



## **Adheno Integrated Rural Development Association**

### **2021 Annual Report**



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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## **Introduction**

ADHENO Integrated Rural Development Association (ADHENO) is a grassroots organization dedicated for integrated sustainable environmental rehabilitation and economic empowerment of rural people. It was founded in 2002 G.C. and re-registered as “Local Organization ” (Reg.No.0353) based on proclamation N° 1113/2019 of Civil Society Organizations. In doing its work, Adheno envisions to see healthy, socially and economically empowered, and self-sufficient rural people with sustained livelihoods. Adheno’s mission is to improve the living conditions of rural people by closely working and collaborating with communities, government and other development partners through promotion of participatory environmental rehabilitation, water and education development, agricultural technology, economic development of disadvantaged women, unemployed youth, and smallholder farmers. Adheno has been active in providing development related services to the rural poor people for more than 20 years. The organization is active in Bassona Worana Woreda (district) of North Shoa Zone of the Amhara region and intends to expand its working areas to other districts.

## **Background of Adheno Integrated Rural Development Association**

Adheno is an NGO which was established and registered as a local organization in Ethiopia. The principal goal of this organization is the elimination of poverty in the North Shoa Zone of Amhara Region by closely working with the local population through implementing projects related to integrated environmental conservation and economic empowerment where the local people use their labor to good purposes and leverage the available local resources. The close interaction that ADHENO has with the local farmers, women, and youth, as well as the success of several well executed local projects which have earned ADHENO a significant amount of credibility among the local population. The trust and cooperation of the local people have made ADHENO especially effective in implementing development projects in this region. Many of the projects including the school building, and phases I to III of the environmental rehabilitation projects were developed by ADHENO based on the specific request of the local population, who has subsequently been enthusiastic participants, supporters and beneficiaries of these projects.

ADHENO has been awarded different prizes by the local administration for its contributions to the community. Furthermore, Adheno received an award from H.E. Girma Wolde-Giorgis (the late President of FDRE Ethiopia) as a ‘Green Hero’ for its innovative approach of tree Gudifecha concept (based on an Ethiopian tradition among the Oromo people of adopting children) which is a new approach that encourages and motivates farmers to plant and care for trees much like they would to an adopted child. ADHENO has demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach by closely working with various communities in Northern Shewa in planting and caring for hundreds of thousands of indigenous trees, resulting in the visible greening of the landscape and recovery of barren lands. ADHENO leverages traditional practices of planting trees around church compounds and closely works with community groups not only to rehabilitate their environment but also address their pressing economic needs in a way that preserves their culture, tradition, and environment. This clearly indicates that ADHENO has been able to build credible partnerships with local government offices without whose approval, none of these projects could be implemented.

Moreover, a key success factor for ADHENO development projects has been a very hands-on approach and a very close relationship with the local population. ADHENO listens to the local people to understand their needs and works directly with them to leverage their local knowledge to come up with solutions. Local farmers, women, and youth have been organized into local committees that are responsible for managing and monitoring the various projects.

As a result, ADHENO has earned an enormous amount of credibility and respect with many communities in Northern Shewa, and more and more neighboring communities (Kebeles) now come forth and request an opportunity to work with ADHENO in their villages. This credibility that ADHENO has earned among local communities as well as their skill in efficiently delivering relevant solutions by partnering closely with community groups and village elders makes them an incredibly valuable project partner for different funding organizations. The focus Adheno gives to working with local communities and investing in building the skills of local villagers ensures the long-term sustainability of projects. The responsiveness and accountability demonstrated by ADHENO also allows funding partners such as Dir Biyabir, All We Can (AWC) among others to closely monitor project progress and reassures that funds are always utilized as expected.

