

# Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA)

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**Alemgena**

## Contents

Executive Summary .....	3
1. Introduction .....	5
1.1 Historical Background of the Organization .....	5
1.2 Purpose/Objective of the Organization.....	5
1.3 Main Program Focus Areas.....	6
1.4 Operational Regions.....	6
2. Results Achieved.....	6
2.1 Water Supply and Sanitation.....	6
2.1.1. Community Based Water Supply and Sanitation .....	6
2.1.2. Water Well Development .....	7
2.1.3 Construction of Sanitation facilities .....	7
Photo: Women washing clothes using washing basin .....	8
2.1.4 Hygiene education and capacity building training .....	8
2.1.5 Community Sensitization and Training .....	8
Photo: community sensitization on hygiene and sanitation.....	9
2.1.6 WASH committees, hygiene and sanitation education.....	9
Communicators.....	9
2.1.7 Community Technicians.....	9
3. Environmental Protection, Improved agronomic practices and Vegetable Production.....	10
3.1 Environmental Protection .....	10
4.Vegetable Production.....	12
4.1 Training women in vegetable production and Marketing.....	12
4.2 Strengthening Farmers Marketing Organizations .....	
4.3 Conduct Business Management Training for FMOs leaders .....	
4.4 Training FMO members in Financial Accounting and Record keeping	
4.5 Training FMO members on improved seed and Post harvest Management	
4.6 Facilitate farmers' access to improved seed varieties	
4.7 Training FMO leaders in Market Information system	
4.8 Training FMO leaders in store mgt and quality control	
4.9 Training FMO leaders on Business plan Development.....	15
4.10. Purchase of tractor for Becho-woliso farmers cooperative union .....	15
5Self Help Groups (SHG) .....	15
5.1 Saving and Loan .....	15
6. Outcomes/changes.....	17
<b>7.7. Challenges and Lessons</b>	
7.1 Challenges:.....	17
7.2. Lessons.....	17
Annex.....	19

## Executive Summary

Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA) is an Ethiopian Resident Charity engaged in various rural development interventions in Oromia region. Its main program focus is integrated community water supply, sanitation and hygiene; school water supply sanitation and hygiene promotion, food security and livelihood improvement; environmental protection; and improved dairy production, management and marketing. OSRA currently operates in four zones and six districts of the Oromia region.

In the year 2018, OSRA had planned and implemented different projects that have contributed to poverty reduction efforts and thereby bring about better living situation for the communities in the target areas.

It has developed twelve community based water supply sources along with sanitation facilities such as washing basins and shower rooms. As a result, 842 households in the target areas have accessed safe water supply sources and sanitation during the year. Moreover, 759 target communities were trained on improved hygiene and sanitation issues such as water management, construction and utilization of latrines, personal and environmental hygiene, hand washing at critical times, etc. With the aim of building the capacity of the community to manage and operate the facilities and hygiene promotion water and sanitation committees (WASH, community technicians, and hygiene and sanitation education communicators were selected and trained during the year. Specifically, 84 water & sanitation committees, 36 community water technicians or care takers, 180 hygiene and sanitation education communicators were trained during the year.

The financial support to provide water supply sources, sanitation and hygiene promotion for both target community and schools were obtained from our five partners/donors, namely CCFD, and CAFOD/TROICARE, ICCO, Stitching water, Awash Bank, KBF and SOS Faim.

Environmental protection and support for small scale vegetable production were another activities accomplished during the year. In this regard, various multipurpose tree seedlings were raised and distributed to the target farmers, trainings on relevant topics on environment were organized and provided to the farmers, and efforts were made to construct physical soil and water conservation structure. Moreover, with the aim of diversifying the livelihoods of farmers, fruit trees of various types were distributed to the farmers in its target areas. In addition to this, support was provided to farmers specially women in production and management of vegetable produced. Provision of seeds and training were some of the main accomplishment in relation to vegetable production.

In order to improve the livelihoods of resource poor households specially women, different activities were planned and implemented during the year. These, among others, include

support, organization and training of 10 women self help groups that were comprised of 124 women in different kebeles of woliso, district. The women self help groups were particularly provided with various supports such as training on principles and management of SHGs, leadership and business management, record keeping and support in pass book and cash box and stationery materials .

