

DEVELOPMENT EXPERTISE CENTER



3rd Quarter News letter

July 1st to September 30
2024

ABOUT US!



Development Expertise Center (DEC) is a National Civil Society Organization founded in 2007 and re-registered in May 2019 per the accord to proclamation 1113/2019 for CSOs bearing registration number 0009. DEC has the program goal of designing and implementing sustainable development programs that address the social and economic needs of its target groups. The organization is governed by Board which has seven members as its supreme governing organ and it has Executive Director who is appointed by the Board and responsible for the day-to-day operation of the organization with a Management Team who are program heads. DEC operates in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, Gambela, Benishangul Gumz National Regional States, and Addis Ababa City Administration. Together with its strategic partners, DEC has built excellence in implementing projects that respond to the felt needs of the target groups/individuals in its intervention areas. It has developed and makes use of appropriate & relevant policies, procedures, and guidelines to guide its management and operations.

Vision

DEC aspires to see all Children and Youth Wellbeing fostered.

Goal

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

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.



CHILD WELLBEING AND EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Child Wellbeing and Education Development Program is one of the five programs in DEC. It has been contributing to the holistic development of children, ensuring their participation, survival, and development. The program focuses on children's rights, with particular attention to access, equity, inclusion, and quality education.

The program invests in building the capacity of teachers and works to improve the school environment by constructing and rehabilitating school infrastructures. It has been engaged in development and emergency-prone projects, including school feeding, provision of scholastic materials, and social and emotional development/MPHSS for IDPs, returnees, host communities, and refugee children, both in and out of school.

Implemented in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Tigray, Oromia, and Addis Ababa City Administration, the program uses various tools and approaches to ease implementation and foster sustained changes in the community through community participation, mobilization, advocacy, partnership, and effective communication.



11,859 (50% female) Children enrolled to School as a result of Back to school Campaign

In this quarter, Development Expertise Center (DEC) successfully conducted a "Back to School" campaign in the Oromia, Afar, and Amhara regions, specifically in East Wollega Zone, Sibu Sire, Gidda Ayyanna, and Kiremu districts. In the Amhara region, the campaign focused on North Shoa and South Wollo Zones, targeting the districts of Debre Birhan, Shoa Robit, and Mekdela, while in the Afar region, efforts were concentrated in Dubti District.

The campaign was a collaborative effort involving teachers, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), students, community members, and local leaders. This engagement was essential in raising awareness about the importance of education and motivating families to enroll or re-enroll their children in school.

As a result of these efforts, over 11,859 children have been enrolled across various link schools. This achievement underscores the impact of community engagement and collaboration in promoting access to education and ensuring that children have the opportunity to return to learning.



BACK TO SCHOOL!
BACK TO LEARNING
CAMPAIGN!



ወደ ትምህርት ቤት
ተመለሱ! ወደ ትምህርት
ተመለሱ!

**Over 1020
(47 % f e m a l e)
pre-primary School
children accessed
quality education
in the quarter**

In this quarter, DEC utilized various educational modalities, including Mobile Schools, Accelerated School Readiness Programs, and kindergartens. These programs were implemented in the Afar region, specifically in the Dubti district, as well as in East Wollega's Sibu Sire, Kiramu, and Gidda Ayyanna districts. In the Amhara region, the focus was on North Shoa's Debre Birhan and Shoa Robit districts, along with South Wollo's Mekdella district.

A total of 1,020 children (47% female) who participated in these programs were successfully transferred to various link schools. Through these initiatives, DEC significantly enhanced access to early childhood education for children in drought and crisis-affected areas, supporting their development and helping them overcome the challenges posed by their circumstances.





Over 1200 (47% female) Children received Scholastic and teaching materials.

In the quarter, DEC, with support from the Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF), implemented a project entitled “Provide Critical Life-Saving Emergency Services to Vulnerable Populations Affected by Humanitarian Crisis in Amhara Region.” A key action of the project was to provide essential scholastic materials to the Amhara region, specifically targeting the North Shewa and South Wollo Zones, including the districts of Debre Berhan, Shoa Robit, and Mekdela. Recognizing the critical role of these materials in fostering a conducive learning environment, the project supports over 1,200 children by supplying exercise books, bags, pens, pencils, and sharpeners. Additionally, essential teaching materials such as A4 paper, chalk, and erasers were provided. This provision not only aims to enhance the learning environment but also fosters a sense of community and support within the educational system.





