronomic practices by an expert invited from Ethiopia Seed Enterprise-Arsi Center.

Concerning the need for financial gap fillers, it has been attempted to deal with Wasasa MFI for which OSRA and the institution reached consent to interfere. Conversely, due to weak coordination within management of the FMOs and also unpredictable market situations, FMOs did not exhaustively utilize money existing in their account. As a result they hesitated to go for loan financing.

Furthermore, OSRA has facilitated one day consultative forum in Addis Ababa, at Global Hotel for value chain actors and supporters which involved about 40 participants drawn from: FMOs, field office coordinators, co-partners, big traders, processors, union of consumer associations, union of producers' primary cooperatives, research institutions, seed enterprises, regional marketing agency, BDS providers, MFI, and banks. To our belief, this forum has brought together many of the value chain actors and supporters to identify big problems along the chain and at the same time to propose working solutions. In addition, the meeting has also laid basis for future partnership since participants were able to exchange contact addresses. It can also be concluded that, in this forum FMOs have identified relevant allies and thus was a good opportunity to get familiarized to different role players.

4.2.5. Exchange Visit for Government Officials

One of the strategies to ensure sustainability of development project is inclusion of major stakeholders. OSRA strongly believes that active involvement of local communities and government officials to be of paramount importance while implementing a given project. Especially local officials from concerned sectoral offices do have role beyond implementation period since they are the ones who gradually overtake the responsibility for assurance of project sustainability. Consequently, the plan incorporated yearly exchange visit for zonal and district government officials. Accordingly, 25 government officials from two administrative zones (West and South-West shoa Zones) and three districts (Ada'a Berga , Becho and Ilu) have joined and shared their experiences for two consecutive days at Becho, Tulubolo. The participants were invited from Cooperative promotion, Agriculture and Rural Development, and Finance and Economic Development offices of both zonal and district levels. The first day was spent for visiting pilot activities of seed multiplication on farmers' plots in Becho and Ilu Districts of South West shoa zone, while the second was exclusively utilized for discussion session whereby the representatives

presented their best practices, challenges and strategies utilized to overcome, etc and finally comments from audiences.

4.2.6. Facilitation of Farmers' day Event and Farmers' Field day

In the effort to enhance members' sense of ownership and make leaders develop spirit of competition, planning for learning and/dialogue forums is crucial. Farmers' day event lets FMO members, community leaders and elders, invited government officials, etc discuss on overall issues in reference to relevance of a particular FMO in their village.

Furthermore, this program also incorporates sensitization of the participants on contemporary issues including grain/seed production technologies like agronomic practices and post harvest management.

Differently from general assemblies, this gathering considers the view of external but immediate observers. Moreover, it takes slightly the feature of celebration and thus friendly chatting which does have its own part to promote social belongingness among members and further the community. From the so far experience, it has been noted for having attraction of new people becoming members.

Therefore, OSRA planned to support this event to takes place with all the FMOs due to the reasons mentioned above. In line with our plan 24-FMOs have conducted this program which involved various parts of local communities.

Another related activity is farmers' field day which again covers all FMOs. It was facilitated in a way that lets two representatives from each FMO join to visit on-farm best practices in their vicinity, which specifically refers to "multiplication of improved seed" so that each participant will share knowledge acquired to members of his/her respective FMO and beyond to farmers in his/her village.

4.3.7. Piloting seed Multiplication on Farmers Plot

Assisting FMOs to multiply seed on farmers' plot is the active task OSRA has been undertaking in the year for second round. In order to diminish the degree of likely challenges observed in the previous year, the process was commenced with stakeholders review meeting which involved: Agricultural experts from zonal and district level, DAs, seed multiplying model farmers, and OSRA field staffs.

Accordingly, training for the DAs, selection of model farmers and then facilitation of training for them, site selection, securing seed from respective authority, and other relative activities were timely conducted.

In connection to the same effort 20 DAs have received on agronomic practice and post harvest management of crops, especially on those selected for value chain. In this round 14 FMOs were engaged in seed multiplication which covered 30 hectares of land (2-hectares of wheat and the remaining 28 hectares teff) and benefited 60 FMO members from which 10 are women.

Moreover, OSRA in collaboration with experts from Agricultural offices and DAs sensitized more than 650 FMO member farmers to get insight pertaining to impact of using improved seeds on one's productivity per hectare, create awareness on availability of local friendly improved seeds at their neighborhoods, how they will manage the process, etc so that they will exercise and get the benefit.

Finally, 60 farmers who were selected to engage in multiplication of the seed together with 20 DAs providing technical support have received additional one day training at their respective district with the help of Agricultural Offices of respective districts and also research institutes (e.g. Bishoftu Agricultural Research for those of Akaki District).

Moreover, 12 FMOs have redistributed the seed collected from first multipliers to 200 members. On top of this, a number of farmers have personally got access to improved seed from previous year beneficiary fellow farmers in their vicinity.