In addition to the implementation of the ongoing projects, the office has tried to solicit funding through developing project proposals for donors. A number of proposals were prepared and submitted to donors and funds were secured for some of the projects. All relevant stakeholders including the target communities have involved in every aspect of the program implementation, monitoring and evaluation at various levels. Without these concerted efforts, it would have not been possible to realize the results achieved during the year.

# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 Historical Background of the Organization**

Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA) is a local nongovernmental, non-political, non-profit making and secular voluntary organization established by a group of interested and dedicated intellectuals, professionals, prominent public and business personnel in 1995. It was registered by the Ministry of Justice and re- registered as Ethiopian Residents Charities in accordance with Charities and Societies Proclamation 621/2009 in October 2009 bearing registration certificate number 0121.

OSRA's mission is to assist the rural poor and needy community in their effort to bring about sustainable development through building their capacity and implementing community based integrated rural development programs and thereby contributes to national poverty reduction efforts. The general assembly is the supreme organ of its management body with the power to appoint board members, decide on major policy issues and approve annual work program, budget, audit report etc. OSRA's motto is "help people to help themselves". OSRA has a firm stand that poverty alleviation could be possible only if the rural communities are mobilized in a coordinated and organized way for their own economic development. OSRA adheres to the following principles: non partisan; transparency; accountability; genuine and mutual partnership; honesty and integrity; self reliance; participation; gender equality and sensitivity; respect for values of its stakeholders.

## **1.2 Purpose/Objective of the Organization**

OSRA entails to achieve the following objectives/purposes:

- A. To assist the poor and needy community so as to engage in their socio economic development; promote sense of self reliance and culture of collaborative efforts and working together
- B. To promote community centered integrated development programs that contribute to improve the livelihoods of the community such as provision of water , health, education and agricultural development services
- C. To promote sustainable use, development and management of natural resources and practices to protect environment and thereby eliminate the consequences of climate change and natural calamities
- D. To support relief and rehabilitation efforts so as to protect the communities from natural calamities
- E. To support and promote anti harmful traditional practices that endangers the health of women and children; and assist the efforts to economic empowerment of women & children
- F. Promote the advancement of the language, arts, culture and heritage of Oromo
- G. Encourage the youth to engage in their socio economic advancement and support their effort.

### 1.3 Main Program Focus Areas

OSRA considers the followings as its focus program areas that contribute for the improvement of livelihoods of rural communities and reduce poverty:

- Rural community and school based water supply, Sanitation and hygiene
- Integrated food security and livelihood improvement
- Promotion of rural women self help groups
- Promotion of improved dairy production and marketing of milk
- Environmental protection

### 1.4 Operational Regions

OSRA operates in various zones and districts in Oromia Region. Currently, the organization is undertaking development interventions in four zones and six districts in Oromia National Regional State. Specifically, it is currently operating in Akaki District (Special Zone Surrounding Finfinne), Ada'a district (East Shewa Zone), Becho, Ilu, Tole and woliso districts (South West Shewa Zone) and Adaberga District (West Shewa Zone).

## 2. Results Achieved

This section of the report briefly presents activities planned and implemented, and results achieved during the reporting year.

### 2.1 Water Supply and Sanitation

#### 2.1.1. Community Based Water Supply and Sanitation

It was planned to develop twelve community based water supply and sanitation projects the year 2018. The projects comprises of three components such as development of water supply sources, sanitation facilities, and hygiene and sanitation promotion.

The sanitation facilities such as washing basins and shower rooms were planned to be constructed along with the water wells in selected villages of Woliso district. It was planned to train about 759 households on hygiene and sanitation issues. Moreover, it was planned to train 84 water and sanitation (WASH) committees; 180 hygiene and sanitation communicators, 36 community water technicians on water management, operation, hygiene education and maintenance.

The financial support to implement these projects was obtained from **CCFD, and CAFOD/TROICARE, ICCO, SOS Faim, Stitching water, Awash Bank and KBF**. The activities were implemented and the results are presented in line with the three components: water development, sanitation, Training on Hygiene & sanitation, and operation and management.

