

June 29, 2022

Consultative Meeting Report on a project “Supporting Underprivileged Students in North Shoa Zone”

Donor: Kedmia Lewegen (Medhanealem Church in New York)

On 29th June 2022, ADHENO has convened a consultative meeting with *Kedmia Lewegen Fundraising Committee of Medhanealem Church of New York* and Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church *North Shoa Diocese*. In the meeting, three participants (W/ro Nardos, W/ro Woyinshet & W/ro Yeworkwoha) led by W/ro Yeworkwoha Ephrem from Kedmia Lewegen Fundraising Committee of Medhanealem Church in New York; two representatives (Megabi Senay Yonas & Memher Yordanos) from Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church *North Shoa Diocese*, ADHENO’s board chairperson and ADHENO staff were in attendance.

Agenda of the consultative meeting included: opening prayer, welcoming remark and participants introduction, briefing about ADHENO, briefing about Kedmia Lewegen, briefing about the North Shoa Diocese, *Presentation on Supporting Underprivileged Students Project proposal*, open discussion on the project proposal, possible future collaborations between ADHENO & Kedmia Lewegen, and Closing Prayer.

The consultative meeting was begun by opening prayer facilitated by Megabi Senay Yonas. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Yamrot Kinfu, Chairperson of ADHENO. She welcomed participants and let each participant to introduce himself/herself.

The major purpose of the meeting was to discuss and reflect on the project proposal - Supporting underprivileged students in North Shoa zone of Amhara region and put directions on future possible collaborations between ADHENO and Kedmia Lewegen.

The major aim of the project is to reduce school dropouts and repetition through the provision of educational materials and financial supports to economically deprived students who desperately need such assistances.

Isayias, ADHENO’s Project Coordinator at Debre-Berhan Project Coordination Office, briefed participants about ADHENO and current project activities. He explained that ADHENO is implementing projects such as environmental protection, water and soil conservation, livelihood improvements, women empowerment, promoting quality basic education and emergency relief assistances to IDPs sheltered in Debre-Berhan. Regarding to promoting quality basic education, Isayias has explained that ADHENO in partnership with funding organizations has been providing educational materials (exercise books, pen, pencil, eraser...), sanitary materials (for female students), house rent payments, school uniform among others to help economically deprived students attend their schools properly.

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Representing Kedmia Lewegen, *W/ro Yeworkwoha Ephrem* briefed participants about Orthodox Medhanealem Church in New York. She told that the Church was established in 1984. For 30 years, the church used to provide services in rental houses. Seven years before, the church bought its own building. Following this wonderful achievement, the church has planned to raise funds for humanitarian and development activities in Ethiopia. She also said that even though the church had been in a very difficult situation during COVID-19, recently, a fund-raising committee called Kedmia Lewegen has been formed to raise funds to support different projects in Ethiopia. The Committee has selected the education sector specifically sponsorship programs. As a result, the committee received a project proposal from ADHENO on *Supporting Economically Deprived Students in North Shoa Zone of Amhara region*. And, the committee has found the project proposal relevant and approved for funding.

Representing the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church North Shoa Diocese, *Megabi Senay Yonas & Memher Yordanos* have briefed participants of the meeting about the North Shoa diocese. The reason why they were part of the consultative meeting was 60 clergy students who concurrently study modern education are among the beneficiaries of the project. Representatives of the Diocese informed that there are 36 monasteries, 2162 churches, and 792 clergy schools in North Shoa zone. In the meantime, they told that they have many more clergy students who concurrently study modern education. However, these students are in a desperate need of educational material and financial supports. Additionally, they told that the Diocese has a modern primary school (grades 1-4).

Sefinew, ADHENO's Program Officer, presented the project proposal on supporting underprivileged students in North Shoa zone. ADHENO has been providing different supports such as educational materials, sanitary materials (female students), house rent payments, uniform among others to elementary school, high school, college and university students. Such supports help to address desperate needs of students.

He has given much emphasis on the significant number of students who come from very remote rural areas and underprivileged families attending their education in Shewarobit and Debre-Birhan. Most districts are deprived and characterized with poor socio-economic infrastructures, services and facilities in North Shoa Zone of Amhara Region. In such areas, there are students who come from economically underprivileged families where families are usually unable to fulfill educational needs of their children. As a result, students face challenges in fulfilling stationery materials, buying clothes/uniforms and paying house rents when they move to towns such as Shewarobit and Debre-Birhan towns to attend secondary or preparatory schools.

In his presentation, Sefinew has clearly explained objectives, proposed activities, expected outcomes, monitoring and evaluation endeavors. Moreover, he described the work plan, distribution mechanisms, responsibilities of parties, accountability and sustainability issues, project lifetime, and reporting issues.

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Additionally, he articulated the budget breakdown where the annual total budget per student was found to be **9,871 ETB (\$191)** and the total annual budget for 160 students is **1,579,392 ETB (\$30,626)**.

Finally, there was an open discussion and a reflection session on the project proposal. Also, ADHENO and Kedmia Lewogen agreed to sign memorandum of understanding as soon as possible. Kedmia Lewogen promised to transfer the fund a month before schools begin (in August) for the academic year of 2022.





Figures: Views of participants during the meeting