

2023

October 31st
to
December 31st



4th Quarter Newsletter



Headlines

- Who we are?
- Leadership Training Given to DEC Management and Program area staff
- Mobile School Commenced in Dubti town, Afar
- DEC Constructed water points in Sasiga and Nedjo
- DEC constructed Temporary Learning Space (TLS) in East Hararge
- Youth Community Voluntary Service Piloted
- “Living The Dream” Stories of Empowerment
- Activism Against Gender Based Violence (GBV) Organized
- Digitalized Sexual and Reproductive Health Information
- Safe Corner service standardized
- Core Relief Items were distributed to IDPs
- The Story of “Tigist Haile”
- Camp Coordination and Camp Management(CCCM)
- DEC Participated in #ShiftThePower Summit
- Evidence Based Policy Dialogue Organized



Who we are .

Development Expertise Center(DEC) is a development and humanitarian organization established in 2007 to contribute towards national development efforts through integrated, decentralized, and sustainable program interventions. The organization works in partnership with grass root communities, government structures, Civil Society Actors (CSAs), Community of Practices (CoPs), and donors.

Our Goal : To design & implement sustainable development programs that addresses the social and economic needs of target groups.

Our Vision: DEC aspires to see all Children and Youth Wellbeing fostered.

Our Mission: DEC facilitates Child and Youth centered Comprehensive development interventions to create safe and conducive environment to fulfill the best interest of the children and youth Wellbeing.

Our Programs:



- Gender and Life Skills Development
- Employable Skills Development
- Advocacy
- Humanitarian Emergency
- Child Wellbeing and Education Development



The organization has over 316 staff throughout the country



Leadership Training Given to DEC Management and Program Area Staff

Through the financial support of Goal Ethiopia, DEC organized three days leadership training in Pyramid Hotel, Bishoftu Town. The objective of the training was to boost the leadership skills and practices of senior management of the organization thereby the management team provide the training to program areas and head office staff in the same place from 30 to 31st December, 2023.





CHILD WELLBEING AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



MOBILE SCHOOL COMMENCED IN DUBTI TOWN, AFAR

Due to the dispersed settlement of people and the vast geographical area, many school-age children could not access education despite schools are available in most Kebeles. Particularly, children in Lehara and Kurub Kebeles are among others who were facing limited access to education based on the assessment conducted in the districts.

As a result of mobile nature of children and families, the only means to address the needs of these out-of-school children was applying eco-friendly solutions by the Government and NGOs which DEC together with its partner KNH pursued through its SEND Children project. The project is initiated to nurture children's development through access to education. To this end, the project established two camel schools in Lehara and Kurub kebeles, located on the way to Aysaita. These schools have been set up to address and reach out-of-school children through education by traveling to where the children are.



DEC CONSTRUCTED WATER POINTS IN SASIGA AND NEDJO



DEC with the fund of ECW – UNICEF and in partnership with Geneva Global has constructed water points in five target schools of East Wellega Zone, Sasiga district of Milki Gudina, Anagr Miyazia 23 and Lalistu Oda Primary schools and in West Wellega Zone of Biftu Amuma and Burka Nasi Primary schools in Nadjo district.

In the schools, there was little pure water coverage, and many school communities suffered for a long. After the construction of water points in schools' a total of 4,515 students could access water for drinking and hygiene services that address the water needs of the schools. In the process of construction districts' WASH, Education Offices, and Health offices played a crucial role in providing technical support to ensure access to clean water in the schools.

The construction of the water points is strengthening the Students' Lead School Sanitation and Hygiene (SLSSH) programs in schools that DEC installed so far. To ensure the sustainability of access to water in schools, Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), and government stakeholders took orientation on how to manage the water and sustain the fruits of the project.





DEC CONSTRUCTED TEMPORARY LEARNING SPACE (TLS) IN EAST HARARGE

DEC has opened a new area office to coordinate and implement the Education Cannot Wait-First Emergency (ECW-FER) project in Oromia regional state East Hararge zone in Gursum Woreda at the beginning of 2023. The district experiences disasters like drought and conflict. Due to the conflict in the region, the Schools were destroyed and turned into a military camp. As a result of this, school-age children could not access education in the district.



