



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Newsletter

April 1 to June 30 2024 2nd quarter

Introduction

In the second quarter of 2024, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has been actively engaged in a variety of projects across five regions of Ethiopia: Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, Central Ethiopia, and South Ethiopia. Our efforts focus on several key areas:

- **Child Development (ECDE)**
- **Empowering Girls and Women**
- **Promoting Education**
- **Youth Skill Development and Job Creation**
- **Environment Protection and Renewable Energy**
- **Humanitarian Emergency Response**

These initiatives are aimed at fostering sustainable growth and creating lasting positive impacts within these communities.



ASR Student Graduation

What's inside

Emergency Response Project Update

Embark School Feeding Program

Birhan Project Update

Experience sharing program

Tesfa Project Update

Training for Unemployed Youths

Edget Project Update

Outdoor Preschool Playground Materials equipped in Six ECDE Centers

J V Project

Strengthening Cooperative Skills

Child Labor and Child Marriage Reduction Project Update

Biruh Project Update

Emergency Response Project Update

Embark School Feeding Program

The education program is a beacon of hope for children recovering from traumatic experiences. Initially, many children were depressed, lonely, and shy. However, since the program began, these students have become active, happy, and more comfortable interacting with others. The ASR program has played a crucial role in this transformation, helping children become more engaged and confident.

Both the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) and the ASR program represent comprehensive interventions in the education sector. They employ powerful educational tools and introduce students to cutting-edge teaching and learning materials, ensuring access to quality education for all.

In response to advice from health professionals, a high-energy, nutritious biscuit weighing 100 grams and containing 450 kcal has been introduced for the school feeding program. Each child will receive one pack of these fortified biscuits per school day, providing essential vitamins and minerals to support their growth and development. This cost-effective and convenient meal option aims to enhance children's energy levels, allowing them to concentrate better on their education.

Prior to implementing the project, a situational analysis revealed that many children attend school hungry, which adversely affects their learning, development, and potential. By providing these nutritious biscuits, the program aims to improve students' focus, concentration, school enrollment, attendance, and academic performance. Additionally, it seeks to reduce malnutrition, prevent dropouts, and promote a balanced diet among schoolchildren.



Distribution of sanitation and hygiene keeping multipurpose soap

Premium quality multipurpose hygiene keeping soap is distributed a total of four times over the course of the month. This initiative aims to improve the health and well-being of children by preventing hygiene-related illnesses.

The distribution of these hygiene materials plays a crucial role in enhancing children's overall health and reducing their exposure to pathogens. By providing adequate multipurpose soap, parents can ensure their children have clean clothes, positively impacting their education. Wearing neat and tidy clothes boosts children's confidence and eagerness to attend class.

Overall, the provision of hygiene materials has had a significant and far-reaching impact on the mental health, cognitive development, psychology, and overall well-being of IDP children.

GBV and Child Protection Training; A comprehensive two-day training session was held at Bakerlo IDP Center, targeting children, parents, government officials, and IDP residents. The focus was on the adverse effects of gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection. This initiative aimed to enhance understanding of GBV prevalence and prevention methods. The training covered child protection concerns, case management, and psychosocial support, ensuring that children are protected from harm and abuse both inside and outside the school environment.

To reinforce these efforts, monthly meetings and awareness-raising workshops were established to expedite prevention and response interventions. Healthcare service providers were engaged to challenge and shift harmful cultural values and norms. Multi-sectoral prevention and response strategies were organized, involving interagency coordination among the women's child youth office, the education office, parent representatives, and teachers of the ALP program. This collaborative approach aims to provide maximum care for children and establish effective referral linkages to mitigate the impacts of gender-based violence.



Completion of First Episode of ALP

ESD's

first chapter of the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), equivalent to grade 1, has been successfully completed.

This specialized educational track is designed to allow high-performing students to advance through the core curriculum at a faster pace than the traditional grade 1 program. Over the course of three months, students covered the full grade 1 curriculum.

Through ongoing assessments and the final exam, students demonstrated their competence in meeting the grade 1 standards. The cohort performed exceptionally well, with the majority scoring in the top quartile on the final exam, and several students achieving perfect or near-perfect scores. This indicates that the students were well-prepared and excelled in the accelerated curriculum.

These students have proven their capacity to learn at a fast pace by finishing the Grade 1 Accelerated Learning Program. The grade 2 program is scheduled to begin on June 24 and will follow a similar three-month accelerated learning trajectory.

