

The Catholic Eparchial Secretariat Keren (CESK)



Annual Departmental Report 2012

Annual Report: 2012

Statement from

Abba Uqbagaber Woldeghiorghis
CESK Secretary General



Dear partners, friends and readers,

Thanks to your generous commitment and partnership built during the course of years, the Catholic Eparchial Secretariat of Keren (CESK) had achieved numerous socio-pastoral activities during the year 2012.

CESK works not only for emergency relief but also for the elimination of poverty by supporting education, health and human development programs based on respect for human dignity and human rights. To create a society that respects human dignity, we promote solidarity and cooperation with the oppressed to support self-help efforts in order to realize a self-reliant society sharing goals with one another as partners. CESK supports people regardless of race, gender or religion. We respect the traditional and cultural values of local partners who are actively involved in the decision-making process of the projects.

CESK gives major priority and attention to the most disadvantaged, who largely live in remote areas, who have no access of communication, transportation and other basic human needs. As we are opted for the poor, we set-up priorities based on the assessment conducted by its personnel.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes to all our partners who helped us to fulfill our goal and to reach the most disadvantaged and to work with great commitment for the integral human formation.

Abba Uqbagaber Woldeghiorghis
Secretary General
Phone: +291 1 401 907 FAX: +291 1 401 604
Catholic Eparchial Secretariat Keren - CESK
P.O. Box 544
Keren - ERITREA

Who we are?

The office of the Catholic Eparchial Secretariat of Keren (CESK) was established in 1995. It is accountable to the Catholic Eparchy of Keren (CEK) and implements the decision of the Bishop. It coordinates the socio-pastoral activities of the Eparchy. It provides spiritual, development and emergency service to the population in need regardless of their race, ethnicity or religion. CESK is a non profit making Church organization dedicated to provide socio-pastoral services to the population in need.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Envisage a community where human dignity is respected, fear of God is flourished, quality of life is improved; peace and justice are put in place, a community with interdenominational harmony is nurtured and Christian values among the Catholic communities is maintained.

Mission

To build civilized and prosperous community through provision of socio-pastoral services to the people in the Eparchy of Keren.

Values

Team work, transparency, empathy, collaboration, integrity, harmony, confidentiality, interfaith solidarity, gender equality, and love

Main Activities of the Office	Key Achievements of 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity building programs for staffs and stakeholders• Income generating activities• Participate in different meeting and workshops representing the CEK• Developing project proposals• Implement the projects• Liaise with line ministries and other CBOs• Experience sharing with other Eparchies• Developing Strategic plans• Conducting situational assessment• Monitoring and Evaluating the programs and projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implemented different projects• Created strong partnership with Northern partners and got positive responses• Carried-out Capacity Building courses for staffs and stakeholders• Visits conducted by the Secretary General in abroad and strengthening the spirit of partnership with partners• Celebrating 20th May Eparchial Women's Day• Celebrating Brothers Day for HIV clients• Upgrading the capacity of teachers and Catechists• On-going campaign of youth on HIV AIDS in parishes

Major challenges of CESK	CESK Social Departments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited financial resources • Limited integration of services at grass root level • High turnover of staffs at grass root level • No peace no war situation of the country • High magnitude of community needs • Lack/shortage of qualified/skilled human resources • Shortage of fuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Department • Education department • Health department • HIV/AIDS • Women in Development • Development/emergency • Finance Dept.

What do we do?

Summary of Departmental Activities

1. Pastoral Department

Report compiled by Abba Dawit Tecle Dept. Head

The Pastoral Department coordinates the Eparchy's Pastoral activities. Five years strategic plan was prepared & the operational plan for the year of 2012 has also sorted out. So, according to our operational plan of this year, the pastoral department accomplished the list of activities. The details will follow up. The department has also implemented the on-going formation courses for the Catechists, as a result of this; it displays significant achievements and identifies constraints that limit the full operation of the pastoral activities.

1. Plan of action

The **main purposes** of the Pastoral Department:

- To foster the development of mature and committed catechists
- To strengthen the Christian leadership, capacity of Religious Congregation sisters working at CEK, Parish council, Youth leaders and CESK members.
- To strengthen family Catechism in parishes.
- To foster the development of mature youth and enhance their participation in Church's life (Eparchial Youth Association and its specific program)
- To improve communication among Pastoral office, Parish Priests, parish council and Catechists.
- To form and strengthen parish councils, Presbyterial Council, Eparchial Council and to clarify & improve their role in the whole Eparchy.

2. Statistics

CEK has **40** Parishes and **60** Chapels. The Parishes are administered by Diocesan priests, Capuchin and Vincentian priests. Currently, the actual numbers of active Catechists in the whole Diocese reaches **62** and are located in:

Eparchial Presbyterial centre	Parishes	Chapels	No. of Catechists
Keren	18	23	29
Habinmentel	16	14	22
Hagaz	6	24	11
Total	40	60	62

Generally speaking, the Eparchy has good number of Catechists working alongside the parish priests; but in some villages and Chapels there is a need of catechists.

3. Experience sharing among various religious congregation sisters

Sisters of Religious Congregation had benefited to come together for prayer and experience sharing on the 17th of December 2012.

- The purpose is staying together, praying, making recreation and enriching each other
- Had evaluated also the socio-pastoral activities they are entrusted in the Eparchy
- Benefitting the “Year of Faith” had planned workshops to be carried regularly during the year.

4. Catechetical Training Program

Introductory Trainings for 7 new Catechists

The pastoral office hired, trained and assigned 7 new catechists to their respective villages from October-November of 2012. They have attended their introductory training on the 19th of November 2012.