To enable out-of-school children to attend school in the 2016 Ethiopian Fiscal Year (EFY), DEC has built Temporary Learning Space blocks, Gender segregated latrine blocks with four pits and a hand washing station, and water tanker installation with standard seating and linking with roof catchment at targeted kebele in Chamanur first site. The school is equipped with 200 chairs, 20 tables, and 4 blackboards and is being used for the 2016 Academic year. As a result of the construction of this school, more than 200 children who were out of school can access education.



Employable Skills Development Program

Youth Community Voluntary Service Piloted

In the quarter, youths engaged in exemplary voluntary service in Bahir Dar, Jimma, Assosa, and Gambella towns. The objective of the service was to create awareness and familiarize the importance of voluntarism through community services. Participants of the services were youth coalition members and groups in the towns. A total of 1000 youth (480 females and 58 PWDs) participated in house revamping, cleaning the environment, blood donation and caring for elders and persons with disability.



During these services, youths mobilized resources and provided to Macedonia, Sew Le Sewu and other charitable associations in their respective towns. The Youth Coalition members demonstrated high level of solidarity in serving people in their respective towns. The service was initiated and supported by DEC Kefeta project.



Activism Against Gender Based Violence (GBV) Organized



The Global 16 Days of Activism against GBV is an annual campaign to end violence against women and girls that kicks off on 25th November and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. As part of a global movement and solidarity, the activism was undertaken in Bahir Dar, Jimma, Assosa, Gambella towns and Addis Ababa City Administration by DEC HQ in general. During the campaign, Youth coalition leaders, SACCO leaders, various stakeholders, and Kefeta staff actively participated in events and panel discussions.



“Living the dream”

Meet Redwan Seid Ali, a passionate young Ethiopian living in Jimma city. After graduating from university, Redwan was determined to start his own business. His dream was to own a Bajaj or a three-wheeled vehicle. He approached local financial institutions hoping to secure a loan to kickstart his venture. Unfortunately, due to prolonged financial process he couldn't find the loan products he needed to turn his dream into reality.

Frustrated by the lack of support from conventional banks, Redwan discovered a lifeline in Kefeta Jimma Youth SACCO. This financial institution is not just youth-owned but also youth-managed, making it truly youth-friendly. After becoming a member and purchasing shares, Redwan began saving regularly, and most importantly, he gained access to the loan services he needed. Beside this, he has provided with different training and engaged with activities. He took Life skill and entrepreneurship training.



"Now, as an independent entrepreneur, thanks to the support he received from DEC - Kefeta Jimma Youth SACCO, Redwan's success story extends beyond himself. He's not only fulfilling his own dreams but also making a positive impact on his family. With his thriving business, he can now provide financial assistance to his siblings, giving them opportunities for a better future.

Redwan's journey serves as a testament to the transformative power of youth-friendly financial institutions.



Gender and Life Skills Development

Digitalized Sexual and Reproductive Health Information

As part of the RHRN2 alliance in Ethiopia, our initiative focuses on "Digitalizing Inclusive SRH Information." This involves transforming SRH information into a digital format that is accessible and relevant to a diverse audience. Our primary targets are young people, including those in and out of school as well as young people with disabilities. Through youth-friendly videos on digital platforms, our goal is to pioneer inclusive SRH education, extending its reach to a broader audience.

The journey began with a collaborative co-creation session that brought together program personnel, SRH experts, youth council members from the RHRN2 consortium, and talented young animators and scriptwriters.

During this session, the animators and scriptwriters received comprehensive training on SRH and Social and Behavior Change (SBC) material development processes. Together, we identified 12 crucial issues relevant to young people aged 12-19, focusing on topics such as menstrual hygiene management, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), drug and substance use, parent and child communication, teenage pregnancy, and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).



The official launch of our Youth-Friendly Animation Videos was held on December 19 at Sapphire Addis Hotel with a presence of government stakeholders, school teachers, partners, and other organizations dedicated to advancing SRH and the well-being of young people.

Participants actively engaged with the content and provided constructive feedback, further enhancing the quality and relevance of the animation videos. As part of our commitment to widespread accessibility, the videos are now being aired on Asham TV, the technical partner of RHRN2, and are available on DEC's YouTube channel.

We are excited about the potential impact these videos will have in promoting a healthier and more informed young generation.