ASR Students Graduation; A total of 120 children (57 girls) successfully completed the Accelerated School Readiness (ASR) program. This program predominantly benefits children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds who have previously lacked access to educational opportunities.

By focusing on developing essential skills such as literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional competencies, the ASR program provides these children with a stronger foundation for academic success before they start formal schooling. This initiative helps to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to thrive in their educational journey.



A total of 120 children (57 girls) successfully completed the Accelerated School Readiness (ASR) program

Birhan Project Update

Project Achievements

We are excited to share the remarkable successes of the Birhan Project, an initiative aimed at empowering Unemployed youth through training and support. 39 youth trained in tailoring and poultry production training fields, out of which 27 have been given certificates of completion of the technical training. The certificate is counted as one criteria to engage in enterprises and for loan taking from financial institutions; as such it is an opportunity for the self-employed technically equipped youths. The training equips the youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to start their own businesses in tailoring and poultry production. In addition to the vocational training, entrepreneurship, business skills, and life skills training were also provided. This comprehensive training program aims to empower young individuals to become self-sufficient and contribute to the economic growth of their communities. By combining technical skills with business knowledge, participants are better prepared to succeed in their chosen field and make a positive impact on society.

Out of the trainees, 12 poultry production trainees were engaged in group business by organizing themselves into two enterprises. These enterprises were able to leverage their combined skills and resources to increase efficiency and profitability in their poultry production ventures. By working together, the trainees were able to support each other, share knowledge, and overcome challenges that they may not have been able to do on their own.

Birhan Multipurpose Hub construction update

Beginning in 2020 GC, the organization has begun to reconstruct its multipurpose youth vocational skill training center in Debreberhan town. The construction's initial phase was completed the previous year. The construction is currently in its second phase (catering), which will be completed in 3-4 months. The reconstruction of this training center will allow the organization to expand its capacity to provide vocational training to a larger number of youth in the community.



Completed construction



Completed construction



Ongoing construction

Youth-Led Bazaar



The Youth-Led Bazaar, organized by Debre Brehan City Administration sub-cities labor and training offices in cooperation with Education for Sustainable Development, aimed to promote local businesses and provide a platform for young entrepreneurs to showcase their products.

The event was a resounding success, generating significant sales totaling 1,152,000.00 ETB for the participating enterprises. This collaboration between various organizations underscores the importance of supporting local businesses and empowering young entrepreneurs, fostering economic growth and innovation within the community.

Experience sharing program

A two-day experience-sharing program was held in Bahir Dar City at the Helvetas Bahir Dar Program Coordination Office. The event brought together twenty-seven participants, including representatives from ESD, Helvetas Ethiopia, government sector offices, and trained youth. The primary goal of the program was to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration among participants to enhance their capacity for implementing sustainable projects. The workshop provided a platform for participants to share their experiences, discuss challenges, and explore innovative solutions, with a focus on quality assurance and sustainable development techniques in youth-related programs. Through interactive discussions, presentations, and field visits, participants gained new perspectives, insights, and practical strategies for youth projects.



Advisory committee meeting

The project advisory committee meeting was held. During the meeting, key decisions were made regarding youth selection, startup support, and the roles of the committee in the project activities. The committee also discussed potential challenges and strategies for overcoming them to ensure project success. The meeting created a clear roadmap for the project moving forward and fostered a sense of collaboration among committee members to work towards achieving project goals.



Tesfa Project Update

ESD Equips and Furnishes Three Training Centers at Deneba, Chacha, and Debresina TVET Colleges

The availability of training tools and equipment in a training center plays a crucial role in a practical training session. In response to this, based on the gaps in Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) colleges, different training tools and equipment have been purchased and delivered to Deneba, Chacha, and Debresina TVET colleges. As a result of this training, tools and equipment partner TVET College provides technical training for the trainees without a lack of resources.

Training for Unemployed Youths ; 84 (41 female) youth selected from three targeted districts took short-term vocational training on catering, animal fattening, and poultry production. The training program helped the trainees become self-sufficient and empowered to start their own businesses. Additionally, the vocational training provided them with valuable skills that are in demand in the local job market, increasing their chances of finding employment opportunities. In addition to the vocational training, business skills, life skills, and entrepreneurial training were provided for the youth. This comprehensive approach ensured that the youth not only gained technical skills but also learned how to effectively manage and grow their businesses. From these trained youth, 60 (27 female) are working privately, while the remaining 24 (14 female) are working in 8 self-help groups. Currently, 69 (82%) start their income generating business.