ADHENO has also been able to successfully navigate the obstacles and challenges of working with the local governing bodies when required. Major achievements of ADHENO to date include:

- ✓ Development and implementation of an award-winning strategy for reforestation with income generation opportunities (Tree Gudifecha). Tree Gudifecha has been successfully implemented in different kebeles that Adheno worked with so far sponsored by The Christensen Fund (via Dir Biyabir), AWC among others.
- ✓ Successful community-based income generating micro-enterprises including irrigation-based horticulture, small- scale poultry farming, beekeeping, manufacturing and selling fuel saving stoves.
- ✓ Supporting women Self Help Groups in developing successful micro-enterprises including small business activities and petty trade
- ✓ Access to clean water for the community by developing local springs
- ✓ Building and supporting local village schools
- ✓ Supporting students in different grade levels, colleges and Universities

### **Detailed description of accomplished outcomes**

#### **1. Enhanced livelihoods; Food and nutrition security to target households**

##### **Animal Husbandry**

Improved animal breeding is becoming a good economic option in improving livelihoods of rural people. Eight (8) heifers were purchased from Debre-Birhan local market and distributed for 8 HHs (2 women) in Cherkos sub Kebele through a cost sharing mechanism. In the purchasing process, ADHENO staff, two animal health and animal rearing experts from the district Animal Husbandry Office and two delegated beneficiaries were engaged. The targeted community contributed each 20 % (5,000) birr of the planned cost. On the purchasing day, heifers were transported and distributed to selected beneficiaries using a lottery method in Cherkos sub kebele.

One high breed bull was also bought from local community. The health and other selection factors of the bull were checked by experts from the Woreda Animal Husbandry Office. The

purpose of buying the bull is to provide bull service to get improved animal breeding for Cherkos community. Since then, 24 HHs got the service.

Artificial Insemination service was promoted well in Cherkos through training and other activities. The community started using the service. The service is being given by experts from the Woreda Animal husbandry office. Totally, 37 HHs were provided the service for their cows and heifers. Moreover, 34 HHs got diagnosis services for the health status of their cows.



*Figure 1: Improved animal breeds*



*Figure 2: Artificial insemination*

### **Potato Production Activities**

The muti-chrekos community was for the first time introduced to potato farming as a mechanism to survive through the acute food shortage periods of the year. The introduction of the potato farming started by training given to 30 HHs(13 women) on improved potato production for two



days in Cherkos sub kebele and a one day experience sharing program in Bassona worana woreda Dibut kebele from June 12-14, 2021. The trainer came from Kebele Agricultural office. Related to this, 50 quintal improved potato seed (Belet and Gera) was purchased from Mush Irrigation Development and Marketing Cooperative in Bassona Worana woreda. This improved seed was distributed for 125 HHs (29 women) 40 kg for each beneficiary. Beneficiaries have had very productive harvesting of potato which used for both sale and household consumption. The monitoring visit has shown that the community has jumped out of food aid safety network and managed to be self-sufficient in food security after the introduction of potato farming.



*Figure 3: Improved potato production*

## **2. Rehabilitated degraded areas in the targeted geographic locations**

### **Tree seedlings, plantation and related activities**

As part of covering the degraded land, 935,000 tree seedlings were produced in all nursery sites (195,000 from central, 100,000 from community, 100,000 from groups and 540,000 from individual tree nursery sites). The numbers of nursery sites are 108 individual, five (5) group, two (2) community and one central tree nursery sites. As a result, 47 ha of land have been covered by trees on the closure areas agroforestry and woodlots in Muticherkos and Moyeamangulet Kebeles.

150 surveyors (4 women) and watershed management committee have participated for one day training on soil and water conservation measures in both Mutichekos and Moyo amangulet kebeles. The training focused on the application of soil and water conservation (SWC) measures, working days and community mobilization strategies. The training was facilitated by Adheno staff and experts from Kebele Agriculture office in March 2021 in both Muticherkos and Moyo amangulet kebeles.



