

Catholic Eparchy of Keren

Catholic Eparchial Secretariat Keren (CESK)

Women's Development Department (WDD)

Six months report January – June 2011

Introduction

Women's development department (WDD) is one of the seven departments run by the Catholic Eparchial Secretariat Keren (CESK). This six month report presents the activities done in 2011 and the major achievements obtained. The department runs three main sub programs. These are education, awareness raising and income generating. The program operated in 30 villages for 42 groups within the catchments area of the Eparchy of Keren and reached more than 1157 women in the year of 2011.

The WDD program has two full time staffs and eleven animators responsible for the 42 women groups in the area.

The tables illustrates the number of villages, groups and beneficiary women

S.N	Name of villages	Parishes	Sub Zone	No. of groups	No. of women	Animator
1	Hashela	Kidanemhret	Keren	2	67	1
2	Dighi	St/Michiel	Keren	2	62	
3	Jufa	Kidanemhret	Keren	1	32	
4	Bambi	St.Michiel	Keren	1	30	1
5	Fafda	St. Pawlos	Keren	1	27	
6	Deroq	St. Gerghis	Keren	1	30	1
7	Wesbensiruq	St. Gerghis	Keren	2	62	
8	Sharki	St. Gerghis	Keren	1	18	1
9	Halibmentel	M/Alem	Elabered	3	96	
10	Gururuq	St. Michiel	Elebered	1	31	1
11	Guba	M/Alem	Elabered	1	29	
12	Hagaz	Kidanemhret	Hagaz	4	118	1
13	Awnjeli	M/Alem	Hagaz	1	27	
14	Shakloti	M/Alem	Hagaz	1	19	
15	Adi berbere	-	Elabered	2	55	1
16	Trenqua	Arbateinssa	Elabered	1	18	
17	Wedig Cheay	-	Elebered	1	32	

18	Lebeda	S/Gergis	Keren	1	19	1
19	Adi Hashel	S/gergis	Keren	1	18	
20	Titri	S/gergis	Keren	2	40	
21	Megarih	S/Gergis	Keren	1	28	1
22	Inkimetri	S/yosief	Hagaz	1	24	
23	Frdghi	M/Alem	Hagaz	2	67	
24	Gubene	-	Hagaz	1	28	
25	Geab	-	Hagaz	2	58	
26	Faraleba	-	Hagaz	1	29	1
27	Inchinaq	Kidanemhret	Hagaz	1	32	
28	Abengulet	-	Hagaz	1	31	
29	Ghilass	Ldetamaryam	Hagaz	1	30	
30	Enda riba	-	Keren	1		1
Total				42	1,157	11

Overall goal of the department

The overall goals are to free the women from socio-economic and cultural barriers and to emancipate them to be self sufficient and to be 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.

2.1 Micro saving and credit program

There are three types of saving and credit activities. These are women initiated credit and saving, group based and individual credit program.

2.1.1 Women initiated credit and saving: - here women contribute weekly a share between 5-30Nakfa. This is subject to the rules and regulations of the group. They take five times if 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 for revolving fund from the department.

2.1.2 Revolving fund: - this is a fund given to women by CESK to fill the gap (need) of the group members. The rules and regulation also apply to this fund. Among this six month 14 Women groups have received returnable fund of 30,000.00 Nakfa each. This money is revolving among the group members and is expected to be returned in 2012.



Distribution of revolving funds

Reimbursement of savings / shares: as per plan, groups that had been participated in the program for one year had collected their savings including some extra money collected through interest and punishment. 7groups (Halimentel, Deroq,guba,guraruk, Wesbensrk, Seqloti, Bambi) Reimbursement. The groups have agreed to continue the program for the second year and this signifies that the program was advantageous.



Current statues of the Micro credit and saving program

85% of the program beneficiaries benefited positively from the initiative. They have made investments in various small scales businesses that enabled them to generate profit. The activities they run include buying and selling of goats, grains, Handcrafts and small retail shops.