The vocational training provided them with valuable skills that are in demand in the local job market



Provision of start-up capital support for the graduates; In youth employment, the local government, youth families, and the project play an important role in providing vocational skill training, employment opportunities, sheds, and start-up capital. Accordingly, the project provided startup support of birr 687,500.00 for 55 graduates. Consequently, youth received birr 1,642,420.00 from the government revolving fund. Also, youth and their families have saved 1,176,000.00 to start their businesses, and almost 85% of the graduates start their businesses and the rest of them in the process.

Practical Training Inputs for Three TVET Centers; In the pursuit of comprehensive technical training, the provision of practical training inputs stands as a cornerstone in equipping aspiring professionals with the necessary skills. In response to the discerning requests from TEVT colleges, the Tesfa Project has orchestrated the procurement and delivery of diverse practical training inputs tailored for poultry production, animal fattening, and catering. The esteemed recipients of these invaluable resources include Chacha, Deneba, and Debresina TVET colleges. The strategic allocation of these inputs has empowered trainees to acquire the essential technical skills vital to their vocational development, thereby ensuring the fulfillment of the intended training objectives set forth by the TEVT colleges.



Edget Project Update:

Outdoor Preschool Playground Materials equipped in Six ECDE Centers

Outdoor preschool playground materials, including swings, balances, slides, and merry-go-rounds, have been installed in two project-targeted preschool centers in Kinbebit and Hageremariyam districts. All the materials were produced in the organization's educational resource center. These materials are intended to provide children with opportunities for physical activity and play, promoting their overall development and well-being. The outdoor playgrounds aim to enhance the learning environment and encourage creativity and social interaction among the students.



TOT training for the talented Community members on Teaching Playing and Learning materials (TPLMs) production and utilization.

Trainers of training was conducted on the proper application of local teaching and learning materials, instructional media production, and utilization for 29 (14 female) parents, teachers, school pedagogical center technicians, and SHG members. The aim of the training was to enhance the participants' skills in creating and utilizing effective teaching resources to improve the quality of education. Participants were also trained on how to incorporate these materials into their lesson plans and engage students in interactive learning experiences. The ultimate goal was to empower educators and community members to work together to provide a more enriching educational experience for students.



Capacity Building Training for Health Staff and Community Facilitators

A comprehensive capacity building training was conducted, benefitting 39 health staff members and community facilitators, with a notable participation of 27 female members. The training covered essential topics such as child development domains, stages of child development, key developmental milestones, the significance of exclusive breastfeeding, and early child development.

The training equipped participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively support and promote optimal child development within their respective communities. As a result, it is expected that this enhanced capacity will lead to improved health outcomes for children, underscoring the pivotal role of health staff and facilitators in nurturing the well-being of young individuals.

Furthermore, the training fostered a deeper understanding of the critical influence of early childhood experiences on shaping future health and overall well-being, emphasizing the importance of early interventions and support in the developmental journey of children.

This initiative reflects the project's commitment to empowering health professionals and community facilitators to play a pivotal role in promoting holistic child development and fostering healthier futures for the next generation.



The training equipped participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively support and promote optimal child development within their respective communities.

Integration of Indigenous Knowledge into Pre-Primary Education Training

A two-day training session centered on the integration of indigenous knowledge into pre-primary education was conducted, drawing the participation of 24 educators, including 19 female teachers, education experts, and ESD staff. The training was facilitated by three esteemed experts from the Ministry of Education and Addis Ababa Education Bureau.

The primary objective of the training was to empower participants with the essential expertise to seamlessly integrate indigenous perspectives into their teaching methodologies, thereby cultivating a more inclusive and culturally resonant educational environment for young learners.

Through interactive sessions, hands-on activities, and insightful discussions, participants were immersed in a comprehensive learning experience aimed at deepening their understanding of how to effectively infuse indigenous knowledge into the pre-primary education curriculum. The training fostered a rich environment for reflective dialogue, enabling educators to explore innovative approaches to incorporate indigenous wisdom into their pedagogical practices.

This initiative underscores our commitment to promoting culturally responsive education and nurturing an inclusive learning environment that honors and integrates indigenous knowledge, ultimately enriching the educational journey of young students.