### 2.1.2. Water Well Development

Following target community sensitization, appropriate sites for location of the water wells were identified in collaboration with water and sanitation committees, community representatives and experts from the Water Resource Office of the respective districts. The water wells were developed at an average depth of 60 meters; with minimum and maximum depth are 50 and 72 meters, respectively. Casings and hand pumps were installed; wellhead construction and fencing around the water points were also completed during the reporting period. The discharge rate of the water wells a range of the wells were estimated from 1.5 to 3 liter/second and has started providing service for **842 (M=745 F=97)** households in the target areas.



**Photo: women fetching water from the developed water wells**

### 2.1.3 Construction of Sanitation facilities

It was planned to construct community managed seven blocks of shower with two rooms, and washing basins near the water wells developed in the above mentioned villages in the reporting period. Accordingly, the planned numbers of sanitation facilities were constructed with the participation of target communities in mobilizing locally available construction materials such as wood whereas, other construction materials such as stones, sand, and industrial product materials were purchased and delivered by OSRA. The sanitation facilities are currently giving services for 842 households in the twelve targeted villages.





**Photo: Women washing clothes using washing basin**

#### **2.1.4 Hygiene education and capacity building training**

After establishing community management body such as water and sanitation committees, it was followed by capacity building activities, which are integral part of the projects so as to ensure the sustainability of the achievements of the projects under consideration. In this respect, several training sessions were organized and facilitated for members of WASH committees and target beneficiaries in the reporting period.

#### **2.1.5 Community Sensitization and Training**

Prior to the commencement of any project activities, various community meetings were organized at each target villages to sensitize the beneficiaries about the project and its essentiality as well as the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders including the beneficiaries. Along with this, community sensitizations on water management, sanitation and hygiene issues were undertaken where community members from the target villages were sensitized on hygiene and sanitation. Some of the main topics addressed in promotion of hygiene and sanitation include: personal and environmental hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, latrine construction and utilization, water hygiene and management, and food hygiene

Accordingly, **759** community members (**M=660 F=99**) from the target villages were provided with in-depth training at the village level on hygiene and sanitation.





**Photo: community sensitization on hygiene and sanitation**

## **2.1.6 WASH committees, hygiene and sanitation education**

### **Communicators**

Besides, establishing WASH committees, building their capacity through training is so important. To this end, 84 committee members drawn from the target communities were trained on water supply system management, operation, maintenance and on personal and environmental hygiene and sanitation.

Training of selected users as hygiene and sanitation education communicators was one of the activities implemented in the reporting period. Accordingly, 180 individuals drawn from the seven villages were trained on various relevant topics related to water management, hygiene, and sanitation. The trainings were delivered in collaboration with experts from the respective district water and health offices, health extension agents in the kebeles in the same period.

## **2.1.7 Community Technicians**

The water supply facilities are expected to be operated and maintained by the user communities. To ensure proper operation and maintenance of the facilities, it was planned to train three individuals from each village where the water supply schemes were developed. Accordingly, training sessions were organized for selected community members. During the year **36** care takers/ community technicians selected from the target villages were trained on operation and maintenance of hand pumps.

The training sessions were facilitated and offered in collaboration with pump technicians from the zone and district water office.

### **3. Environmental Protection, Improved agronomic practices and Vegetable Production**

#### **3.1 Environmental Protection**

During the year, community awareness raising and sensitization, farmers' training on environmental protection and check dam construction, raising tree seedlings to be planted on degraded areas were some of the activities that were carried out with the main objective of improving the production and productivity of the soil, reducing the magnitude and effects of climate change resulted from deforestation.

In line with this, **307** (M/F=**264/43**) farmers were trained on environmental protection focusing on the negative impact of soil erosion on production and productivity, importance of gully rehabilitation through check dam construction and the importance of planting tree seedlings to protect soil erosion and gully formation etc. After conducting the training and awareness rising on environmental protection, the community has fully participated by contributing free labor and wood used in the construction of about 1200 meters long check dam in selected degraded areas of Gambela village Bukassa keta kebele of Woliso district. The experts in the district Agriculture office and village level development agents were involved in the provision of training, identification of the sites and mobilization of the communities in the construction of the check dams.