Over 6,151 (49%female) children provided school feeding through Cash support.

In this quarter, in Amhara and Oromia regions ; specifically in Sibu Sire, Shewa Robit, Debre Birhan, and Mekedella districts have made significant progress in education in emergency support through cash-for-school feeding support. This program has provided cash support for school feeding to over 6,151 children in both formal and non-formal educational settings.

The cash-for-school feeding approach has improved nutrition access, leading to increased school enrollment and reduced dropout and repetition rates. Many children who previously struggled to attend school due to hunger or lack of family support are now participating regularly.

Over 5,150 (46%) children benefited from better School environment improvement

In the quarter, DEC, with the support EHF, rehabilitated four school blocks in the Amhara region, specifically in North Shoa and South Wollo Zones. The project included maintenance of 120 combined desks and the rehabilitation of one block of female latrines to create a safer and more conducive learning environment for school children.

The efforts emphasized inclusivity, with ramps added to ensure students with disabilities could use the facilities easily. These improvements significantly enhanced accessibility and safety, supporting students' well-being and promoting a positive learning experience.

Over 5,150 children (47% female) benefited from these enhanced school comprehensive environments, leading to increased access to education and improved learning outcomes. By providing safer and more supportive classrooms, DEC has made a meaningful impact on students' Academic achievement, fostering an environment where they can thrive academically.



Project monitoring was conducted!

In this quarter, various projects in the Afar, Oromia, Amhara, and Benishangul-Gumuz regions, covering over 30 schools, were visited by program staff, stakeholders, and partners. These visits provided valuable insights and inputs, contributing to program and project improvements through lessons learned during the field visits.



Lesson Learned

School feeding programs through cash support is effectively supporting children to attend school regularly and uninterruptedly. The cash support has proven to be effective in encouraging regular and uninterrupted school attendance among children. By providing families with the financial means to purchase food for their children, these programs address a significant barrier to education, ensuring that children can focus on learning with very minimal dropouts and absenteeism.



17,000 Returning IDPs (55%female) reached through essential sanitation and hygiene message.

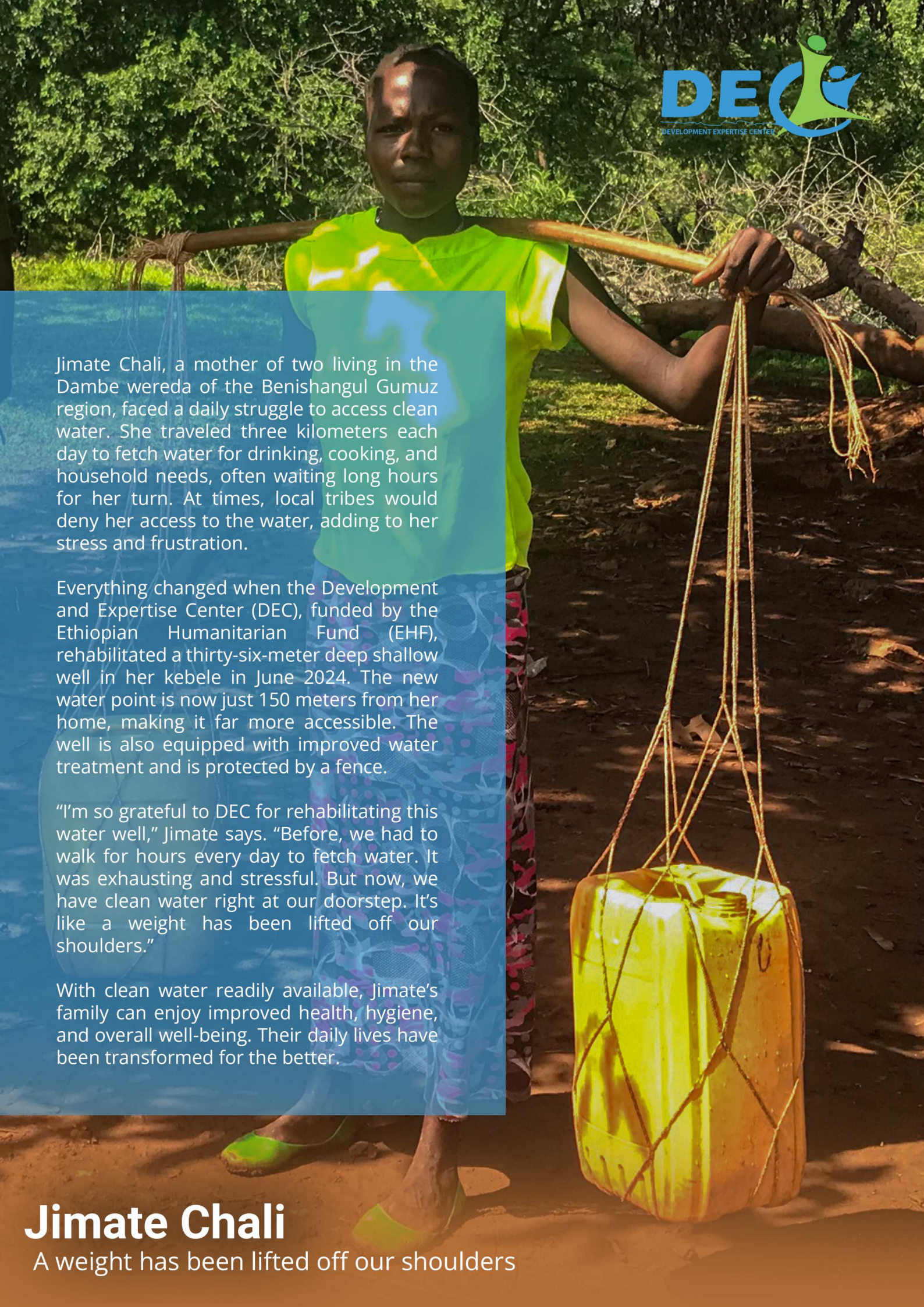
Through DEC's WASH awareness-raising campaign, 17,000 individuals in the community have gained a better understanding of the importance of clean water, sanitation, and hygiene practices. Through the training of a total of 90 WASH experts and Health Extension Workers (HEWs), these experts were equipped to disseminate vital information to their peers and community members. As a result, households are adopting improved practices such as proper handwashing with soap, using latrines, and treating water before consumption. The action has finally increased awareness and adoption of WASH practices, which are expected to lead to a significant reduction in waterborne diseases and improved overall health outcomes in the community.