4.2.8. Facilitation of legalization process of FMOs

This component is another activity OSRA was carrying out during the period. Becoming a legitimate body is sought for FMOs to comply with the requirement of the national policy and as well to get recognition from local authorities so as to claim for whatever right in place for cooperative societies. Accordingly, in the year four CBs/FMOs (2-Ada'a Berga and 2-Akaki) have acquired their legal entity from cooperative promotion office of their respective district for which OSRA has taken facilitation role for entirety of the process.

4.2.9. FMO's Trading Activities

Trade activities are one of the major duties deserving strong monitoring in which FMO leaders usually demand close technical backups. Therefore, any time when there is pre information that an FMO is planning for purchase campaign, field workers are available for provision of related supports.

In the year, many of the FMOs did not engage in sound trade activities due to the problem in grain market which resulted in speculation for nearly the whole two years.

Impacts of the Intervention

- FMOs have developed better performance capacity and able to manage their regular activities by their own.
- Experience exchanges have helped FMO leaders to adapt things to their context. (eg establishment of saving scheme at each FMO as a means of saving and regular contact)
- FMO leaders have internalized market dynamics and working strategies that enable them to succeed in their business.
- Farmers' awareness is raised on impact of improved agricultural inputs and consequently began to invest and obtain better yield.
- FMO leaders have identified their co-partners and get familiarized with major chain actors.
- Following experience exchange forum for government officials, participants promised to adapt better practices and thus paved the way for technology transfer.
- Celebration of FMO day has enhanced awareness of hosting communities and local government structures which in turn enhanced their participation and support.

5. *Promotion of Anti-Harmful Traditional Practices and Gender Sensitization*

The project is designed to facilitate contesting the longstanding Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP) affecting the health of women and children, including the gender issues engendering inequality of women to have equal say on the property ownership/wealth they formed with their male counterpart. Of course the undermining mental set for the contributions of women to their family in particular and the community at large has been embedded in the social structure through 'Patriarchal Social System' that signifying valuing of male domination. However, in such situation where the cohesion and/or understanding each other of both partners is not existing saving and capital accumulation/proper family life management is unimaginable, which is further negatively affecting the target community at large. Thus improving the livelihood of rural community we are targeting and striving for remains to be fantasy. So rooting out the outdated practices, values and norms from Oromia rural areas is imperative. And it was in view of this we prepared the project proposal and started its implementation.

The project was financed by CCFD where as the community and the concerned government line offices actively took part in the project implementation.

4.1 Planned Activities to be implemented during the fiscal year 2010 were:

- a) Launching workshop at district level;
- b) Women & men separate workshops;
- c) Women & men joint workshops;
- d) Community conferences; and
- e) Facilitating sensitization of primary and junior secondary publics in rural setting on gender issues and/or on HTP

a) Launching Workshop – it has been undertaken at district level in Bantu town, which is the seat of district administration where all the sector offices at district level and the respective kebele administration chairperson and manager took part. In this launching workshop 54 participants attended out of which three were women.

4.2 The main objectives of district level workshop were:

- Introduce the objectives of the project and expected results;
- Undertake role divisions between OSRA as facilitator and Women & children Affairs as owner & implementer of the project by taking the coordination role to involve pertinent sector offices like Office of Attorney and Health Office;
- Disclose the total budget earmarked for the whole cycle of the project thereby ensuring transparency & accountability;
- Divide the entire district into workable centers/stations on the basis of acceptable proximity for the participants to commute on foot;
- Set criteria for the selection participants for the forthcoming consecutive women & men separate workshops and joint (women & men) workshops; and
- Schedule tentatively for the upcoming consecutive separate workshops.

Accordingly, the district was divided into **six** working centers/stations on the basis of suitability of the identified centers for the workshops participants and along with this the criteria for the selection of participants were also set. The set criteria were: from respective kebele administration chairperson & manager including kebele social court members, representatives of religious institutions, traditional leaders, 'Abba Geda', elders, kebele level women primary organization representatives, CBO leaders, village level/'Got' development team leaders/representatives, youth representatives from schools, teachers/specifically schools principal, village level health extension workers, village level development agents and traditional female children circumcising (FGM) practitioners.

b) Women and men separate workshops - in the established respective station 20 women participants and 20 men participants were drawn from respective kebeles where the maximum number of participants was 100 in each cases (men/women participants). The coordination was fully done by district Office of Women & Children Affairs where OSRA was undertaking the facilitation part of it.

4.3 The main themes of the activity were to identify:

- The general issues of gender role differentiation between men & women, including gender differentiation in terms of natural and socially constructed status of women (affecting the