One of the activities planned under this component was distribution of tree seedlings that would contribute to the environmental protection. Accordingly, various tree and fruit trees seedlings were distributed to the target community members in the project areas. The type of tree and fruit tree seedlings include: Mango, avocado, coffee, Apple, papaya and Gravia. Accordingly, **53,018** tree and fruit seedlings were distributed to **317** farmers' households and planted in their farm plots and back yard areas.



**Photo: Farmers produce coffee and other fruit trees at their back yard**

### **3.2 Training Farmers in Improved bee keeping**

In the reporting year, user farmer's selection and training on improved bee keeping production and management was conducted. Farmers were selected based on their experience on traditional bee keeping practices around their home stead. Willingness to participate in the bee keeping activities was also one of the criteria for selection. Accordingly, **70** farmers (**M=69 F=1**) were trained for two days on improved bee keeping and management from the target villages. The training topic was how to manage and produce honey from improved bee hives, be colony transfer from traditional to improved bee hives, how to prepare honey comb from bees wax for improved hives and marketing of honey etc. The training was conducted in collaboration with district level office of agriculture. The main purpose of the beekeeping training is to enhance the knowledge of farmers on improved bee keeping and management of improved bee hives to increase honey production which helps them to increase household income so as to improve their livelihood situation.

### **3.3 Provide Farmers with Improved Bee Hives**

The farmers who have participated on improved bee keeping training had access to improved bee hives. Accordingly **48 hhs** (**M=47 F=1**) have got access to improved bee hives. In the process the farmers contribute bee colony and OSRA provided improved bee hives and bees wax used to



produce honey comb for the improved bee hives. Currently farmers are transferring bee colonies from traditional bee hives to the new improved bee hives and they will start to produce honey after the rainy season.



**Photo: back yard bee keeping using improved bee hives**

## **4. Vegetable Production**

Promotion of vegetable production at household level is one of the activities integrated with environmental protection and water supply projects. Accordingly, the following main activities were implemented during the reporting period.

### **4.1 Training women in vegetable production and Marketing**

Training of women in vegetable production was conducted in collaboration with district office of agriculture and rural development. The training was conducted for two days at their respective villages on topics like importance of home stead vegetable production, land and seedbed preparation, improved agronomic practices and major crop pests affecting different vegetables and protection methods against the major pest etc.

Accordingly, **172** women were trained on the above-mentioned topics. The trained women had also received vegetable seeds such as onion, cabbage, pepper, tomato to be planted at their own backyards areas (homesteads) based on the knowledge from the training they received. Accordingly, a total of 120 kg of vegetable seeds were provided for the women who participated on the training. The purpose of the vegetable production was for household

consumption and partially as income generation for the women. The village level development agents provided technical support and made close follow up during the production of the vegetables.



**Photo: Home yard vegetable production run by women**

## **4.2 Strengthening Farmers Marketing Organizations**

### **4.3 Conduct Business Management Training for FMOs leaders**

During the year, **51 M/F=41/10** FMO leaders were trained in small business management related to grain purchasing and marketing. The training topics were how and when to purchase grains from members of cooperatives as well as non members for selling and get some reasonable profit. The training was given for two consecutive days in collaboration with experts from district level cooperative promotion office.

### **4.4 Training FMO members in Financial Accounting and Record keeping**

During the reporting year, **39 M/F=23/16** FMO leaders were trained in financial accounting and record keeping. The main training topics were financial accounting systems and record keeping in respective FMO level. The training was given for two consecutive days in collaboration with experts from district level cooperative promotion office. After the training FMO leaders were able to understand what financial accounting means and how to keep accurate records while buying and selling grains at FMO level.



#### **4.5 Training FMO members on improved seed and Post harvest Management**

During the year, 358 **M/F=321/37** FMO leaders were trained in the importance of using inputs like improved seeds to increase production and productivity at farmers level. The farmers were also trained in post harvest management systems to decrease post harvest loss which is estimated to be up 20% of the total harvest. The training was given for two consecutive days in collaboration with experts from district level office of agriculture. After the training FMO farmers were able to understand the importance using improved crop seeds to boost production and how to reduce post harvest losses.

#### **4.6 Facilitate farmers' access to improved seed varieties**

During the year, 358 farmers have gone improved seed of wheat 49 quintals, 32 quintals teff and 68 quintal chickpea. The improved seed varieties were supplied through their cooperatives to be paid back at the end of the harvest. Improved seed supply will contribute to increase the production of food crops and enhance the food security of the cooperative members.



