

# **ADHENO Integrated Rural Development Association**

## *2021 ADHENO's General Assembly (GA) Meeting Report*

On 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022, ADHENO has convened a general assembly meeting at Ethiopia Hotel. ADHENO's Board Chair person Dr. Yamrot Kinfu welcomed and invited participants for a minute silence to the lives lost during the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia. Agenda of the GA meeting included: physical and financial performance report, audit report, plan for the year, discussion and endorsement of the two reports and plan, nomination and appointments of board members, recognition of board members who completed their tenure. Ato Taye Belachew and Ato Akilile Haile were selected to lead the meeting.

*Ato Isayias Fikre, Project Coordinator at Debre-Birhan coordination Office*, reported the 2021 annual performance report on projects that include All We Can, Prof. Turnowsky Family (Austrian Team), Dir Biyabir and sponsorship from individual donors. Ato Isayias conveyed that significant number of trees were planted by using Tree Gudifecha strategy; biogas technology was introduced to the community; improved animal breeds (heifers & cows) were introduced and provided improved heifers to selected community members; ADHENO has given training on improved potato seeds and provided the seed to selected community members which was found typical in ensuring food security; women were organized in the form of self-help groups (SHGs); provided stationery materials, sanitary materials, paid house rents to female students who come from economically disadvantaged families; among other activities. Furthermore, he has briefly given detail explanations on challenges faced, measures taken and lessons learnt during the project implementation year.

Also, he added that besides its developmental activities, ADHENO has been engaging in humanitarian activities based on the request from the local government. As a result, ADHENO in collaboration with partners such as Dir Biyabir has delivered lifesaving food items and non-food items to IDPs in Ataye, Shewarobit and Debre-Birhan towns in phases.

*Ato Yonathan Fikre, Executive Director of ADHENO*, presented the 2022 operational plan. In his presentation, Ato Yonathan briefed on expected outcomes which include: strengthen rural people to manage natural resources and water development; enhanced livelihood of targeted households through ensuring food and nutrition security; improved socio-economic situation of women and unemployed youth; well promoted quality basic education through trainings and material provisions; improved monitoring, evaluation and learning practices; build capacity of staff; and maintained networking and partnerships with major stakeholders and partners.

A representative from Solomon Eshete Chartered Certified Accounting Firm reported ADHENO's 2021 Audit report. He has given a brief report. The Audit Firm indicated that the audit report was conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing

## **ADHENO Integrated Rural Development Association**

(ISAs). As a result, the firm found that the audit report was satisfactory and in a good financial position where the Administrative Expenditure was found to be 13.38% of the total expenditure of the association.

As a limitation, the audit firm found out that ADHENO didn't implement IPSAS(International Public Sector Accounting Standard) which is required to be adopted in Ethiopia for all NGOs starting 2019 based on the financial of Ethiopian proclamation No.874/2014 article5(1) and Article 54(1). Concerning to adopting IPSAS, ADHENO has contracted with Meles Biru Authorized Accountant to provide training and install the financial system on IPSAS in May 2022. Then, ADHENO will adopt the IPSAS system immediately after the training.

Based on the reports and plan presented, participants asked different clarification and technical questions and comments. Brief answers were given for the issues raised. Finally, the GA endorsed the two reports and the plan for 2022.

The next agenda was nomination and appointment of board members. Board members who completed their tenure were W/ro Sosina Demssie and Ato Asnake Atakure. On the other hand, Dr. Yayehyirad Kitaw requested the GA a resignation from his role as a board member for his health issues and his resignation was approved. As a result, three board members were elected which includes Ato Zerihun Mengistu, Dr. Solomon Bekure and W/ro Sosina Demssie (for the second term).

Besides, a farmer from Cherkos Kebele was in attendance to give his testimony representing his community how ADHENO has changed their lives through provision of improved potato seeds. He told that they ensured food security in their community and they no longer need any assistance.

A former beneficiary of ADHENO's School Girls Support Program has also attended the GA and she gave her testimony how ADHENO helped her until she completed her Bachelor degree program (BSc in Environmental Science) at Kotebe Metropolitan University. Currently she is teaching in a private school in Addis Ababa.

Finally, recognition for board members who completed their tenure took place where Ato Abebe Kebede & Ato Asnake Atakure received a certificate of recognition for what they contributed to ADHENO during their board membership.

## ADHENO Integrated Rural Development Association



*Figure1: General Assembly meeting*

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*Figure2: General Assembly meeting*



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*Figure3: Ato Abebe Kebede, receiving a certificate of recognition for his service during his tenure*

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*Figure4: Ato Asnake Atakure, about to receive a certificate of recognition for his service during his tenure*

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*Figure5: ADHENO staff and some GA members with Dr. Fisseha Hailemeskel*



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*Figure 6: A farmer from Cherkos Kebele giving a testimony*