1150(51% female) children accessed education through Accelerated Programs.

DEC has been actively implementing education in emergency programs within drought- and conflict-affected areas. In the quarter, DEC continued its efforts by facilitating Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs) and the Accelerated Primary Learning Program (APLP) in the Oromia region's East Wollega Zone, specifically in the Sibu Sire District, as well as in the Amhara region, focusing on North Shoa's Debre Berhan and Shoa Robit districts, and South Wollo's Mekdela district.

The Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), Accelerated Primary Learning Program (APLP), and Accelerated School Readiness Program were successfully conducted in the targeted 10 different Link schools within these districts. These programs significantly increased access to pre-primary and primary education services for over-aged and out-of-school children in crisis-affected areas, providing essential educational opportunities that had previously been unavailable.

A woman, Jimate Chali, is the central figure in the image. She is wearing a bright yellow-green short-sleeved shirt and a patterned skirt. She is carrying a large yellow plastic water container suspended from a wooden pole across her shoulders. The background shows a dirt path and lush green trees. A semi-transparent blue box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

Jimate Chali, a mother of two living in the Dambe wereda of the Benishangul Gumuz region, faced a daily struggle to access clean water. She traveled three kilometers each day to fetch water for drinking, cooking, and household needs, often waiting long hours for her turn. At times, local tribes would deny her access to the water, adding to her stress and frustration.

Everything changed when the Development and Expertise Center (DEC), funded by the Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF), rehabilitated a thirty-six-meter deep shallow well in her kebele in June 2024. The new water point is now just 150 meters from her home, making it far more accessible. The well is also equipped with improved water treatment and is protected by a fence.

“I’m so grateful to DEC for rehabilitating this water well,” Jimate says. “Before, we had to walk for hours every day to fetch water. It was exhausting and stressful. But now, we have clean water right at our doorstep. It’s like a weight has been lifted off our shoulders.”

With clean water readily available, Jimate’s family can enjoy improved health, hygiene, and overall well-being. Their daily lives have been transformed for the better.