*Figure 4: Tree seedlings*

### **3. Reduced incidence of waterborne diseases**

One spring water was made in Moyo Amangult where 206 (91 Female) people are getting access to safe and potable water in Moyo Amangult Kebele of Moyo sub kebele. The construction of spring water included capping of the main spring, water tanker and cattle trough. The already developed spring water uses for both household consumption and domestic animals. Selection of committee members and establishment of WASH committee took place and they have been mobilizing the community and facilitated the construction process of the spring water. Seven (7) committee members took a three (3) days training in Amangulet kebele. The training was given by experts from the Woreda water and energy office.



*Figure 5: Water Springs*



#### 4. Biogas Development

Biogas digester has been built and promoted for 5 HHs (men) in Muticherkos kebele specifically in Cherkos sub kebele. The digester was constructed in collaboration with the local government, households and ADHENO where the local government supported accessories and expertise service including Mason payment, households have done all labor works and Adheno supplied cement, sand and covered the costs for material transportation. The construction of the biogas is completed and started providing its intended services.



*Figure 6: Biogas under construction*

#### 5. Increased saving and income of deprived women engaged in SHGs and IGAs

Adheno has established four self-help groups (SHGs) with 80 women members. These groups are able to save 81,300 birr from members of the group through their engagements of weekly savings. In this regard, they have saved 29,365 Birr in 2021. Adheno has provided them financial books, ledgers and printing saving books to all of the SHGs. Hence, 80,000 birr startup capital has been provided for the four SHGs where each group received 20,000 Birr.





## **6. Basic School facilities fulfilled, students' and teachers' talent and competency improved**

In 2021, 89 student desks were distributed to two primary schools. Besides, 151 reference books have been used in two libraries which enhanced the students' knowledge and performance. Furthermore, two schools were equipped with libraries and laboratories which were furnished to foster a better education service. The equipment includes seven shelves, 34 chairs and seven tables. Additionally, school management committee actively engaged in promoting quality education in each school. Furthermore, 50 teachers were given trainings on promoting quality education.

In total, 264 students are getting stationery materials, sanitary materials, and room rent payments among other supports. These students are from primary school (189), high school, college and university students (75). We are reaching more students beyond our plan. This is because, we got one more additional private donor who started supporting for one (1) additional university and 20 high school students.



*Figure 8: School girls Support*

### **Training to teachers from Amangult, Chekos and Workgur Primary and Lower Secondary Schools**

Training was given to teachers from Amangult and Cherkos schools on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and at Workegur School on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. A total of 31 (22 male & 9 female) teachers from Amangult and Cherkos took the training. Additionally, 14(6M & 8F) teachers attended the training. In total, 45(28M & 17F) teachers took the training.

The training was started with a brief introduction about Adheno. Mr. Tamerat, consultant and the trainer, introduced himself and the purpose of the training briefly. Prior to the training, Mr. Tamerat had visited each school; conducted class observation; and interviewed the school administration and teachers. Such previous interactions made the communications easy.

The training was begun with icebreaker questions which helped trainees to be active participant and energetic from the beginning. The trainer presented on the purpose of education based on his previous visits to the respective schools which offered trainees the opportunity to easily understand the reality in their schools.

There were group works and debates during the training. ***“How do you convince farmers to send their children (boys and girls) to school?”*** was among the questions for discussion.

From the group discussion, limitations of teachers’ related to effective communications were identified. Teachers didn’t use farmers’ daily life experiences to easily convince them to send their children to school. In this regard, teachers were using the stories of successful people whom farmers do not know. Besides, the trainer recommended that teachers could also mention what an educated child can help his/her families in different circumstances on their daily life. For instance, an educated child can help in reading court cases if families face land grabbing problems; the educated child can be selected as a local support system secretaries (e.g. equib traditional saving schemes); the child can run a local council office, making his/her families proud; an educated child may help in writing different letters among other roles in the family.

