

**Catholic Eparchial Secretariat Keren (CESK)  
Women's Development Department (WDD)**

**Introduction**

Women's development department (WDD) is one of the seven departments run by the Eparchy of Keren. During the past six months various important projects have been implemented. The major ones are the following: education and income generating activities. The program operated in 30 villages 42 groups with in the catchment area of the Eparchy of Keren and reached more than 1157 women in the year 2010.

**Statistics**

| S.N          | Name of villages | Parishes       | Sub Zone | No. of groups | No. of women | No. of the animator |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|----------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1            | Hashela          | Kidanemhret    | Keren    | 2             | 67           | 1                   |
| 2            | Dighi            | St. Michiel    | Keren    | 2             | 62           |                     |
| 3            | Juffa            | Kidanemhret    | Keren    | 1             | 32           |                     |
| 4            | Bambi            | St. Michiel    | Keren    | 1             | 30           | 1                   |
| 5            | Fafida           | St. Paul       | Keren    | 1             | 27           | 1                   |
| 6            | Deroq            | St. George     | Keren    | 1             | 30           |                     |
| 7            | Wesben-sireq     | St. George     | Keren    | 2             | 62           |                     |
| 8            | Sharki           | St. George     | Keren    | 1             | 18           | 1                   |
| 9            | Halibmentel      | Holy Savior    | Elabered | 3             | 96           | 1                   |
| 10           | Guraruq          | St. Michael    | Elebered | 1             | 31           |                     |
| 11           | Guba             | Holy Savior    | Elebared | 1             | 29           |                     |
| 12           | Hagaz            | Kidanemhret    | Hagaz    | 4             | 118          | 1                   |
| 13           | Awnjeli          | Holy Savior    | Hagaz    | 1             | 27           | 1                   |
| 14           | Shakloti         | Holy Savior    | Hagaz    | 1             | 19           |                     |
| 15           | Adi berbere      | -              | Elabered | 2             | 55           |                     |
| 16           | Trenqua          | Arbaetu-ensisa | Elabered | 1             | 18           | 1                   |
| 17           | Wedig Cheay      | -              | Elebered | 1             | 32           |                     |
| 18           | Lebeda           | St. George     | Keren    | 1             | 19           |                     |
| 19           | Adi Hashel       | St. George     | Keren    | 1             | 18           | 1                   |
| 20           | Titri            | St. George     | Keren    | 2             | 40           |                     |
| 21           | Megarih          | St. George     | Keren    | 1             | 28           |                     |
| 22           | Inkimetri        | St. Joseph     | Hagaz    | 1             | 24           | 1                   |
| 23           | Firdghi          | Holy Savior    | Hagaz    | 2             | 67           | 1                   |
| 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          | Lideta-Mariam  | Hagaz    | 1             | 30           | 1                   |
| 30           | Enda riba        | -              | Keren    | 1             |              |                     |
| <b>Total</b> |                  |                |          | <b>42</b>     | <b>1,157</b> | <b>11</b>           |

## **Overall goal**

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. Capacity building**

In order to deliver quality services and achieve stated goals, animators have continuously been given trainings to improve their performance. The following trainings were carried in the year of 2010.

- Training on micro credit and saving for 11 animators
- Training on hygiene, nutrition, sanitation, procedures for 11 animators
- Training Monitoring and reporting for 11 animators
- Training Community mobilization for 11 animators

### **Objective**

To build the capacity of the animators (including women) so that their work with women will be more creative and effective.

### **2. Income Generating Program:**

This program consists of different activities such as saving and micro 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.

### **Objective**

To enable women to earn income by creating a job and support themselves and their families

#### **2.1 Micro saving and credit project**

The micro-saving and credit activities include:

- **Awareness rising activity** - awareness increasing meeting held with the women in the 29 villages in order to familiarize them with the rules and regulations of the project. It also helps the women to have good understanding about the project. Several issues such as the concept of credit and saving, financial management, the benefit of the program and small scale business were discussed in detail.
- **Formation of groups** - Once awareness meeting has been done successfully, the saving group among women is formed. Later the group selects five women leaders and entrust them with leadership responsibility. Additionally, women provided with required materials such as pen, pencils, chair, table, calculator metal box etc. And at the same time the group set rules and regulations that every member should accept and act accordingly. 20 women groups have been established on 18 villages. A total of **574** women were actively in the program.