The training was on:-

- Orientation and self-exploratory questions
- The way how to prepare lesson plan
- Methodology of Prayer
- Methodology to Catechism

Its objectives were; to upgrade their knowledge and assign them as Catechists in replacement of the aged ones and those who left job, to foster the awareness and give them the responsibility of Catechism, to make them familiar to their mission, to produce competent Catechists at all levels of the society, and to form them as the agents of evangelization. As a feedback they expressed their gratitude of what they have received.

3rd year's Catechetical Trainings for the 3rd Group of Catechists

12 participants have attended their first term annual training from 13-15 of February 2012.



First Phase: The Training has given on the following subjects

New Testament Abba Ghebriel Eyob	Church History Abba Habteul Ghebrai	Moral Abba Mebrahtu Tesfagiorghis	Sacraments Abba Merhawi Habtay	Christian prayer Abba Tesfaselassie
Acts of the Apostles Author, Time, Place The main theme Summary & its theological message for us today	The Orthodox & the Catholic churches (5 th century)	The human community; The person and Society Participation in social life Moral Law Grace and Justification The Church Mother and Teacher	Ordination Marriage	The Life of prayer The Lord's prayer

Second Phase training: And the second session was also facilitated from 27-29 August 2012.

New Testament Abba Ghebriel Eyob	Moral Abba Mebrahtu Tesfagiorghis	Christian Prayers Abba Tesfaselassie
Pauline letters & letters to all Christians Who is Paul? The main themes of the letters Its theological message for us today	The Ten Commandments	Our Father who art in Heaven, The seven petition of our Father

5. Retreats

Christmas and Easter retreat for CEK, CESK and Catechists

- 16 CEK & CESK staff members participated at the Christmas retreat on 5th January 2012
- Reflection was given by Abba Zemihret Berhane. The theme of the reflection was on spirituality, prayer and on the forgiveness of God.
- On 29th of December 2012, 57 Catechists joined the retreat center at Our Lady's Shrine. With the daily reflection, it was also accompanied with the Rosary and adoration to the Blessed Sacrament.



Easter Retreat for Catechists, CEK and CESK staff

- Easter retreat was conducted for 60 catechists on 7th & 9th April 2012 respectively.
- Abba Yosief Girmay provided his reflection on merely on the relationship between God and human beings.



6. Workshops

Workshops for all the Catechists

Concerning '**Ecumenism**', one day workshop was organized for all the catechists on the 10th of January 2012. 60 catechists had been participated was facilitated by Abba Tesfaslassie (Abadu) and its content has given more emphasis on;

- a. *History of the division within Christianity*
- b. *Recent ecumenical development*
- c. *Vatican II decree on ecumenism*
- d. *Practical ecumenical problem*
- e. *Problem of fundamentalism*

A second one day workshop was also organized for all the Catechists on 03 may 2012. It was given by Sr. Kibra Fesseha under the title; '**Homiletics**'. 59 Catechists are participated in this workshop and it was emphasized more on;

- a. Definition of sermon & homiletics
- b. The purpose of preaching
- c. The art of public communication
- d. Preaching using the Bible
- e. Types of homilies & sermons

Workshops for all the Inter-Religious Sisters in the Eparchy

Two different workshops were given to the Inter-religious sisters.

- ❖ The first was held in the Eparchial hall on 08 March 2012 under the titles; **“Women and their unique gifts in the socio-pastoral services”** and **“Knowing of your power is the base of Life”** which facilitated by Abba Tesfaslassie (Abba Abadu) and Abba Habteleul Ghebray at the same day.
- ❖ The second was given on 19 May 2012 led by Abba Z/Yaqob U/Michael a Capuchin friar. The theme was **“Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction”**.



7. Annual Feast of the Catechists

This year also the Catechists celebrated their second year annual feast on 09 June 2012 in a very attractive manner and well organized program. They celebrated it under the umbrella of **Abba Fesseha Gebreamlak “The servant of God”** whom they have chosen him as their patron.

- ✓ which was a lecture emphasized on the life history of Abba Fesseha Gebreamlak, the spirituality, devotion and prayers which should be done in his name particularly and in the name of all the saints in general. The lecture was also given by the Cistercian monk Abba Hailemariam Ghebre. Reverend Abba Habtemichael Bahlebi Vicar General of the Eparchy has opened the program in prayer. He addressed also a very short speech. After that, the secretary general, Abba Uqbagaber W/ghiorgis has welcomed the guests and participants and expressed the goal and objectives of the feast briefly. Finally, His Excellency Bishop Kidane Yebio had encouraged the Catechists to be zelant in their apostolic mission, being the testimony and witness of Christ and His Gospel by their teaching and exemplary life. Finally he gave his paternal blessings. The Agape fraternal was followed.



Catechists addressing to the audience

Recreation program

All the Catechists have taken a trip to visit Massawa from the 10th -11th of March 2012. This recreation program was accompanied by prayers and daily reflections from the Holy Scripture and Church Fathers teaching.



Major Achievements

- Up grading the capacity of the catechesis
- Strengthening partnership with religious congregations
- Initiation of self sufficiency measures by some parishes

Challenges

- High turnover of catechists
- Low bonus
- Limited budget
- Lack of dedication on the side of Catechists
- Sense of dependency from parishes side
- Limited youth organization and empowerment.

2. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Report compiled by: Ato Araya Tesfagaber, Dept. Head

The Eparchial health facilities provide preventative and curative services to the community in need regardless of the ethnicity and religion. There are eight health facilities where three are health centers and the rest five are health stations. They provide the health services to over **75,790** catchment population. Other people from other catchment areas also come to the health units because people are attracted by the quality of the services provided by the sisters. The health services provided by the clinics are increasing in quality and quantity from time to time. They provide all types of health services but not surgical services.

This year, a total of **75,936** people got OPD services and **2834** got admission services from the clinics. The clinics have a total of 100 medical and administrative personnel running the preventative and curative services.

Eparchial Health Care Facilities Profile

No. of clinics	No. of total Workers	Catchments area population
8	100	75,790

1. OPD services

The OPD services are open from 8:00 AM to 4:00PM. The OPD has different services for different age's groups. Generally there is an OPD for adult (>5years) and OPD for children<5 years. Usually the OPD for children is integrated with IMCI management tools and protocols.

Total OPD visits in the eight health facilities

The top ten diseases in the Eparchial Health facilities are as usual the infectious diseases. Diarrhea and pneumonia are always the top causes of OPD visits.

2. IPD services for the three health centers

Out of the 2834 patients who got the admission services, only four patients died. These four patients came to the health facilities after being sleeping in their houses until their condition worsens and reach critical stage. When they came to the health facilities, they were almost gone and the treatment could not help them.



Staffs in morning round in Feledared and children admitted for therapeutic feeding in Halhal

3. Mother and Child health Care Program

3.1 Child immunization

Every year each health facility sets a target for immunization. They evaluate their achievement at the end of every year. The zonal target for immunization this year was to raise immunization coverage rate to 80%.



Immunization campaigns in Feledared, Boggu and Halhal respectively

3.2 Antenatal care (ANC) services

The Zonal target for antenatal care for the past year was to reach to 65%. This means 65% of the pregnant mothers should come to the health facilities for ANC services. Our health facilities had gone very well in this area, 91% of the mothers could attend the ANC services.

Categories	Achieved
No. of New Regnant	3217
No. of High Risk Pregnant	771
First Trimester	750
Second trimester	1884
Third trimester	618
Total second visit	2391
Total third visits	1682



Post partum care in Feledareb and Halhal Health Centers

3.3 Delivery services

The target for health facility delivery was to reach to 39-44% while the eight health facilities coverage rate was 42%. This is cumulative of the eight clinics. Some clinics perform above the target while others below the set target but generally the performance were good as 42% falls between the set targets of 39-44%.

4. Supplementary feeding, outpatient therapeutic feeding and facility based therapeutic feeding

Categories	Supp. feeding	OTP	Therapeutic feeding	Total
New Admissions	440	190	128	758
Cured	334	217	102	653
Death	2	3	0	5
Defaulters	26	0	0	26
Transferred	9	22	10	41

The table above shows the number of children got feeding services from supplementary, OPT or therapeutic feeding centers. Generally 758 children got food and 653 cured. Only 5 children were died due to malnutrition.

5. Health education

This year about 2032 health sessions were conducted and 93,016 participants attended the sessions in the health facilities.

6. VCT and PMTCT (given only in the following HFs)

The VCT and PMTCT services were given in six health facilities and a total of 1505 people did the HIV test and only 5 people were found positive.

While 2776 pregnant mothers did the HIV test and only one mother was HIV positive.

7. Laboratory services

In the four health facilities with a laboratory services, about 21,000 patients had got laboratory services. Some of the lab services given to the patients were:

- Bacteriology
- Clinical chemistry
- Parasitology
- Immunoserology
- Urine analysis
- Hematology

8. Pharmacy services

One of the prominent problems of the health facilities is the shortage of medicines. However, the health facilities were able to provide medicines to their patients continuously. The sole provider of medicines is the ErCS Health Department in Asmara. CESK was continuously striving to solve the shortage of medicines by writing project proposals to different donors. In the past year, CESK was able to get some very essentials medicines from the Association of CHEBI of Caritas Proto and distribute the medicines to the health the facilities which were very helpful to solve the some of the shortages.

The most used top ten drugs in the Eparchial health facilities were the following;

- Antibiotics
- iron +Folic acid
- Multi vitamins
- Ant fungal ointments
- Analgesics and antipyretics
- IV fluids
- Anti acids
- Dressing materials
- Syringes and needles
- ORS

Other Activities

The Health facilities provide numerous services to the population. These are some of them which are made short to save time and energy for the readers of the report.

9. Community Led Total sanitation (CLTS): construction of pit latrines

10. Peer education programs for the catchment populations
11. Malaria Prevention Activities
12. IDSR (Integrated diseases Surveillance and Research):
13. Tb clinic: conducts diagnosis and treatment for the TB
14. C-IMCI (community- integrated management of childhood illnesses) at community level
15. Outreach for Immunization of children and mothers
16. Conducting National Immunizations days twice per year
17. Conducting MUAC screening twice per year for all children under the age of five years.

Capacity building workshops

Capacity building workshops were conducted to the health workers from the Eparchial clinics. Totally about 44 health workers were participated in the following workshops:

- Natural family planning based on the Catholic Social teaching
- Pharmacy management and good dispensing practices
- A pharmacy data base computer program



Food Aid to health facilities

The CESK was able to distribute some food items to the eight health facilities. The food was obtained from ErCS. It was very helpful for the health facilities to cover some of the food shortages they usually face.

Computers

The health department had been continuously striving to overcome some shortages of the health facilities. The department had written project proposal to solve the computer shortage of the health facilities. Though, the proposal is still looking for donors, CESK was able to get one computer to Halhal Health Center and one for Gilas health Station. Equipping the health facilities with computers, printers and TV set in a continuous process.