- Exposure to business world, Knowledge on small scale business increased,
- Women engaged in small scale business and earned some income, made some good profits, made contribution to the house hold economy and solve their personal and economical problems,

- Able to change our societies' believes on women role, saving initiated, and confidence developed,
- Unity, coherence and love among the members,
- Group is seen a gathering and / or information center, experience exchange.

One mother From Halibmtel group she said “I am working in small business like soap, cloths, Coffee, oil, Rice, .etc sailing. Collect money I bought one caw. From the cow I got milk for my family”.

Other mother from Deroq group said “when the credit was taken I bought two hens. They multiply. I have 19 hens at this time. I am using every small thing like soap, coffee, and sugar.etc by sailing egg. And also the money for the group sharing every week I got from the egg”.

2.2 Livestock project

Livestock project is another component of income generating activities. In 2010; 126 women have received two goat each. The cost of the goat was 900 to 1000Nkfa. The aim of the goat project was to enable mother get milk from the goats and rear them. The loan 13.82% returned .when the goats are multiplied.

Some positive observations

- The families who have got the goats are able to get milk and multiplied goats.
- Currently each family has more than 5 goats.



3. 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.

3.1 Health education; health education was carried out in 29 villages for about 1,157 women. The sessions conducted in the women's groups were; T.B, malaria, HIV / AIDS, Personal and environmental sanitation, child care , skin disease, pregnancy and its complications, nutrition and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). These sessions were conducted by different expertise in the area.

3.2 Awareness Raising Program (ARP): ARP was undertaken in 29 villages for about 1157 women. ARP focuses on and gender issues, micro credit and weavingetc.

4. 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 these 2 meetings were conducted and different issues were discussed.

5. Monitoring and supervision works

Some Supervisory visits were conducted in (Adiberbere, Wedegchay, Halimentel, Sharki, Deroq, Adihasel, Wesbensrukdigi, Hasela, Bambi, Adihasel, Ttri, S. Ghrgis, Inkimetry, Geab, Gubene, Frdgi, Abengulet, Inchinaq, Gilass, Hagaz, Awenjeli and Shaqloti) , the villages 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.

7. Women's Day Celebration



Sixth Eparchial women’s day anniversary was celebrated colorfully in 2011 on the theme of: **“Woman; - consoler rehabilitator counselor administrator”**. 20th of May was decided to be Eparchial women’s day in 2006. It was develop from year to year. 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, exhibition, and spiritual songs, seminars by chief model Sister and invited guests/scholars as well as general knowledge contest and poems were staged on the occasion.



Women from St. Ghiorghis (Megarih) presenting drama on FGM discrimination



Sr. Nitzhti giving talk to the community – Holy Trinity choir

All participants were happy by the program. They said that “the program was very well. We show good activities”. They pleased to expand to all small villages especially far away from Keren.



Religious and Govt. rep. encouraging the women program run by the Eparchy

Mothers visit to Dbarwa

By WID GAD program 25 mothers from Hagaz, Gilass, Abengulet, Inchinak, Faraleba, Frdghi, Gubene, Inkimetryi, Titri, kidusgergismegarh, Adihashel, Bambi, Fafda, Hashela, Hali

mentel Jufa,Deroq,Sharki,Dghi,Guba,Guraruk,Teronka,Adi-berbere,Wedegchay, one mother from each village visit to Dbarwa for two days ..



The aim of the program to share their experience among Eparchial of Keren women development with Eparchial of Asmara women department.



Problem encountered

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

Over head Plan for 2011

- Carrying assessment, reviews and evaluations
- Continue income generating programs

- Continue Education programs
- Continue livestock program
- Continue monthly meeting for animators
- Provision of short term loan
- Provision of goats to women
- Provision of donkey to women
- Preparing Reports
- To establish new women's group in new villages
- Expand the activities in the groups
- Start hand waving program

Report written by:
Sr. Tsegeweini Solomon
Ms. Jirai Amine
June 2011