

Catholic Eparchial Secretariat Keren (CESK)

Women's Development Department (WDD)

Annual report for 2010

Introduction

Women's development department (WDD) is one of the seven departments run by the Catholic Eparchial Secretariat Keren (CESK). In this year various projects have been implemented. This annual report presents the activities done in 2010 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 1,157 women in the year of 2010.

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	1
6	Deroq	St. Gerghis	Keren	1	30	
7	Wesbensiruq	St. Gerghis	Keren	2	62	
8	Sharki	St. Gerghis	Keren	1	18	1
9	Halibmentel	M/Alem	Elabered	3	96	1
10	Guraruq	St. Michiel	Elebered	1	31	
11	Guba	M/Alem	Elebared	1	29	
12	Hagaz	Kidanemhret	Hagaz	4	118	1
13	Awnjeli	M/Alem	Hagaz	1	27	1
14	Shakloti	M/Alem	Hagaz	1	19	
15	Adi berbere	-	Elabered	2	55	
16	Trenqua	Arbateinssa	Elabered	1	18	1
17	Wedig Cheay	-	Elebered	1	32	
18	Lebeda	S/Gergis	Keren	1	19	
19	Adi Hashel	S/gergis	Keren	1	18	1

20	Titri	S/gergis	Keren	2	40	
21	Megarih	S/Gergis	Keren	1	28	
22	Inkimetri	S/yosief	Hagaz	1	24	1
23	Frdghi	M/Alem	Hagaz	2	67	
24	Gubene	-	Hagaz	1	28	
25	Geab	-	Hagaz	2	58	
26	Faraleba	-	Hagaz	1	29	
27	Inchinaq	Kidanemhret	Hagaz	1	32	1
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. Capacity building

In order to deliver quality services and achieve stated goals, animators have continuously been given trainings to improve their performance and so that their work will be more creative and effective. The following trainings were carried out for the animators and women groups in 2010;

Training given to Animators

- Micro credit and saving
- Hygiene, nutrition, sanitation, procedures
- Monitoring and reporting
- Community mobilization

Training given to Women groups

- Hygiene, Nutrition, Sanitation, Procedures for 6 Villages (Adi berbere, Wdegchay, Hashela, Gubene, Frdghi Hagaz) for more than 350 .
- Shiro, pepper & Tihini Preparation.



Training on hygiene, nutrition, sanitation, Training on Shiro, pepper & Tihini



Training on Community mobilization

2. 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.

A. 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 helped 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. Micro -credit and saving awareness meeting was held.

B. Formation of groups; Once awareness meeting has been done successfully, the saving group was formed. The group had 18-32 members and they select seven women leaders and entrust them with leadership responsibility. The seven leaders include: **one group leader, two Secretaries, three key holders, one metal box holder.** Additionally, women were provided with required materials such as pen, pencils, chair, table, calculator, metal box and corrector. At the same time the group set rules and regulations that every member should accept and act accordingly. 25 women groups have been established in 18 villages. A total of 574 women were actively participating in the program.

C. Rules and regulation of Groups: - this is a general guide that abides women to work together in their respective groups. It clarifies rules of the group, group functioning and credit and saving management.

D. Criteria for selection:- The criterion depends on voluntary group membership and requires full consensus of the rules and regulations.

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. This year new 25 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 2011.



Distribution of revolving funds

2.1.3 Individual credit program: - this is a fund provided to individual women directly by the department according to the WDD guidelines. This fund is given for women headed families, destitute; women whose husband died. In 2010, 30 women have received 3,000.00 Nakfa each and they are working in different businesses and made some good profits.

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.

2.2 Livestock project :(goat and donkey)

Livestock project is another component of income generating activities. This year 126 women have received two goats 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 is expected to be repaid after 9 months when the goats are multiplied.

18 women have received one donkey for each. The aim of the provision of the donkeys was to help mothers in fetching water, fire woods and other domestic chores. These mothers were destitute and helpless and are selected by the animators and WDD staffs. The price of the donkey was 3000 Nakfa and was expected to return in cash after one year.

Some positive observations

- The families who have got the goats are able to get milk and multiplied goats.
- Currently each family has more than 4 goats.
- The donkeys were used for different transportations and also are breeding.



Keren market



Hagaz market

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 1,157 women. ARP focuses on and gender issues, solar cooking, micro credit and weavingect.



Awareness raising



solar cooking kit

4. Meetings

Monthly meeting with animators was held to discuss problems encountered in the implementation of the program and look for solutions and set a plan to be done for the future. Therefore these 12 meetings were conducted and different issues were discussed.

5. Monitoring and supervision works

Some Supervisory visits were conducted in 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.

6. Incentives for exemplary groups

Villages that have shown positive movements and are far from Keren are given capital goods as an encouragement. This year two groups were given two Cooking vessels and two big spoons each. They contribute 3% of the total price. The groups were from Guba Legedre & Guraruk. The goods are not returnable, it is a group property. The groups rent the pots during social occasions and get some incomes for the group. The initiative is expected to reach all the needy villages.



Guba Legedre group

Guraruk group

7. 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"**. 20th 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.



Representative from National Woman's Association.



Women from Geab center entertaining drama on gender discrimination

8. Visits by donors

A group from French Embassy in Asmera paid a work visit to Jufa woman's group to see the activities. They asked different questions concerning the group work and got answers from the women. Finally they encouraged the group and went back.

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 program

- Continue Education programs
- Continue livestock program
- Continue monthly meeting for animators
- Provision of short term loans
- Provision of goats to women
- Provision of donkey to women
- Reporting preparing
- To establish new women's group in new villages
- Expand the activities in the groups

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