- human value of women) including the length of time the women stay at work in a day (nearly 17 hours while their male counterpart are staying about 10 hours);
- **Harmful traditional practices like FGM**, massaging pregnant woman at the time of delivery by traditional birth attendants(which would affect the proper direction of expected child and causing physical hurt/deforming or death in the womb); rooting out milk-tooth undeveloped (when child is deteriorating physically, which might be due to malnourishment/other sickness); cutting off epiglottis affecting when infection of tonsillitis observed (which would affect the respiratory system and solid/fluid swallowing process for it might pass easily to trachea causing choking), raping, having of mistress (could be factoring high incidents of HIV infection) and let swallowing the newly born child not pasteurized or unpurified butter;
 - **Marriage type/family formation procedures** – by identifying those which have legal recognition and those which need to be considered traditional type and different from what is legally accepted because of their side effect on family life to be established. The outcomes of the workshops conducting at six centers in this regard were: abduction at minimum level, which would source of community wide conflict and would undermine lives, inheritance of widowed woman who had been once a wife of elder/younger brother/nephew on the father line still persisting, early/underage marriage of girls, including forcing both male/female to establish wedlock without their interest and/or having acquaintance of each other with the agreement of the parents of the two parties, skyrocketing of dowry payment request from the girl family side sometimes leads to commit abduction by the young male, 'Irra Dhaba' social normative pressure on a family of certain unmarried girl to allow marriage without the knowledge of the bride family and/or herself to marry a man who lost his wife by death or a young male failed to pay dowry to the girl family, and all these manners of committing wedlock are presumed to be sources or factors for the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS.
 - Enabling woman to equal property ownership and decision making to use items equally with her male counterpart for both high and low value items as well as full control of all the wealth obtained during their wedlock lifespan for which they have equal contribution.

The total number of participants on women and men separate workshops was 500 each, and the actual number of women and men participants was 428 & 457 respectively.

c) **Women & men joint workshops** – these workshops were undertaken in all stations during the last (2010) budget year. The main reason for the joint workshop is to reach on consensus on the issues identified during the separate workshop among both groups (women & men) and then endorse for the community conference.

The total number of participants was 500 where 250 for women and men each, and the actual total number was 428 constituting 211 women & 217 men.

d) **Community Conference**- The main theme of community conference is to take the issues identified during the workshops that hurt the wellbeing of the community at large and to pass as social norm by cursing those who will be tending to break the sanctioned norm on the basis of Oromo 'Geda' system.

The local law formulation system was accomplished through 'Chafe-Ta'icha' by slaughtering bull for the festivity of attendants from the community and spilling the blood not to be done again by members of the community.

This helps to signify that the oath to be respected by the community otherwise cursed upon breaking the sanctioned normative law. Community conferences were conducted during end of the third quarter and the fourth quarter throughout the established centers in the presence of local/district authorities, including district administrator at two centers. Moreover, on one of the community conferences, which is Golole center, government authorities from zonal administration, head of Women & Children Office and OSRA Board members, including the deputy chairperson attended the conference where high community members' turnout was observed.

At each community conference the participants who have participated in the previous workshops from both male and female workshops showed their consent on the issues identified as harmful to the community. In addition, the experts from the Office of District Attorney explained the compatibility the intended normative law to Federal & Regional laws.

- f) Facilitating sensitization of primary and junior secondary school publics in rural setting on gender issues and/or on HTP – to expand the outreach of the intervention in the community at large sensitization of students learning in the public schools was considered in the project proposal as one of the essential activities and thus included.

Accordingly, since every rural kebele has minimum one public primary/junior secondary school 24 schools were included in the annual plan for sensitization, but due to climatic factors like untimely rain and also discomfort from the local authorities because of election it was possible to undertake only in six junior secondary schools.

Therefore, the number of male and female students, including the teachers participated from respective schools; in the sensitization conducted during the budget year was 4,750 students (Male 2,482 & female 2,268) and 115 teachers (male 59 & female 5).

For further information see the illustration given against respective school.

S.N	Name of school	No. of students sensitized			No of teachers participated in the sensitization		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Kusaye	562	478	1040	16	12	28
2	Chitu-Watira	340	250	590	10	8	18
3	Jijiga	389	317	706	11	5	16
4	Migridi	256	223	479	4	10	14
5	Bantu	729	840	1569	12	19	31
6	Lideta	206	160	366	6	2	8
Total		2482	2268	4750	59	56	115

6. Challenges, Lessons Learned and Conclusion

6.1 Challenges

One of the main challenges faced in the reporting period is the prolonged rainy season which has hampered the timely implementation of the project activities especially the water projects. In addition to this the high price escalating of construction materials and costs of drilling companies because of high inflation rate was also a challenge.

6.2 Lessons Learned

During the course of implementation of different projects, we have learned that bringing business partnership takes a long time to establish through building the capacity of FMOs and making continuous effort to bring the producers and consumers together and build trust and transparency among each other.

Building strong relationships with all project stakeholders at different levels is of paramount importance for the sustainability of the project outcomes. This can be achieved through continuous effort of establishing trust, transparency and accountability with all parties involved in the project implementation.

6.3 Conclusion

During the reporting period, OSRA's community development projects have contributed a lot to the betterment of the livelihood and quality of lives the target rural communities. Community based projects such as water supply and sanitation; Promotion of farmers marketing organizations; environmental protection; women empowerment and Promotion of Anti harmful traditional practices; and building the capacity of the community and line offices. With regard to water supply, hygiene and sanitation, eight shallow wells were drilled in different Kebeles of our intervention areas in Becho and Tole districts where the community has adequate access to potable water. These shallow wells construction were accompanied with washing basins and shower rooms. The effort made to fight Anti harmful traditional practices through active community involvement was also encouraging result which helps greatly to fight HIV/AIDs and other related communicable diseases.