Challenges/Short comings of health department

- Shortage of medicines
- Shortage of qualified health workers
- Shortage of fuels in the health facilities
- Lack of supportive supervision
- Lack of communication, transportation and electricity in Boggu health station.

Future Plans

- Introduce pharmacy data based Management in the health facilities
- Equip all health facilities with computers and TV sets.
- Ensure sustainable supply of medicines
- Revise salary scale
- Arrange capacity building workshops for the health staff
- Conduct supportive supervision

3. HIV/AIDS Program:

Report compiled by: Enatie Zufan, HIV Desk Officer

Generally there are over 225 people living with HIV/AIDS and 38 orphans benefiting from the program. The program gives social, moral, spiritual and economic support to the beneficiaries. In these report many activities were undertaken according to the implementation schedule in the project. The activities undertaken are categorized under the headings of program components for simplicity to the reader of the report. This report has tables and pictures to illustrate the activities more precisely.

1. Social support
2. Health awareness campaign and peer education
3. Orphan Care
4. Consultation Services
5. Micro Credit
6. Monthly education

Client's current status

Clients in the previous year (A)	New clients (B)	Left the program (C)	Died (D)	Total (A+B)-(C+D)
225	24	15	3	231

New admissions

This year 24 new clients were admitted to the program. These are five males and nineteen females. These clients were those that fulfill the admission criteria and willing to be supported by the program.

Left the program

About 15 clients left the program for different reasons. Some of them changed residences and others may not be interested to continue in the program.

1. Social Support

1.1 Monthly food distribution

As usual the clients of the program got a monthly ration of 10 kilos of sorghum. Though, the monthly ration is not calculated based on daily food basket hence lack the fat, protein and mineral/vitamins contents, it is very important part of the program. The ration is of very importance to many of the clients especially the weak and destitute and orphan children.



Summary of food distribution table

Therefore, a total of 203.6 Quintals of grains was distributed in the year 2012.

1.2 Volunteer home based care provision (VHBC)

Currently are 12 volunteer home based care providers, each volunteer gives spiritual and moral support for 4-5 clients and reports monthly to the CESK office.

The following activities were undertaken by the volunteers

In April 2012, we have trained four new volunteer home based care providers. The newly trained volunteers were given three clients each and are actively participating in provision of spiritual and moral supports to the beneficiaries. Every month the volunteers come with their monthly report and share their experiences and challenges.

1.3 Medicine provision

CESK HIV/AIDS program Clients had been benefiting from the medicines we got through Eritrean Catholic Secretariat (ErCS) HIV/AIDS Desk last year. The medicines includes anti biotic, anti pyretics and analgesics, different skin creams and lotions, IV fluid and many others. The medicines were given to the clients for free. Clients should come with their prescription pad in order to take the medicines.

The most exhausted medicines were anti biotic syrups for children, anti biotic for adults, anti acid syrups and skin lotions.

2) Health campaign and peer education

2.1 Peer education

Six peer facilitators were trained from the parishes' youths in Keren last year on March. The peer facilitators were trained on the basic standard peer facilitator manual and the facilitation techniques. The trained peer facilitators had formed peer groups of 25-30 members each and were conducting HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tb and reproductive health sessions bi-weekly. They

report to the CESK health department monthly. The most used techniques of sessions were discussions and debating. A total of 42 sessions were carried up to the end of December.

2.2 Health campaigns

The Project on “Increase the knowledge on HIV/AIDS/STD, TB and Malaria and promote behavioral change among the Parish youths” had been running since 2009. Through time and experiences, the project also made to focus not only to parish youths but also to all the parishioners including men, women and children. The outcome of the campaigns is seen quickly that many people become aware of the diseases and increased their concern about it. This project is very successful as it covers many people with limited budget.

The following activities were covered so far:

- Conducted sessions to parishioners on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria
- Conducted testimonies by the people living with HIV/AIDS to the parishioners

	No. of sessions	No. of participants
Health campaigns	42	3468
Testimony	15	3254



Parishioners attending testimonial sessions by PLWHA

3. Orphan Care

38 children who lost both parents due AIDS come regularly to take their monthly rations. Some of the children live with relatives or care givers and others live alone, the bigger taking care of the small siblings. The children get moral and spiritual support by the volunteer home based care providers and CESK HIV/AIDS program staffs. This past year 15 Quintals of sorghum was given to the orphan children.

Trauma workshop: The children were given trauma workshop by experienced people in the field. The workshop was intended to help the children get rid of the bad feeling they incurred from their parents or from the feeling they experienced from the suffering and death of their parents. Therefore, a total of 20 orphan children, who are above 8 years old were participated in the training.



School materials

trauma workshop

School Materials: We also gave the children, school materials like exercise books, pen, pencil and eraser. This is to help the children continue their education. The children are encouraged by the school materials. A total of 30 children who are in the school age had got the school, materials.

4. Consultation Services

The CESK HIV/AIDS program counselor provides regular counseling and advices to the program clients at office, home or anywhere. The counselor makes home visits to the needy clients and provides the needed spiritual and moral supports. Moreover, she also visits hospital frequently whenever there is our client admitted in the hospital and provides her spiritual and moral supports. Totally about 2600 sessions on spiritual and moral supports was given by the CESK counselor.

5. Micro Credit

20 clients have got 4000 to 5000 Nakfa each to run small scale business activities. Totally about 82,000 Nakfa was given to the clients. From the loans given in 2011 there are still about 15,000 in the hands of clients. These clients could not return the loan due to different

Months	Sex		Total	Total Grains distributed in kg
	Male	Female		
Jan - Dec 2012	365	1692	2,057	20,360

reasons but mainly they could not make profit from the loan rather they lost the credit as a result they could not return it on time. Therefore, totally there is about 97,000 Nakfa among the clients.