Secondly, ***student evaluation techniques*** were also among the topics for the group discussion for the trainees (teachers). The teachers presented lists of evaluation techniques, seemingly from text books. However, during the discussion, they came up with evaluation techniques such as test/exam and sometimes question & answer (Q&A) they have actually been applying. Finally, it was agreed that teachers need to apply different techniques in evaluating students besides the above common ways of evaluation.

Thirdly, ***the roles of a family for students’ educational progress*** were also one of the topics for a group discussion. On this topical idea, trainees agreed on parents need to allow students to go to school regularly, buy supporting text books, motivate them to study hard, and similar

activities. Each group work was open for comments, critics and further explanations which made the process engaging, and enabled to get a shared knowledge within and among the teachers.

The next session was to list out benchmarks for model teachers and students. The list was developed by the teachers and put on the flip chart. In-between, the facilitators asks, how much of that they themselves are, and reflections were made. Then, the trainer read out loud his list and gave it for the school to copy and distribute for all the teachers in attendance.

After these presentations, discussions, and reflections, came the time for feedback on observation report conducted earlier by the trainer. This was a time of reality check, where the teachers had to examine on their actual teaching-learning process in reference to the overall purpose and quality of education.

The presentation of the findings enabled teachers to clearly see their strength and limitations. Some limitations were found pressing and were promised to be addressed immediately, these include: avoid negligence of slow learning students -engage all students and not only the smart ones; have, at hand, lesson plan all the time ( almost all teachers didn't come with lesson plan for lame excuse) ; and always mark students homework ( only 20% of students homework were marked).

The training came to an end with the participants completing evaluation form. The main points captured from the evaluation indicate: Extremely useful and informative; added new knowledge; mirror for self-evaluation; simple and easy way of presentation; and the trainer was knowledgeable. At closure, Certificate of Participation was issued to teachers signed by ADHENO, The Consultant/Trainer and Woreda Education Secretariat.





## 7. Increased resource mobilization capacity to secure land for field office and IGA

ADHENO's coordination office in Debre-Birhan is trying to secure land to build holistic building for office, tutorial, training and rental purposes. Adheno has submitted a land request letter for Bassona Worana woreda administration. The request is being processed and we hope we will secure it by 2022.

## 8. Emergency support Activities



### 1.1. Food aid

A number of food aid support rounds were made by Dir Biyabir fund. The first support was to the internal displaced peoples (IDPs) in Ataye was 5,000kg of wheat flour. This food aid has been provided to 428 people in Ataye town whose property was destroyed by OLF militants. The IDPs flee their homes and are living in eight tents at Ataye secondary School. It is an aid to alleviate the food shortages of the IDPs. The wheat flour was purchased and supplied from one of the wheat flour factory in Debre- Berhan town.

Another food aid was the supply of Rice and Macaroni. A total of 3,000kg of rice and 2,000kg of Macaroni were supplied for Ataye IDPs.

The supply of cooking oil is one of the foods support for Ataye and Karakore displaced community. This cooking oil has made it possible for displaced people to have access to well-cooked and tasty food. In total, 1,330 liters cooking oil was supplied in two rounds for Ataye

and Karakore. The cooking oil distributed for Ataye IDPs was 685 liters and 645 liters for IDPs in Karakore Kebele.

There was also lack of access to drinking water in the Ataye. The OLF militant's destroyed water pipes. To address the drinking water needs, 680 packs (4,080 liters of bottled water with 1 liter) were provided to alleviate the problem in Ataye town.

Further 4,000 kgs of Teff flour was provided with two rounds, to enable the communities living in Ataye Shelter to continue their traditional diet (Enejera). In addition to Teff flour, 50 kg of ground pepper (Berbere) and 200 kg Bean flour (Shero) were also provided to make sauce. After this support, the IDPs were happy to be able to prepare their traditional food for the first time. It also helps them forget about the trauma of the conflict and the hardships they went through and they raised hope for a better life in the future.



*Figure 10: Food items support*

The IDPs say that the food aid was generally the only source of food, as there is a severe shortage of food. Before the first round of food support, mothers were unable to breastfeed for their children due to malnutrition. However, with the help of food items, breastfeeding mothers were able to breastfeed their child.

