

# Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA)

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## **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 2019, 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 three community based water supply sources along with sanitation facilities such as washing basins and shower rooms. As a result, 241 households in the target areas have accessed safe water supply sources and sanitation during the year. Moreover, 198 target communities were sensitized and 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, 3 water & sanitation committees, 9 community water technicians or care takers, 45 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 were obtained from our five partners/donors, namely CCFD, Stitching water, ICCO 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 view of improving 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 4 women self help groups that

were comprised of 90 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 developed 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. Activities and 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 Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene**

It was planned to develop seven community based water supply and sanitation projects and three school based water supply and sanitation projects in the year 2019. 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 and Tole Woredas. It was planned to train about 420 households on hygiene and sanitation issues. Moreover, it was planned to train 21 ater and sanitation (WASH) committees; 105 hygiene and sanitation communicators, 9 community water technicians on water management, operation, hygiene education and maintenance.

The financial support to implement these projects was obtained from CCFD, ICCO, Stitching water and SOS-Faim. 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 59.3 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 4 liter/second and has started providing service for 241 households in the target areas.



Photo: Woman fetching water from one of the water wells

### **2.13 Construction of Sanitation facilities**

It was planned to construct community managed three 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.





Photo: Women washing clothes using washing basin (Dimtu)

#### **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.



Community Training Session sanitation and hygiene

### **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

Besides, **198** selected community members from the target villages were provided with in-depth training at the village level 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, **21** 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, **45** individuals drawn from the three 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 **9** water 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 reporting period, 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, **113 (M/F=95/15)** 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 3,000 meters long check dam in selected degraded areas of the target kibbles. 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, papaya and Gravilia. Accordingly, **14,650** tree seedlings were distributed to **178** farmers and planted in their farm plots and back yard areas.

### **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, **76** 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 **32** 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.

## **5. 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, 4 SHGs were organized in three target villages having **90** 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 **30,650** birr to date. They gave loan amounting to birr **10,000** to their members to run different small business activities in their respective villages.

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

**76** women beneficiaries who are the members of the 4 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.



## **6. Strengthening FMOs/MPC**

### **6.1 Cooperative Capacity Assessment (CCA)**

Cooperative capacity assessment (CCA) was conducted on 15 FMOs/MPCs located in Akaki, Becho and Ada'a berga cooperatives during the physical year. The objective of the capacity assessment was to know the status of each FMO/MPC in terms of membership, leadership, business and accounting and finance. The methodology of the assessment was using structured questionnaire developed by the Technical Advisor (TA) in consultation with the implementing partner NGO experts. The training and familiarization of field staffs who actually collecting the data was also given for one day including practical exercise or testing the tool on some of the cooperatives. After all these processes the data collection was conducted successfully and being submitted to the TA for further analysis of the data. After finalizing the cooperative assessment result the TA organized a one day discussion meeting to reflect on the result obtained and design way forward on how to use the assessment result for the benefit of the cooperatives. As per the assessment result cooperatives were divided in to three strong cooperatives, medium and weak cooperatives.

Based on this result the implementing partners (including OSRA) agreed to use this assessment result to build the capacity of the weak cooperatives either through tailor made training or arranging experience exchange visit to the stronger cooperatives to learn from their strong points.

### **6.2 Facilitate training for FMO/MPC executive committee members on cooperative/business management**

After conducting the capacity gap assessment business management training was conducted for **73 (M=57 F=16)** executive committee members in order to enhance their knowledge on business management skills. The training topics include the basics concept of business, how to make business profitable and managing profitable business in the context of grain marketing. The training was given for two days in collaboration with district level cooperative promotion offices at the respective FMO/MPC level.

### **6.3 Facilitate training for FMOs/MPCs executive committee members on financial accounting and data recording systems**

During the year, training of FMO/MPC executive committee members in financial accounting and record keeping was among the planned activities of the physical year for FMOs/MPCs executive committee members. Accordingly, **74 (M=59 F=15)** executive

committee members were trained on basic financial accounting system and record keeping. The training involves the basic idea of finance, financial accounting, and importance of good record keeping at cooperative level. As result of the training cooperative leaders were able to understand the concept of financial accounting and management and good record keeping and its importance in managing profitable business.