One day workshop was given to the micro credit scheme clients to help them manage their credit properly. 23 clients participated in the workshop. The workshop was lead by an experienced person in the area. The clients have recommended that such kind of training is very vital in the proper utilization of the micro credit scheme.

Services provided by VHBC providers	No. of times
Physical support	52
Moral and psychological support	658
Spiritual support	986
Health education for client's family on how to care PLWHA	120
Health Education on Nutrition and nutrients	682
Number deaths reported	2
Moral and psychological support for orphan	54



The clients' participation one day workshop

Up to the end of December, 2012, about 48.9% of the loans were returned while the rest of the loan is expected to return in January of 2013.

Monthly Education

CESK HIV/AIDS program conducts monthly education sessions to the clients. The education sessions were conducted by different resource people. CESK had conducted a rapid assessment to identify gaps and needs of the clients last year. From the assessment, we have noticed that the clients want the religious leaders of the other religions of Orthodox, Islam and Lutheran come to the monthly health education and show their passion and empathy to the clients. The clients wanted them to help them in the fight against stigma and discrimination. They wanted them to preach against stigma in the Mosques and churches. Therefore, we have made a call to the religious leaders and the reception and outcome was positive. They came to the monthly education and gave their support and showed their readiness to take similar initiative. They said that: "we learned a lot from the Catholic Church and we will take similar initiatives in near future".

Clients enjoy monthly education and gathering very much. They capitalize the opportunity to

- Gain experience and knowledge
- Know each other and realize that many people live with virus like them. This helps them to reduce the self induced discrimination and experiences positive living.
- Help the needy clients morally, psychologically and socially.
- Form "brothers' committee to identify needs of the group and propose solutions.
- Get partner/spouse
- Sharing their personal experiences and get suggestions for the solutions etc..

A total of 1189 clients had participated in the monthly education on average of 110 clients monthly.

Brothers' day celebration

CESK HIV/AIDS program beneficiaries celebrate December 1st World HIV/AIDS day as a brothers day. As usual, this year's brother's day was celebrated in 15th of December. The celebration was very colorful. Religious leaders, Government officials and the clients participated in the celebration. CESK HIV/AIDS program clients started to prepare for the celebration early in November. They selected a committee to prepared different programs and

food. They contributed 80% of the expenses by themselves. The programs were very lively and the invitees enjoyed it very much.

The following programs were presented by the clients

- Poems
- Testimonies by the clients
- Short Dramas
- Different kinds of competition
- Awards to the winners of the competition
- Supporting and encouraging messages by the invitees
- Lunch together with the invites



Tekie Keleta, Mayor of Keren City Girmai, Head of MLHW Abba uqbagaber, CESK SG



Invited guests watching the programs and enjoying the lunch prepared by the clients.

This year, the parish youths of St. Michael were invited by clients to participate in the celebration. The youths presented spiritual songs, short comedies and poems. The participants were so excited by the spiritual songs. The youths added color to the lively programs of the clients.

Challenges/constraints

- The stoppage of DMK factory from production
- Delay of return of Micro credit loan
- Shortage of fuel
- Escalating prices of commodities especially grains
- High magnitude of demands vs. limited resources.
- Lack of volunteer Home based care providers to meet the high need of clients.

Plans

- Provide food ration for the clients
- Trains Volunteer home based care providers
- Conduct HIV/AIDS campaigns to Parishes
- Establish peer education groups of youths

4. The Education Department

Report compiled b: Ato Yonas Tekie, Dept. Head

Education department presents the activities of the Academic year 2011/12 in the schools under the custody of the Catholic Eparchy of Keren. It includes a brief an overview of the 5years' strategic plan, distribution of schools, school statistics, internal efficiency, extra-curricular activities, tasks ahead and the challenges that the department as well as CESK need to address.

Objective

The report is expected to enable the Catholic Eparchy of Keren (CEK) personnel to know what is going on in the Education Department. I.e.; to have broad picture and make them think creatively towards the main concern areas such as infrastructure, human resource development and strengthening community involvement as well as partnership.

Scope

The report does not deal with every event that occurs in the educational setting of the Eparchy's Schools rather it forwards key information and concern areas that can assist reader to get a portrait of the in and out of what education service the church provides as part of its socio-pastoral mission. In most case it gives comparative analysis of four last consecutive years.

The Schools in the Eparchy

The Education department has set up the 5 years strategic plan to attain its three goals with their specific objectives.

Goal I: - Improve the quality of education in Catholic schools

- 1.1 Increase the average grade (performance) of students by 15% by 2014.
- 1.2. Raise the enrollment rate by 25% by 2014
- 1.3. Raise the completion rate of girls in rural middle school by 30% by 2013.
- 1.4. Reduce dropout rate to 1% by 2013
- 1.5 Reduce the repetition rate to 8% by 2013
- 1.6 To increase co curricular activities in catholic schools by 25% by 2014

Goal II: - Create conducive environment for teaching learning process

- 2.1 Equip four Catholic junior schools with supportive systems by 2013
- 2.2 To maintain 4 schools by 2013
- 2.3 Publish one standard eparchial bylaw by 2011