## **2. Material Supply**

### **2.1 Utensils Support**

The IDP houses were burnt, properties looted, they were displaced without anything at hand, not even cooking pots. In addition to the food support, Dir Biyabir fund was used for the purchase and distribution of kitchen utensils. This included the supply of big Dish, pots, shawls, bowls, trays, water cups and water jugs. The IDPs were able to stay in the shelter using the provided food and cooking utensils. In addition, 624 cooking dishes and 312 teakettles were provided to 102 households in Ataye town and 210 households in Karakore Kebele. This support was provided at the household level so that it can be used permanently in and out of the shelter.



### **2.2 Mattress and Cloth Support**

In another round of Dir Biyabir support, displaced people sheltered in the eight tents at a high school compound in the town of Ataye had no mattress to sleep on. To address this problem, Dir Biyabir fund was used to buy and distribute a total of 50 mattresses in Karakore Kebele. These mattresses were provided to 50 homeless households live in Karakore primary school.

Also, due to the hot weather in Ataye town, it is not possible to wear blankets at night, so 300 bed sheets (towels) that are suitable for the night have been supported for 300 households.

In response to the mothers' and girls request for a change of dress, 200 women were given 200 pajamas to wear in the tropics or hot air condition.





*Figure 12: Mattress distribution*

### **2.3 Hygiene Items Support**

In Attaye, Dir Biyabir fund was further used for the purchase and supply of 576 sanitary pads for young girls and mothers living in shelters. Furthermore, 81 diapers were provided for children in the shelters. This support was provided at the request of the mothers in the shelter and was of great benefit for good health for the mothers and children. A total of 1,550 dry soaps and 1,550 liters of liquid soap were provided in response to the request of all the community members in the shelter to be provided with personal and communal hygiene.

Likewise, 500 dry soap and 500 liters of liquid soap, and 1,050 dry soap and 1,050 liters of liquid soap was supplied for Karakore Kebele. As a result, the lack of sanitation in the two shelters was adequately addressed.

## 2.4 Stationery Materials Support

Dir Biyabir fund was used to reach the Ephrata ena Gedem Woreda and Ataye town with 4,000 exercise books and 1,578 pens that were donated to eight schools (one preschool, one high school and six primary schools) students whose homes and property were destroyed and live in shelters as well as in their neighbors. As a result, students who were unable to continue their class due to exercise books and pen problems were able to return to school and start the class room after horrible OLF attacks.



*Figure 13: Hygiene items support*

## Networking and partnerships

ADHENO has renewed its membership and paid membership fees with Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations (CCRDA) which is a consortium of more than 336 (as of 2010) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engaged in various development activities including agricultural development and food security, rural and urban development, HIV/AIDS prevention and control, environmental protection and gender mainstreaming. CCRDA promotes and encourages members on networking and membership, information exchange, policy matters and dialogues on various topics, capacity building of members among other activities. As a result, ADHENO is actively partnering and networking with different likeminded organizations under the umbrella of the CCRDA on different thematic areas such as Environmental rehabilitations, rural development, livelihoods improvement, conflict resolution and coexistence among other topics. Adheno program staffs

have been participating on different workshops, dialogues and experience sharing events on the above thematic areas which have enabled them to broaden their perspectives in addressing challenges during project implementation and formulating new project proposals. Adheno is making strategic alliances with members under CCRDA especially on the area of conflict resolution and coexistence to come up with a new project in conflict affected areas in creating reconciliation for a harmonized relationship of different ethnic groups on our project implementation areas.

### **Recruitment and employment for vacant positions**

The Previous Executive Director had resigned his work in July 2021. As a result, an employment for a new Executive Director had been completed in September and he has started his job on 01 October 2021. Additionally, employment for a Program Officer and a project cashier has been completed in October and they are on their job since 01 November 2021.