#### **6.4 Facilitate training for farmers on improved agronomic practices/skills of high value crops/improved seeds variety and post harvest management**

In order to avoid the loss production due to poor post harvest management, it is vital to train farmers in handling of crops after harvesting. By so doing farmers save from 15-20 percent of their crops. Therefore, training farmers on improved agronomic practices /skills of high value improved seeds and post harvest management is so important. To this end, training was given to **245 (M=191 F=54)** farmers on improved seed production and post harvest management systems. The training was conducted for two days and covers topics like land preparation and improved agronomic practices like raw planting, wedding, pest control and quality storage to reduce post harvest lose. The training was given for two days in close collaboration with experts from district level agriculture development office. As a result of the training, farmers acquired knowledge of improved agronomic practices and post harvest management of teff, wheat and chick pea.

#### **6.5 Access to Improved Seed Varieties**

During the year, improved wheat, teff and chickpea varieties were introduced for Ada' a berga, Becho, Ilu and Akaki districts. Altogether, **76 (M=36 F=40)** farmers who received the training have accessed 56 quintals of improved wheat seed variety (Hidase) and they are able to produce 11 quintals from a hectare. The production is lower as compared to last year due to excessive rain and water logging problem which is not suitable for wheat production.

In the same manner, **353 (M= 297 F=56)** have received **48** improved teff (boset) variety to increase the production and productivity of teff in their areas. Accordingly farmers were able to produce **12.5** quintals from a hectare which is **1** more quintal as result of using improved seed. This can improve the food security and income level of farmers as teff is considered as cash crop and sold in major cities like Addis. Farmers pay back the original seed to their FMOs which can help other farmers to get access to improved seeds in the next production season so as to solve the improved seed problems of other farmers.

#### **6.6 Facilitate training for FMO sales and purchase committee on market assessment & marketing including accessing market information**

Training was given to FMO sales and purchases committee members on how to conduct market assessment and access local market information during the year. Accordingly, **82**

FMO sales and purchase committee members (**M=65 F=17**) were trained for two consecutive days on how to access local market information to sale their products in fair market prices. Among the methods farmers are using to access market information are using local radio program as source of daily grain market prices, using mobile texting and receiving market information, close contact with their clients in the major towns to get up to date market information. As a result of the training FMO/MPC sales and purchase committee members have got good understanding and knowledge on local market assessment as well as how to use different market information medias to obtain reliable market information for the benefit of their members.

### **6.7 Facilitate training for purchase & sales committee members on store management and quality control system**

Grain store management is one of the important areas where Farmers marketing organizations must give due attention to keep the quality of the grains to be supplied to market in order to fetch good market prices. In line with this, during the reporting year training was given to **30 (M=17 F=13)** FMO members on store management keeping grain quality. The training topics covered were how to keep quality of grain during production, harvesting, transportation and storage and advantage of production and marketing of quality grains in attracting buyers and fetching good market prices. As result of the training farmers were able to realize the significance of production, storage and marketing of quality grains in fetching good market prices and attracting reliable customers/buyers.

### **6.8 Facilitate training for FMO executive members on small business plan development and implementation**

Before starting any business activities cooperatives need to develop their business plan which can guide them through their business activities. For any cooperative having good business plan is mandatory to be successful in their business.

To this end, during the year attention was given to the development of up to date business plans at the FMO and MPC level. Accordingly, **60 (M=45 F=15)** FMO and MPC executive committee members were trained in business plan development. As a result of the training FMO/MPC leaders have good knowledge on how to develop (update) and use their business plan to run successful business activity so as to be profitable primary co-operatives.

### **6.9 Organizing farmers' field day event on organic liquid fertilizer demonstration plots (wheat and teff)**

Exchanging experience and good practices among farmers is one of the learning mechanisms to disseminate good practices and strong points. Accordingly, **77 (M= 62 F=15)** farmers participated on experience sharing and learning event organized on

demonstration plots of liquid organic fertilizer using improved teff and wheat producing farmers plots. In the experience exchange event farmers learned the application and importance of using organic fertilizer in increasing production on sustainable basis and more significantly on long term effects on their soil health. The participants of the event well noted the importance of using organic fertilizer over chemical fertilizers which has been used over the years and having negative impacts on the health of their soil. Therefore, they appreciated the options of using organic liquid fertilizer which is produced locally by Eco-Green PLC and requested for further scaling up by OSRA to address the issues of soil health and environmental sustainability.