Goal III: - Enhance community sense of ownership

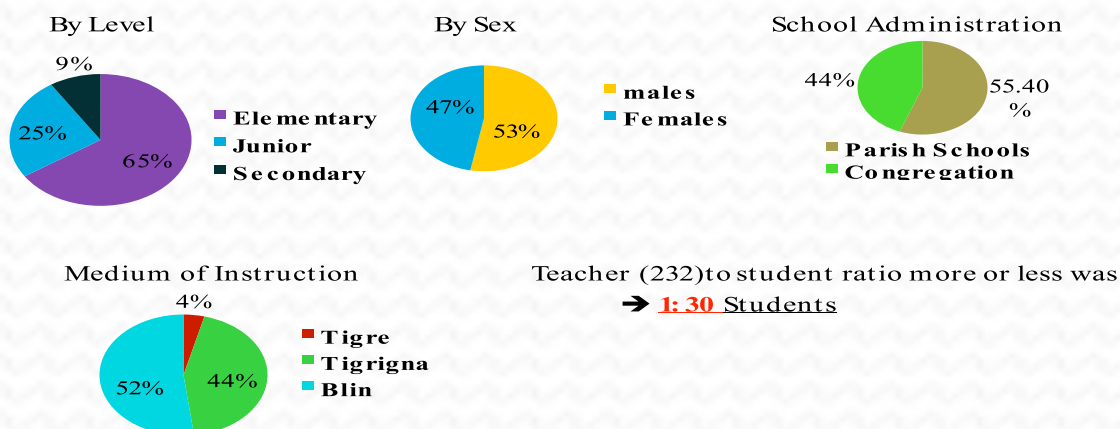
- 3.1 Ensure strong community participation by establishing PTSA in 18 catholic schools by 2012
- 3.2 Strengthen self sufficiency in 21 catholic schools by 2011
- 3.3 Introduce community led model school income generating project in two schools by 2014

1. Statistics

No. of Schools	20
No. of Students	7137
No. of Teachers	232



Analysis of the data



Internal Efficiency in the academic year of 2011/2012

Promotion, failure and dropouts in percentage in the last 5 years were the trend is linear with no significant change.

2. Extra-Curricular Activities

Health Activity – campaigns were conducted particularly hygiene related- Hand washing practices and distribution of soaps to school children.

Sport Activities - sport contests at school and cluster levels were conducted.

Culture/Art Activities- in this area much has not being done with the exception of Kidane-mihret Juffa elementary school in which this activities conducted with school resources.

3. Task ahead for the Education Department ...

Recommendations

- Office works
 - Introduction & use of Data Base system in data storing, analysis and reporting.
 - Performing supervision activities & visits.
 - Securing funds for capacity building programs.
- Empowering the PTSA
 - For creating harmonious school community
 - Foster sense of ownership of the school by the school community
 - To work for self-sufficiency
 - Housing
 - Coaching
 - Maintenance ...

4. The Challenges the Education Department need to cope with and issues Need Critical Thinking...

- Dissertation of experienced and qualified teachers (In the Months of September & October only 14 teachers most with TTI or +2 /diploma only to be replaced with new novice and less qualified teachers)
- Negligence of some teachers (Late start...
- Encouraging on-job experience
- What catholic values ... in practical terms...

5. Comments and suggestions from the CEK- annual report meeting participants and our Bishop The questions and general suggestions were forwarded to each of the department reports. Concerning the education department report as it is stated in the line with the recommendations of the department the following were forwarded.

- Future plan must be provided.
- Assessment of Schools (particularly under average schools of the eparchy).
- Database introduction and usage.
- Catholic Values (Like Holy Mass).
- Reading behind statistical data and making sense of it.

6. Women Development Dept.

Report compiled by: Sr. Tsigeweni Solomon, Dept. Head

Women's Development Department (WDD) is one of the seven departments run by the Catholic Eparchial Secretariat Keren (CESK). This annual report presents the activities done and the major achievements obtained. The department runs three main sub programs. These are:

- Income generating.
- Education and
- Awareness raising

The program operated in 38 villages for 52 groups within the catchments area of the Eparchy of Keren and reached more than 1434 women in this annual period.

No. of villages	38
No. of groups	52
No. of total beneficiary women	1434
No. of animators	16
Regular staffs	2

Overall goal of the department

The overall goal is to free the women from socio-economic and cultural barriers and to emancipate them to be self sufficient and contributors in the development of their families, communities and Nation.

Major accomplishment

1. Income Generating Program

This program consists of different activities such as micro saving and credit, livestock and cash credit. It is designed to empower women through economic development, increasing knowledge and skills in small scale business management and developing the self confidence of women.

a) Micro saving and credit program:

There are three types of saving and credit activities. These are women initiated credit and saving and revolving.

b) Women initiated credit and saving: Here women contribute weekly a share between 5-30 Nakfa. This is subjected to the rules and regulations of the group. They take five times of their weekly deposits for three months with 3% interest rate. These three months are taken as orientation to business making by the groups. When they

learn how to make a business, the group deposit is not sufficient to all group members. Therefore, they request revolving fund from the Department.

- c) Revolving fund:** This is a fund given to the women by CESK to fill the gap (need) of the group members. When the time goes up the weekly deposits is not enough to reach all the group members. Some women have to wait for almost year to get the loan from the weekly deposits. This is because when the saving increases, the loan also increases. Since the individual loan is five times of the individual saving, the money will not be enough for the groups; therefore, they women request revolving funds from the Department. The revolving fund is interest free.

In this year, 21 women groups have requested and received returnable fund of **30,000.00-48,000** Nakfa depending on their group numbers. Total amount distributed **853,500.00Nakfa**. This money is revolving among the group members and is expected to be returned after one year; in the beginning of 2013. The rules and regulation of the group also apply to this fund.