Photo: Farmers field day on improved wheat seed plot

#### **4.7 Training FMO leaders in Market Information system**

During the reporting year, **54 M/F=42/12** FMO leaders were trained the importance of market information to sell their products at fair prices on local markets. The training topics covered

were how to obtain reliable market information, how to identify buyers and establish marketing partnership on sustainable basis etc. The training was given for two consecutive days in collaboration with experts from district level cooperative promotion office marketing department. After the training FMO farmers were able to understand the importance of reliable market information and establishment of long term business relationships with buyers.

#### **4.8 Training FMO leaders in store mgt and quality control**

During the year, 36 M/F=24/12 FMO leaders were trained in the importance of store management and crop quality control systems. The training topics covered were store management system, how to produce and store quality crops for marketing purposes. The training was given for two consecutive days in collaboration with experts from district level office of agriculture. After the training FMO farmers were able to understand the importance appropriate storage systems and how to maintain the quality of the crops which can attract buyers and good market prices.

#### **4.9 Training FMO leaders on Business plan Development**

During the reporting year, **60 M/F=50/10** FMO leaders were trained in business plan development for their FMOs. The training topics covered were importance of business plan, how to develop workable and clear business plan and how to use it for business purposes. The training was given for two consecutive days in collaboration with experts from district level cooperative promotion office. After the training FMO leaders were able to understand the importance viable business plan, how to develop and use it for marketing of their crops.

#### **4.10. Purchase of tractor for Becho-woliso farmers cooperative union**

During the year purchase tractor for Becho-woliso union on cost sharing basis was accomplished. OSRA contributed about 24 % of the total cost of the purchase whereas the union covered the rest of the budget to purchase the tractor. The tractor will give service to 90 primary cooperatives under the union benefiting about 52,326 members.

### **4. Self Help Groups (SHG)**

#### **5.1 Saving and Loan**

Promotion of women self help groups are integrated into two projects implemented in the reporting physical year. In this respect, the following activities were accomplished during the year:

The main purpose of establishing women self help groups is to bring about women social and economic empowerment and enable them to solve the social and economic problems they face in their daily life. So as to make this a reality, **6** SHGs were organized in Bukassa keta, Dire Duleti kebeles having 124 members. Currently, the groups have developed their own bylaws and started voluntary saving on fortnightly basis. The groups save up to 5 birr on the average based on the decision and agreement of each group. Accordingly, the groups have successfully



saved **122,000 birr** to date. They gave loan amounting to birr **3100** to their members to run different small business activities in their respective villages. The SHGs gave loan to eight members drawn from three groups.



**Photo: SHG members meet and make saving every fifteen days**

## **5.2 Training women in small business management and entrepreneurship skills**

**208** women beneficiaries who are the members of the 6 SHGs were trained for two days on small business management, record keeping and entrepreneurship skills at village level in collaboration with district women and children affairs office. The training helps the women to effectively deal with small/petty trading in their respective villages to generate income for themselves which in turn helps them to be economically empowered and actively involved in development activities of their communities. The entrepreneurship skill will help in opening up new jobs and helps to increase their income levels which in turn improve their livelihoods.

## **5. Outcomes/changes**

As explained in the aforementioned sections, various project activities were implemented under different projects during the reporting year. These have, obviously, contributed to the betterment of the livelihoods of the target communities in the intervention areas. This section briefly presents, some of the main changes brought about to the lives of the target communities as a result of various interventions discussed above.