Capacity Building Training for the Newly Formulated Self-Help Group

In line with our commitment to fostering sustainable livelihoods, a comprehensive two-day capacity building training program was conducted for 256 newly formulated SHG members. The training focused on equipping participants with essential knowledge and skills in the areas of saving and loaning, Income Generating Activities (IGAs), business skills, and entrepreneurship.

The rigorous training initiative was designed to empower SHG members with the expertise to enhance their financial literacy and generate sustainable income. As a direct outcome of the training, participants gained valuable insights into the fundamental concepts of saving and loaning, IGAs, business skills, and entrepreneurship. Equipped with this knowledge, they were able to effectively apply their learning to establish income-generating activities such as poultry farming, petty trade, horticulture, and handicrafts.

Moreover, the training enabled SHG members to make informed decisions regarding their finances and investments, leading to improved economic stability and growth within their communities. The initiative also instilled a sense of independence and self-reliance among the participants, empowering them to take charge of their financial futures.

This capacity building training exemplifies our unwavering dedication to equipping community members with the tools and expertise necessary to foster sustainable economic development and financial independence.



Milk collection and processing training and milk collection and processing technological tools support

The training was conducted for 24 SHG members on milk collection and transport, milk testing and payment systems, milk processing, and milk product marketing. As a result, the SHG members' knowledge and skills were enhanced in the dairy sector; milk collection, processing, and management skills. After the training, working capital and milk collection and processing technological tools such as one lactometer, one three milk cans, one milk bucket, one milk churner, and one deep refrigerator were supported. As a result, the SHG members were engaged in to milk collection and processing group IGAs. Currently, they buy a litter of milk for 50 birr and sell it for an average of 90 birr. They have also been able to increase their income by going into butter and cheese processing. They collect up to 67 litters of milk per day, boil and sell the milk, sell it as yogurt, and sell the unsold milk into processing for cheese and butter for an average of 6,030 birr per day. From this, their average profit is 2,680 birr per day, and their net monthly profit is 80,400 birr. As a result, all of the members' living conditions have improved, five members who previously lived in rental homes are now building homes, and 19 members who were unable to educate their children owing to poverty are now able to do so.



SHG members two-year anniversary celebration and experience sharing program

Silase SHGs one and two were established in Kimbibit district, North Shoa Zone Oromia Regional State, in 2022, with 41 members. The groups, which started saving 10 birr a week, have since increased their income to 20 birr a week. They have shared experiences and increased their lending capacity. Silase SHG one has a total capital of 86,987 birr and a lending capacity of 5,000 birr, while SHG two has a total capital of 86,119 birr.

On the two-year anniversary celebration, group members shared their best experiences, including regular meetings, saving money, and setting goals to improve their social and economic circumstances. They also educated their children, had a garden area, participated in ECDE garden care, and maintained a tree in the school compound. Members were equipped with play-based learning and teaching classroom materials, family corner materials, and shop corner materials in Burka Ajersa ECDE centers. These benefits contribute to their improved living standards.

In addition to this, the members of the group were able to start school meals for preschoolers at Burka Ejersa ECDE Center by providing cooking utensils such as iron pots, plates, spoons, and cups, which are worth about 10,000 birr. As a result, the children at the center now have access to nutritious meals on a daily basis, improving their overall health and well-being. This initiative has also helped alleviate some of the financial burden on the families of these preschoolers. Moreover, of the members of this self-help group, three are members of the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) and the Community Education and Training Board (CETB). In this way, they can strengthen the participation of parents in this ECDE center and strengthen community-based ECDE centers and livelihood interventions.

Joint Venture updates

We are pleased to share the latest developments from our Joint Venture project, which aims to empower youth through targeted training and cooperative initiatives.

Youth Training and Cooperative Membership; approximately 103 youth (85% female) have successfully completed hard skills and tailored training programs. These trainings have equipped them with the necessary skills to join the “Yenege Tesfa SACCO.” Currently, we have about 217 youths (176 female) who have attained formal membership in Yenege Tesfa Saving and Loan Plc. Their total savings have reached an impressive 627,632.82 Ethiopian Birr. To support youth entrepreneurship, the SACCO has distributed a total of 112,000 Birr to young business owners, enabling them to generate personal income. So far, three individuals (one female) have accessed loans, with a total of 144 Birr in interest and 1,600 Birr in repayments collected. The overall savings, including interest and repayments, now totals approximately 627,632.82 Birr.