New group formation

This year the department has expanded its activities to three sub zones of Hamelmalo, Gheleb and Hagaz. Total of seven groups were formed in seven villages (Berdeg, Feledareb, Fisoruk, Gidana, Koretnejar Shaftaku and Zen). A total of 300 women were benefiting from the new activities.

Sharing of the dividend: Three groups that had been participating in the micro saving and credit program over one year had collected their savings including some extra money collected through interest and punishments. These groups are (Habimentel/Medhanialem & Wesbensrk/Feden, Hagaz /selam). The groups have agreed to continue the program for the second year and this signifies that the program was advantageous. |

Current statuses of the Micro credit and saving program

Generally, 85% of the program beneficiaries benefited from the micro saving and credit initiative. They had made investments in various small scale businesses that enabled them to generate profit. The activities they run include buying and selling of goats, grains, handcrafts and small retail shops.

The program had also another advantages including:

- Exposure to business world: Knowledge on small scale business increased.
- Women engaged in small scale business and earned some income, made some good profits and contributed to the house hold economy and solve their personal and economical problems.
- Able to change our societies believes on women role.
- Unity, coherence and love among the members
- Saving initiated
- Group is seen a gathering and / or information center and experience exchange.

Success story

During monitoring visits to the women groups in different villages, we have observed that the women are doing well with the program. Women themselves also said that: “ We Bought two to four goats from the loans and when the loan time is over, we sell one or two from the goats and pay back our loans. So we get profit at least one goat and get milk for three or more month. Therefore, we had made a sound profit and we are happy to continue similar program in the future.”

One mother from Abengulet, W/ro Mihret Tekie, said that: “I took 6,360.00 Nakfa as a loan from the group for six months. I bought two goats: one pregnant and one with a little one. I also had been working in small business like selling soaps, coffee, sugar, clothes...etc. in my house. After six months, when the loan time is due, I sold one goat and paid back the whole loan. Therefore, my profit was one goat and the two kids. I also got good profit from material I used to sell in my house.”

d) Livestock component

Livestock project is another component of income generating activities. This program includes goat and donkey program. The aim of this program is to enable mothers get milk from the goats and rear them. And the donkey program is to use as different transport activity especially for water and wood. This year, the department has distributed 117 women with 3-4goats each and 26 mothers with one donkey each.



Some positive observations

- The families who have got the goats are able to get milk and multiplied goats.
- Currently each family has more than 7 goats.
- The goats are multiplying
- The loan was returned

2. Education Programs

Education program consists of health education and awareness rising. This program is aimed at enhancing women's capacity to challenge negative customs and beliefs about women's roles and capacities.

2.1 Health education; health education was carried out in 38 villages for about 1434 women. These sessions were conducted by different expertise in the area. The sessions conducted in the women's groups were;

- T.B
- Malaria
- HIV/AIDS
- Personal & environmental sanitation
- Child care
- Skin disease
- Pregnancy & its complications
- Nutrition
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

2.2 Awareness Raising Program (ARP): ARP was undertaken in 38 villages for about 1434 women. ARP focuses on gender issues, micro credit and health.

3. Capacity building

Different training and workshops were given for the animators and new groups in different by the department. In this year the following training and workshops were given for the animators and seven groups in six villages.

S.n	Description	Target
1	Training on Monitoring and reporting writing	Animators
2	Training in leader ship skills and business management	Animators
3	Training on micro saving and credit program	For the seven groups in six villages
4	Training on animal husbandry	For mother's (select from the groups)
5	Work shop for seven days in Deqemhare	For Animators with Eparchial of Asmera;Segeneyti and Bartu

4. Hand weaving program

This program was a new program in the department. As a sample we have started it in Ela-Fre by seven hand-weaving machines for seven mothers on February 2012. As it was our first experience, the program had ups and downs at first. The reason was the machines were new and we have no experience. But now everything is smooth and we are planning to expand the program.



Embroidery section – pilot project

5. Meeting

Meeting with animators was held to discuss problems encountered in the implementation of the program and looks for solutions and set a plan to be done for the future. Therefore 2 times meetings were conducted and different issues were discussed.

6. Women's Day Celebration



Religious, Government & Community leaders on women's day

Seventh Eparchial women's day anniversary was celebrated colorfully in May, 2012. 20th of May was decided to be Eparchial women's day in 2006. It shows an improvement in both of its contents and arrangements. The main objective of the celebration was to create conducive environment for women to organize themselves to share their experience among themselves, to have their say and convey lessons to the society via cultural show, etc. Different entertaining and informative programs such as cultural show, short comedy, Shingirwa, exhibition, and spiritual songs, seminars by chief model Tesfalem Msghina from ministry of health about FGM and others were presented in the celebration.



Some activities during the celebration

Participants appreciated the efforts and contribution of the Church. They also expressed their satisfaction for the lively programs presented by the women and hoped that the programs of church to expand and cover large areas in the Zoba.

7. Monitoring and supervision

24 Supervisory visits made for 24 groups to make sure the smooth running of the activities by closely approaching the implementation of the program.

Additionally, continuous follow up was carried out by the animators in charge of each village. Each group is visited once a week by the animators. During the follow up and supervision the following activities were carried: checking financial registers, analyzing training needs, providing on job training and conduct meetings with animators and women.

