

A Report on the Support to Shewarobit Town

Adheno Integrated Rural Development Association has been doing different developmental activities in North Shoa Zone of the Amhara Regional State. Besides its developmental activities, Adheno has been actively providing emergency supports to victims whenever natural and man-made disasters happen in the area. There have been repeated conflicts between the federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) since November 2020,

In the year 2021, Shewarobit was one of the towns which were gravely affected by the conflict between the federal government and TPLF groups in North Shewa Zone. In this particular town, serious crimes such as huge amount of material destruction and looting, mass killings of people and rape were committed. The local people have paid tremendous sacrifices in defending themselves from different organized attacks.

In the town of Shewarobit, women, elders, children, people with disabilities among others were among the major victims. The fighters who entered the Town of Shewarobit were moving from door to door identifying families whose family members went to war fronts for revenging and they found some. Moreover, they were moving from door to door looking for girls and children for the purpose of rape and sexual exploitation even there were rape cases on monks which was broadcasted by the mainstream media.

The assets of those left the town due to fear of the conflict got destroyed and looted. Also, huge destruction and looting happened on different sectors such as schools and health facilities without any compassion.

Significant numbers of civilians lost their lives, wounded and became disabled due to the conflict. In this case, wounded and the disabled ones are taking medical treatments in different health facilities. According to the Office of Shewarobit Finance and Economic Administration, most of the victims of the war do not have a permanent job and they are leading a destitute life. As a result, most families in the town are exposed for severe poverty. In supporting these groups of people, the Adheno board members have done tremendous fundraising activities. In this regard, there was a discussion between Adheno and the Shewarobit Town Administration on identifying those who desperately need the support; to decide the type of support; and related procedural issues. Finally, it was decided to provide the support to very destitute families who were severely affected by the conflict and who are wounded and disabled due to the war.

Accordingly, Teff (staple cereal) was decided to be the kind of the support where most of community members use it on a daily basis.

Based on the above preconditions, the Shewarobit Town Administration took the responsibility in identifying and selecting families who deserves the support. On January 13, 2022, in the presence of Adheno staff and a delegation team from Shewarobit Town Administration, the support has been delivered to 68 households who have a total of 323 family members. Each

household was given 25 kgs of Teff. In total, Adheno has provided 17 quintals of Teff to these needy parts of the community.

During the support, Adheno forwarded condolences to families who lost their loved ones and wished a quick recovery for those wounded during the war.

Those who got the support forwarded their thanks for such important support that Adheno delivered to them. They expressed that they are in a challenging situations in which they need more fundamental supports in the future.

As Adheno team observed, the town experienced huge destructions, looting and unbelievable violations of human dignity. In this regard, Adheno may look for more source of alternative funding for further emergency supports.