Engagement with Government Officials; a series of review meetings have been conducted with government officials, including representatives from regional finance, women’s affairs, youth and social affairs, science and technology bureaus, job skill development, and enterprise development sectors. The primary agenda focused on the lack of training space and the urgent need to construct training rooms. The finance bureau’s Civil Society Organization (CSO) focal point has committed to drafting a supportive letter to the relevant authorities. Additionally, consultative meetings were held with officials from local centers to address challenges encountered during the youth selection process. Participants included representatives from Hawassa City and Hawassa Zurya Woreda sectors.

Cooperative Training Initiatives; a total of 53 trainees from the saving and credit cooperative completed basic cooperative training aimed at providing alternative loan options for their businesses and strengthening the SACCO. Furthermore, 16 existing association members received training on essential business skills and life skills, covering key topics such as: **Business Planning and Strategy, Customer Service Excellence, Effective Communication, Time Management, Problem-Solving and Decision Making**

Experience Sharing Workshop; an experience-sharing workshop was successfully conducted, bringing together like-minded organizations such as Comboni Women’s College and Selam Hawassa, private institutions like Tabor Business Colleges, government colleges including Hawassa Poly TVET, and various government sectors. This workshop facilitated the exchange of experiences and best practices while addressing challenges faced in youth engagement. Key discussion points ranged from the youth selection process to job linkage mechanisms.

Entrepreneurship Training; finally, we are proud to report that a total of 85 trainees participated in a three-day entrepreneurship training program. This initiative aims to inspire innovation and creativity among participants, encouraging them to become entrepreneurs while developing new ideas and solutions to existing problems.

We look forward to continuing our efforts in empowering youth through these valuable programs and initiatives.



Empowering Communities: Child Labor and Child Marriage Reduction Project Update

We are excited to share recent developments and achievements from our ongoing initiative aimed at reducing child labor and child marriage in our communities. Our project is committed to empowering families and schools through sustainable practices, education, and support.

1. Strengthening Project Oversight; to enhance the effectiveness of our initiatives, we have recruited three dedicated volunteer workers who will facilitate daily monitoring and support. Their primary focus will be on school Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and the operations of school gender clubs. This oversight is crucial for ensuring that our programs are implemented effectively and that we achieve our goals.

2. Agricultural Support for School Sustainability; in a significant step towards sustainability, Shilcho School has received agricultural inputs for the first time, allowing them to initiate vegetable production. This initiative aims to generate income for the school gender club, contributing to a diversified income stream for each participating school:

3. Empowering Parents through Good Parenting Skills; recognizing the vital role parents play in their children's development, we have conducted training sessions for 200 parents in the Dara Otilcho District. This training focuses on good parenting skills, emphasizing the importance of nurturing environments and supportive relationships for children's well-being and development. By equipping parents with these essential skills, we aim to foster a community that prioritizes the growth and protection of its children.

Our collective efforts are instrumental in combating child labor and child marriage. By promoting sustainable income generation, enhancing parental skills, and fostering supportive educational environments, we are taking significant strides toward a brighter future for our children.



Biruh Project update

We are pleased to provide you with the latest updates on the Biruh Project, Phase 4, aimed at empowering disadvantaged women in our target communities.

Beneficiary Selection Process; in our ongoing efforts to support vulnerable populations, we successfully conducted the beneficiary selection process in two target Kebeles: Jara Karara and Doyo Otilcho, located in Hawassa Zurya Woreda. After a thorough evaluation against our selection criteria, we are proud to announce that a total of 100 disadvantaged women have been carefully selected to participate in this phase of the project.

Establishment of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs); following the selection, we established four Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). These associations are designed to promote savings and provide access to credit for their members, fostering financial independence and empowerment.

Progress Update; we are excited to report that 50 members have already begun saving within the VSLAs. In just one week, the total amount saved by these members reached 2,610 Birr. This impressive figure comprises: 2,110 Birr from weekly individual savings and 500 Birr contributed from the social fund

This early success highlights the commitment of VSLA members to improve their financial situations and work towards a sustainable future.

Looking Ahead; the Biruh Project is dedicated to continuing its mission of empowering women through financial literacy and community support. We believe that by fostering a culture of saving and mutual assistance, we can make a significant impact on the lives of these women and their families.



ESD's online platforms



ESD's LinkedIn



ESD's YouTube



ESD's Website



ESD's Tweeter



ESD's Facebook



ESD's Telegram