- 842 households had access to safe water supply and sanitation facilities; practicing improved hygiene & sanitation, which improved their health that enhanced their production and productivity;
- 307 farmers have acquired knowledge on environmental protection and supplied with multipurpose tree and fruit seedlings
- 172 women have acquired knowledge on vegetable production and accessed improved vegetable seeds
- 70 farmers households have obtained training on bee keeping and accessed improved bee hives and start producing honey
- 48 famers have acquired knowledge on improved agronomic practices and start compost preparation and using it
- 307 farmers acquired knowledge on environmental degradation and effect of climate change on the livelihoods;

## **7. Challenges and Lessons**

### **7.1 Challenges:**

The challenges encountered during the reporting period were as follows:

- Limited fund availability affected OSRA not to expand to reach so many communities
- Lack of logistic support
- Lack human resource related to limited fund

### **7.2 Lessons:**

During the course of implementation of different projects in the reporting period, OSRA has learned a lot that could help to improve future planning and implementation of various programs. Some of the main lessons include:

- Cost sharing approach in any project implementation enhance ownership feeling and highly contributes to sustainability
- Community ownership feeling for the projects was proved to be high during the time of conflict encountered in the project areas
- If properly mobilized and coordinated, students and schools can be change agents to bring about behavioural changes not only in schools but also in the surrounding communities.



**Annex:**  
**Summary of Key Activities in 2018**

Description of Activities	Unit	Annual plan	Achievement	%	Beneficiaries (HHs)		
					MHH	FHH	THH
<b>Community based Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>							
Water well development , well head construction and fencing	No of well	12	12	100	745	97	842
Construction of shower with two rooms	Blocks	12	11	92	745	97	842
Construction of washing basins with four compartments nearby the community based water wells	Basins	12	11	92	745	97	842
Community mobilization and sensitization	Villages	12	12	100	745	97	842
Train WATSAN committees on water management, hygiene and sanitation	No of person	84	84	100	48	36	84
Training of community technicians on operation & maintenance and provision of tools	No of person	36	33	92	33	0	33
Undertake community sensitization on hygiene and sanitation practices; promotion of latrines construction	No of person	840	759	90	660	99	759
Training community hygiene & sanitation education communicators	No of person	180	179	99	95	84	179
<b>Food Security and Livelihood Program</b>							
Train farmers on watershed management and environmental protection	No of person	290	307	106	264	43	307
Train development agents, field staff and line offices on	No of person	25	20	80	16	4	20

environment							
Support community based physical, soil and water conservation activities	Villages	3	3	100	227	30	257
Support farmers to plant multipurpose tree	No of seedlings	100,940	53,018	53	275	42	317
Facilitate review meeting with key stakeholders and target beneficiary representatives	event	2	2	100	16	13	29
Support and Organize women into self-help groups (SHGs)	No of women	190	208	110	0	208	280
Train women in entrepreneurship and small business management	No of women	180	208	116	0	208	208
Train women in vegetable production, management and marketing	No of women	180	172	96	0	172	172
Support SHGs in provision of passbook, register books, etc	No of groups	9	9	100	-	208	208
Support target groups to access vegetable seeds and tools for target groups	No of women	9	9	100	-	280	208
Train farmers on modern bee keeping and honey processing, and marketing	No of farmers	70	70	100	69	1	70
Provide access to modern bee hives and other inputs to target farmers	No of farmers	60	48	80	47	1	48
Facilitate experience exchange among the target groups	No of women	20	129	193	6	123	129
<b>Strengthening of Multipurpose Cooperatives</b>							
Facilitate training for primary farmer's coop executive committee members on cooperative/business	No	30	24	80	22	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>

Facilitate training for primary coops executive members on financial account and data recording	No	30	24	80	22	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>
Facilitate training for MPCoop. sales and purchase committee on market assessment and marketing including assessing market	No	47	45	103.7	42	<b>3</b>	<b>45</b>
Facilitate training for purchase and sale committee members on store management and quality control system	No	27	28	103.7	27	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>
Facilitate training for coops executive members on small business plan development and implementation	No	50	28	60	28	-	<b>18</b>
Facilitate training for selected member farmers on improved agronomic practices /skill of high value crops/ improved seeds variety and post harvesting management	No	123	240	195.1	213	<b>27</b>	<b>240</b>
Accessing selected member farmers to improved teff seed variety	Quintal	30	32	106.6	167	<b>42</b>	<b>209</b>
Accessing selected member farmers to improved chickpea seed variety	Quintal	12	18	150	35	<b>8</b>	<b>43</b>
Purchase one tractor with trailer/farm vehicle for Union on matching fund basis	No	1	1	100	42014	<b>10312</b>	<b>52326</b>
Facilitate joint field level experience exchange visit to selected MPCoops supported by the project	Event	1	1	100	-	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>