The following table shows the villages, group name and group number

| Sn           | Village                | Group name            | Group number |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1            | Wedeg chay             | Sham                  | 32           |
| 2            | Adi berbere            | Rahwa                 | 28           |
| 3            | Teronka                | Arbaetu-einsisa       | 19           |
| 4            | Guba                   | Selam                 | 30           |
| 5            | Guraruk                | Shan                  | 29           |
| 6            | Halimentel(two groups) | Haben and Rahwa       | 64           |
| 7            | Sharki                 | Samrawit              | 27           |
| 8            | Deroq                  | Selam                 | 28           |
| 9            | Wesbensruk             | Fiqri                 | 30           |
| 10           | Dighi                  | Selam                 | 30           |
| 11           | Hashela                | Selam                 | 32           |
| 12           | Jufa                   | Kidanemhret           | 32           |
| 13           | Titri(twogroups)       | Kiseri and St. Joseph | 40           |
| 14           | Meharh                 | St. George            | 28           |
| 15           | Adihasel               | Lalimba               | 18           |
| 16           | Lebeda                 | Wegahta-berhan        | 18           |
| 17           | Geab                   | Kosti                 | 32           |
| 18           | Fafda                  | Kidanemhret           | 29           |
| <b>Total</b> |                        |                       | <b>574</b>   |

75% of the members have taken loans for three month and monthly paid back the charged interest i.e. 3%. They have made investments in various small scales businesses that enabled them to regenerate profit: buying and selling goats and grain, preparing handcrafts and selling and small retail shops etc. The loan was given five times to the women for their individual saving.

- **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. All the groups have agreed to continue. The program for the second year and this signify that the program was advantageous.
- **Returnable fund:** 25 Women groups have received returnable fund (amounting **735,000.00 Nakfa**) for a year on 24 villages, to encourage women to engage in small scale activities by accelerating loan disbursement process.

| sn | Village              | Group name   | Group number | Received amount |
|----|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1  | Terenquwa            | Arbaiteinssa | 19 Persons   | 25,000.00       |
| 2  | Wedegchay            | Sham         | 32 Persons   | 30,000.00       |
| 3  | St. George (Megarih) | K/ gerghios  | 28 Persons   | 30,000.00       |
| 4  | Juffa                | K/mhret      | 32 Persons   | 24,000.00       |
| 5  | Bambi                | Brkisna      | 27 Persons   | 40,500.00       |
| 6  | Adi-berbere          | Snit         | 28 Persons   | 17,000.00       |
| 7  | Sheqloti             | B/maryam     | 19 Persons   | 28,500.00       |

|    |                  |              |                    |                   |
|----|------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 8  | Hagaz            | Snit         | 32 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 9  | Hagaz            | Delina       | 32 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 10 | Halibmentel      | Rahwa        | 32 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 11 | Adi-berbere      | Hiwet        | 28Persons          | 30,000.00         |
| 12 | Halibmentel      | Haben        | 32 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 13 | Wesben-sireq     | Fiqri        | 30 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 14 | Sharki           | Samrawit     | 18 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 15 | Dighi            | Selam        | 32 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 16 | Adi-hashel       | Lalnba       | 18 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 17 | Lebeda           | Wegahtabrhan | 19 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 18 | Guraruq          | Shan         | 31 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 19 | Guba             | Selam        | 29 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 20 | Geab             | Kosti        | 28 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 21 | Hashela          | freselam     | 32 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 22 | Titri two groups | Kiseri and   | 40 Persons         | 60,000.00         |
| 23 | Deroq            | Selam        | 30 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
| 24 | Fafida           | Kidanemhret  | 27 Persons         | 30,000.00         |
|    | <b>Total</b>     |              | <b>675 Persons</b> | <b>735,000.00</b> |