Safe Corner service standardized

Safe corners, also referred to as 'girls resting places,' have been established in RHRN2's 18 target schools since 2021. These safe corners provide essential menstrual hygiene management services for girl students, including the provision of sanitary pads, a resting place during menstrual pain, shower facilities, books, and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials. The introduction of these safe corners has significantly contributed to the improvement of girls' school attendance and performance.

To further enhance the quality of service and increase the utilization of safe corners, DEC organized a workshop with school principals and safe corner focal teachers. During this workshop, participants engaged in discussions focused on standardizing and promoting safe corner services. The culmination of this collaborative effort was the development of a 10-point guideline for standardizing the safe corner service by the end of the workshop.

HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY PROGRAM

CORE RELIEF ITEMS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO IDPs

In the quarter the following items were distributed to conflict-affected IDPs in Amhara and Tigray Regions:



3,245 women IDPs reached with warm clothes at Haburu Waldia town and Raya kobo IDP sites in North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region.



4,625 individuals received solar lamps, buckets, worm cloth, and plastic sheets at Deberberhan in different sites



678 individuals received Dignity Kits in Tigray (127 individuals in Mekele, and 551 individuals in Abiadi).



DEC- Tigray area office has distributed NFI packages for 12,076HHS (52,046 individual IDPs, Returnees, and Affected host communities) in Southern, Central, and North West zone



New shelter has been constructed for 640 HHs in 16 different sites of Tigray;



Shelter repair kit distributed for 25 HHs (120 individuals of Eritrean refugees) in Mekelle Elshaday IDP site and provision of Family tents for 50 HHs/270 individuals in Selekleka IDP sites of Tigray region

Camp Coordination & Camp Management(CCCM)



- Six communal kitchens were constructed in both south and North Wollo at different sites



10 street solar lights were installed at Jara IDP camp and Jari 1 and Jari 2 IDP sites in North wollo and south wollo respectively



Small scale site Materials distributed in 7 IDP sites in North wollo and south wollo

"Tigist Haile: Resilience, Rebuilding, and Hope.



TIGIST HAILE, a 30-year-old divorced woman, resided in Adi Arkay town for over 15 years. As a health and physical education high school teacher and head of household for a family of six, she faced numerous challenges. She had managed to construct a house by acquiring a loan from the bank. However, everything changed with the beginning of the northern conflict; the conflict between Tigray forces and the federal government. The conflict forced her to flee from Adi Arkay to Debarke on April 4, 2022.

For more than a year, Tigist lived in Debarke IDP site as Adi Arkay remained under the control of the Tigray forces. She received a disturbing call, informing her that her house had been burned and destroyed.

Upon hearing this devastating news, Tigist found it difficult to realize the extent of her losses. She highlighted the insufficiency of her salary as a high school teacher, making it even more challenging to provide for her children. The conflict and the prevailing circumstances in the country had caused prices to be expensive, making necessities difficult to find.



After the two-year-long war, Adi Arkay and the surrounding towns were finally liberated from the Tigray forces by the Federal government, allowing Tigist to return to her hometown with the support of UNHCR and the government. While Tigist was filled with a sense of happiness upon returning to her hometown, her happiness was short-lived when she discovered her house burned and destroyed. She had no choice but to live with her neighbours, burdening them with her six-member family. She faced severe economic hardships and no means of reconstructing her house.



Advocacy Program



DEC Participated in #ShiftThePower



Shift the Power Summit in Bogota, Colombia with the notion of “Bringing sustainable Social Change is more than acknowledging Community Philanthropy that requires moving beyond logos, egos, siloes, and halos”.

The purpose of the summit was to bring together local community organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders to discuss and advocate for the shift of power to leverage resources to local actors in the context of the global development system.

It was reflected at the summit that there is a need to reimagine the systems and structures of international development and Philanthropy in a way that gives Power to the local development actors.



Advocacy



Evidence Based Policy Dialogue Organized

Giving for Change (GfC) consortium members, DEC and CoSAP jointly conducted one day evidence-based policy dialogue at national level. The purpose of the forum was to bring stakeholders together from various sectors to engage in discussions and initiatives that would advance philanthropy and influence policy decisions related to philanthropic practices in Ethiopia. It was attended by over 200 participants, including members of the National Philanthropy Network, key government officials, and members of the Community of Practice, local CSOs, and international donors.



Contacts



www.decethiopia.org



(+251) 116 189 184/85



+251989102340



12 41 75 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



info@decethiopia.org