Challenges

- Shortage of budget
- Dependency on office supervision and supplies by the groups
- High number of needy villages

Over head Plan for 2013

- Carrying assessment, reviews and evaluations
- Continue income generating programs
- Continue Education programs
- Continue livestock program
- Continue meeting for animators
- Provision of short term loan
- Provision of goats to women
- Provision of donkey to women
- Preparing Reports
- Expand the activities in the groups
- Continue hand waving program

7. Emergency/Develo. Dept.

Report compiled by: Ato Yemane Mebrahtu Dept. Head

This department is mainly focuses on the emergency situations in the Eparchial area and also conducts development activities. The main activities are:

- Coordination of emergency and development activities
- Proposal writing
- Carrying Supplementary feeding programs for vulnerable groups
- Conducting Regular Need Assessment
- Monitoring/Evaluation of projects

The Eparchy is located in recurrent drought stricken area. This could not support the inhabitants to secure their food basket at household level. Due to these there are different needs arising that keep the Eparchy always alert. The Eparchy had developed a habit of assessing its environment frequently. As a result CESK had developed food security project as a recovery approach.

Objectives of the project

The purpose is to enhance the household food security at the grass root level and improve the livelihood of the targeted areas by increasing the productivity through livestock production, diet diversification (moringa distribution) and by installing improved stoves which gives social, economical and health benefits to the beneficiaries.

Activities

The integrated food security project has nine components, however, CESK decided to start the implementation with the three components (livestock, energy efficiency improved stoves Moringa seedlings.)

After the selection of sites the Emergency/Development Department as well as the Women's Development department jointly visited the villages and held awareness campaign about the objectives of the project generally. In this campaigning the participants were from local Administrators, nearby health facilities, nearby school directors and villagers.

Awareness campaigns

In the month of October 2012 the department started to visit the selected sites and held meetings with concerned local administration, parish priests, nearby health facilities and women associations groups.



The campaigns were about the objectives of the project components, selection criteria, and number of beneficiaries and so on.

The components

A. Moringa seedlings

The department went to the MOA and agreed to get Moringa seedlings from the nursery. It could be used for many purposes.



Ordered Seedlings in the Anseba nursery

The main one is for food. As a second it can be used for water purifying and even as medicine. So needy households enjoy diversified nutritious food sources and as a result will have access to diversified diet and their food stock increased.

In order to expand the above mentioned advantages among the community the department proposed to distribute about 505 seedlings for 240 beneficiaries and the remaining will be distributed for institutions (Kindergarten, Church and Clinic compounds) in the first phase.



Beneficiary plating the seedlings



immediately after planting the seedling

The main objective is to increase the food security of households. Therefore, if the households practice it as a food sources and as a medicine, their income will be preserved and will also enjoy sound health.

Proposed Moringa seedlings to be distributed in the 1st phase

Sub region	Distribution sites	No. of beneficiaries	Total seedlings proposed to be distributed
Elabered	Halibmentel	75HHs+Kindergarten, Women promotion center and Church compound	160 seedlings
	Sharki	19HHs+church compound	44 seedlings
Keren	Boggu(Geab)	15HHs+Clinic & Church compounds	45 seedlings
	Titri	15HHs	30 seedlings
	Dighi(Shesherema)	32HHs	64 seedlings
Hamelmalo	Musha	24HHs	48 seedlings
	Fusorukhu	25HHs	50 seedlings
	Feledareb	32HHs	64 seedlings
Total			505 seedlings

B. Livestock Distribution

Livestock is a second to crop production as economic means in the Eparchy of Keren. The purpose of the livestock distribution is to encourage the needy households to increase their food stock through milk and other dairy products. The milk will help families as a source of calcium, protein and fats. Therefore, it will play an important role in reduction of illnesses caused by lack of these vital food elements.



A beneficiary from Titri site



beneficiaries from Bogu and Halibmentel



The department has provided 200 goats for 100 needy and destitute households. The previous plan was to distribute 300 goats to 150 households'. But these could not happen due to the market inflation. The livestock distributed for Female headed families, orphans and destitute households in 9 rural villages which is aimed to contribute to the household food security and economic empowerment. The first purchased goats had already started to give offsprings.

The beneficiaries gratified from their heart for the contribution and role of the CESK in improving their life style.

Distributed livestock by subzone and sites

C. Energy Efficiency Stoves

These traditional wood burning stoves release a lot of smoke in the kitchen which is a health hazard to the household members especially to mothers and children. In addition consumes a lot of fire wood which is not found easily. So this project will equip poor households with safe, economical and smokeless efficient stoves.

Traditionally used stove in our area is called MOGOGO where the households used it to prepare flat breads. But this stove is not well equipped. It has several disadvantages. Since it does not have smoke outlet it is hazardous to the health of the mother and it consumes a lot of fire woods which is scare in the area. The department assumed by constructing efficient improved stoves the above mentioned problems will be eradicated from the area. Since the improved stove has well equipped smoke outlet the sanitation of mother. The aim of the department was to construct energy efficient stoves; therefore, health consequences of the traditional stove will be avoided. Moreover, deforestation will be reduced and beneficiaries will save their time for collect fire wood because it can be used with scrap woods. In general the stoves were implemented for the needy households as well as for volunteers to be model for the communities.



The super structure of the modern energy efficient stove

The reduction of smoke will keep the houses clean and the health of mothers and children will be improved. So, there will be no more health damage by smoke accumulated in the house during cooking.



It is expected to reduce firewood consumption by 50%; as a result it has great impact on reduction of deforestation. Moreover, time used for collecting fire woods will be used for other purposes.

Implemented improved stoves in the 1st phase

Sub region	Distribution sites	No. of beneficiaries	Implemented Improved stoves
Elabered	Halibmentel	16 HHs	16stoves
Keren	Boggu(Geab)	15HHs	15stoves
	Titri	17 HHs	17stoves
Total			48stoves