### Revolving fund returned

In the past six month total of 187,900 Nakfa were returned back from the following seven groups.

| S.N          | Name of villages | Group name | Amount            | Date       |
|--------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1            | Hashela          | Maikot     | 46,500.00         | 5/01/2010  |
| 2            | Geab             | Akishun    | 27,000.00         | 22/01/2010 |
| 3            | Hagaz            | Selam      | 24,000.00         | 26/01/2010 |
| 4            | Hagaz            | Awet       | 8,900.00          | 26/01/2010 |
| 5            | Frdghi           | Tika       | 9,000.00          | 28/01/2010 |
| 6            | Frdghi           | Fkiri      | 22,500.00         | 28/01/2010 |
| 7            | Halimentel       | M/nialem   | 50,000.00         | 5/02/2010  |
| <b>Total</b> |                  |            | <b>187,900.00</b> |            |

**Achievement:** 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, confidence developed, unity, coherence and love among the members, group is seen a gathering and / or information center, experience exchange.

### 2.2 Livestock project – goat project:

Goat project is another component of income generating activities.80 women have received 1000Nakfa each as a loan and 60 women have received 1200nakfa each as loan in 2009.The loan is given to enable them to buy two goats. And the loan is expected to be repaid when the goats are multiplied. Now beneficiaries began to pay back their loan. From the first loan 90% pay back.

### **2.3 Credit Scheme:**

Individual cash credit is another part of the program implemented by Women's development department. In 2009, 48 women were received 144000.00 nakfa. From is 50% pay back

### **3. Education Programs**

Education program consists of health education, awareness raising and literacy classes.

### **Objectives**

To enhance women's capacity to challenge negative customs and beliefs about women's roles and capacities.

**3.1 Health education** carried out in 29 villages for about 1157 women. Regular sessions with the women's groups conducted on T.B, malaria, HIV / AIDS, Personal and environmental sanitation, child care skin disease, pregnancy and its complications and nutrition.

### **3.2 Awareness Raising Program (ARP)**

ARP was undertaken in 29 villages for about 1,157 women. ARP focuses on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and gender issues. Moreover solar cooking awareness raising activities were done in all villages as a result number of women requesting the device increased.



Genital Mutilation (FGM) and gender issues class on Bambi

### **3.3 Literacy classes**

Literacy and numeric classes were undertaken in the villages of Guraruk and Guba where government programs are not available for 60 women. Women have now well acquaintance with number and letters. Women received all the required materials.

Training

### **4. Meetings**

Monthly basis meeting with animators is always held to discuss problems encountered in the implementation of the program and look for solutions for resolving the problem and set a plan to be done for the future. 5 meetings were held in the year of 2010.

### **5. Monitoring and supervision works**

Same Supervisory visits were done in the villages to make sure the smooth running of the activities by approaching the implementation of the program closely.

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

## 6. Women's Day Celebration

Fifth eparchial women's day anniversary was celebrated colorfully in 2010 on the theme of: **"Equality, insignia of a civilized society"**. 20<sup>th</sup> of May was decided to be Eparchial women's day in 2006. 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, exhibition.....etc. Different entertaining and informative programs such as cultural show, fashion show, short comedy, exhibition, and spiritual songs, seminars by chief model woman and invited guests/scholars as well as general knowledge contest and poems were staged on the occasion.



St Micheal Keren Catholic Youth group singing religious songs Added a color to the celebration

Geab center women playing drama on gender discrimination on stage

### Problem encountered

- Lack of transportation
- Shortage of budget

### Over head Plan for 2010

- Continue income generating program
- Continue Education programs
- Continue livestock program
- Continue monthly meeting for 11 animators
- Training on hygiene, nutrition ,sanitation, procedures for 11 animators
- Training Monitoring and reporting for 11 animators
- Training Community mobilization for 11 animators
- Training in leadership skills and business management
- Provision of short term loans
- Provision of goats to women