### **7. Demonstration of Organic Liquid Fertilizer (Eco-Green) on farmers plots**

OSRA in collaboration with ECO-Green PLC, has launched the promotion of organic liquid fertilizer on 14 farmers plots located in the three project locations of OSRA under the three area offices. Organic liquid fertilizer was tested on the ¼ of a hectare for the initial testing and demonstration. Prior to the demonstration training was given to the famers on the need and importance of organic fertilizer in terms of production/productivity and long term soil health impact. The fourteen farmers have accepted the idea and allow their plots of land for the demonstration. In Akaki and Becho it was tested on teff whereas in Ada'a berga, it was tested on wheat. In the first year the farmers advised to use DAP and zero urea and instead using the liquid organic fertilizer from Eco-Green. With regard to teff the demonstration plots showed slight increment in production in Akaki and Becho whereas in the wheat plots in Ada'a berga there is no difference in the production due to various factors like excessive rains and water lodging in some plots.

### **7. 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.

- 241 households had access to safe water supply and sanitation facilities; practicing improved hygiene & sanitation, which improved their health that
- 113 farmers have acquired knowledge on environmental protection and supplied with multipurpose tree and fruit seedlings
- 446 women have acquired knowledge on vegetable production and accessed improved vegetable seeds



- 40 farmers households have obtained training on bee keeping and accessed improved bee hives and start producing honey
- 76 women trained in vegetable production and marketing
- 76 women acquired knowledge on small business management and entrepreneurship skills

## **9. Challenges Encountered and Lessons Learned**

### **9.1 Challenges:**

The challenges encountered during the reporting period were as follows:

- Limited fund availability affected OSRA not to expand to reach so many communities
- Social unrest in the project areas

### **9.2 Lessons Learned:**

During the course of implementation of different projects in the year, 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
- If properly mobilized and coordinated communities can be change agents to bring about the required behavioural changes in project planning, implementation, and monitoring and sustainability issues.

## **Annex**

### **Summary of plan versus Accomplishment of some the key activities in 2019**

Description of Activities	Unit	Annual plan	Achievement	%	Beneficiaries (HHs)		
					MHH	FHH	THH
<b>Community Water Supply, Sanitation and hygiene promotion</b>							
Water well development , well head construction and lining	No of wells	3	3	100	192	49	241
Construction of shower with two rooms	Blocks	3	3	100	192	49	241
Construction of washing basins with four compartments nearby the community based water wells	Basins	3	3	100			
Community mobilization and sensitization	Villages	3	3	100	192	49	241
Train WATSAN committees on water management, hygiene and sanitation	No of persons	21	21	100	12	9	21
Training of community technicians on operation & maintenance and provision of tools	No of persons	9	9	100	9	0	9
Conduct community sensitization on hygiene and sanitation practices; promotion of latrines construction	No of persons	210	198	94	136	62	198
Train community hygiene & sanitation education communicators	No of persons	45	45	100	24	21	45
<b>Food Security and Livelihood Program</b>							
Train farmers on watershed management and environmental protection	No of persons	120	113	94	95	18	113
Train development agents, field staff and line offices on environment	No of persons	10	10	100	6	4	10
Support community based physical, soil and water conservation activities	Villages	3	3	100	192	49	241
Support farmers to plant multipurpose tree	No of seedlings	30,000	14,650	49	141	37	178
<b>Diversify means of livelihoods and income generating opportunities</b>							
Support and Organize women into self-help groups (SHGs)	No of groups	5	4	80	0	76	76
Train women in entrepreneurship and small business management	No of women	90	76	84	0	76	76
					19		

in women in vegetable production, management and marketing	No of women	90	76	84	0	77	77
Support target groups to access vegetable seeds and inputs for target groups	KG	25	32	128	-	78	78
Train farmers on modern bee keeping and honey processing, and marketing	No of farmers	40	40	100	36	4	40
Provide access to modern bee hives and other inputs to target farmers	No of farmers	15	40	267	36	4	40
<b>Strengthening of FMOs/Multipurpose Cooperatives</b>							
Training for FMO executive committee members on cooperative/business management	event	94	73	77	57	16	73
Training for FMO executive committee members on financial accounting and data recording systems	No	94	74	79	59	15	74
Training for FMO sales and purchase committee on market assessment & accessing market information	No	100	82	82	65	17	82
Training for selected member farmers on improved agronomic practices/skills of high value crops/improved seeds variety and post harvest management	No	381	245	65	191	54	245

Accessing selected member farmers to improved teff seed variety	Qtls	48	45.6	95	297	56	353
Accessing selected member farmers to improved wheat seed variety	Qtls	60	56	93	40	36	76
Accessing selected member farmers to improved chickpea seed variety	Qtls.	18	20	111	40	-	40
Liquid organic fertilizer	Liter.	400	350	88	12	9	21
Training purchase & sales committee members on store mgt. & quality control system	No	30	30	100	17	13	30