Jimate Chali

A weight has been lifted off our shoulders



International Youth Day Celebrated

International Youth Day commemorated in Kefeta USAID and Kefeta Plus implementation cities Bahir Dar, Jimma, Assosa, Gambella, Addis Ababa and Debre Berhan cities. This year's International Youth Day theme was, "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development". The event was celebrated through high engagement of youth, participation of panelists, voluntary activities like environmental cleaning, planting of trees, blood donation etc. The panel discussions unfolded with enthusiasm, bringing together youth from diverse backgrounds, and engaging governmental officials to involve in a meaningful dialogue on how digital tools can drive sustainable change in their communities. Youth with notable innovation and technological discovery as well as digital entrepreneurs shared their experience with youth. The panel discussion issues emphasized young people's critical role in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development.

Employable Skills Program





DEC-Kefeta project staffs held annual internal review meetings from September 22 to 24, 2024 in Bishoftu city. Staffs from DEC's Kefeta project implementation cities (Bahir Dar, Jimma, Assosa and Gambella) attended the meeting. The meeting aimed at reviewing two year and half years CSO level achievements, discuss challenges, share experiences among target cities and strengthen team spirit among staffs. Accordingly, DEC's 2 and ½ year performance and annual city level performances was presented by Kefeta Program Coordinator and discussed by participants. In addition, annual plan versus performances of DEC's Kefeta target cities were presented by city level Kefeta project focal persons. Accordingly, discussions were made about achievements, challenges encountered, measures taken and other relevant issues.

During the review meeting, both CSO and city level IYA-FY4 work plans and budgets were presented to the participants by Kefeta MEL Officer and Finance Officer. Following that, appropriate familiarization of activities and their respective budgets are made.

On the other hand, DEC gave recognition certificates to model employees, project focal persons and other individuals who contributed a lot for the successful implementation of the project. Furthermore, key message was delivered by DEC- Executive Director; refresher orientation about Finance, HR and Safeguarding rules are provided respectively by Finance, HR and GESI Officers of DEC.



Sector Specific technical training and material support provided for youth focusing on Agri-based business (poultry, cattle fattening)

Agri-based business training provided for 126 youth 61% female for 10 consecutive days in Bahir Dar, Jimma, Assosa and Gambella cities. Then, the trainees prepared agri-business proposals which were reviewed and validated by agriculture experts to be implemented in the four target cities. To accelerate successful implementation of the agri-business proposals, city level agriculture offices and other relevant government stakeholders provided technical support and facilitated work spaces for the selected urban agricultural activities. In addition, farming tools, fertilizers, chicken and other relevant agricultural business inputs are procured and made available for the young farmers to let them start their urban farming before or during the onset of the rainy season. This activity will create job opportunity for target youth and they are expected to deliver their products to the local market.



Galaxy Tab S8+

Cultivating entrepreneur skill through Vocational training - Jimma

Melkamu Asres, a young entrepreneur in Jimma town, has transformed his woodwork business through a valuable training opportunity. He was selected by Kefeta and took vocational skill training program in partnership with Jimma Polytechnic College, Melkamu dedicated three months to enhancing his craft or technical skill. Before this training, his work was often disorganized, lacks time management skill, high level of resource wastage and lacked professionalism, but the skills he acquired helped him refine his techniques and approach.

Melkamu also learned the importance of effective communication with his customers, allowing him to build stronger relationships and enhance his business reputation. With new found confidence and expertise, he effectively organized his operations, effectively managed his time and utilize materials, leading to higher quality craftsmanship and improved customer satisfaction. In addition, his income increased and he got more jobs or orders from customers.

Inspired by his own journey, Melkamu is now committed to giving back to his community by providing training for seven unemployed youth who share his passion for woodwork. Through mentorship, not only equips them with essential skills but also empowers them to pursue their own entrepreneurial dreams, thereby fostering growth and opportunity within his community. Beside this he created job opportunity for youth.





Meet visionary

Mohamed Mushaga – I can Work

Mohamed, is a young person with disability living in Addis Ababa. His hands were injured by fire. As a person with a disability, Mohamed has experienced many barriers to get jobs. Once targeted to core life skill training by We Can Work project with a good learning capacity, Mohamed overcame his barriers and build his self-confidence greatly. As Mohamed said “Especially self-advocacy session helped him to get adequate information about rights of person with disabilities and how to manage diverse scenarios to better prepare for the independence he seeks. Such as practicing responses to real-life situations, such as job interviews”

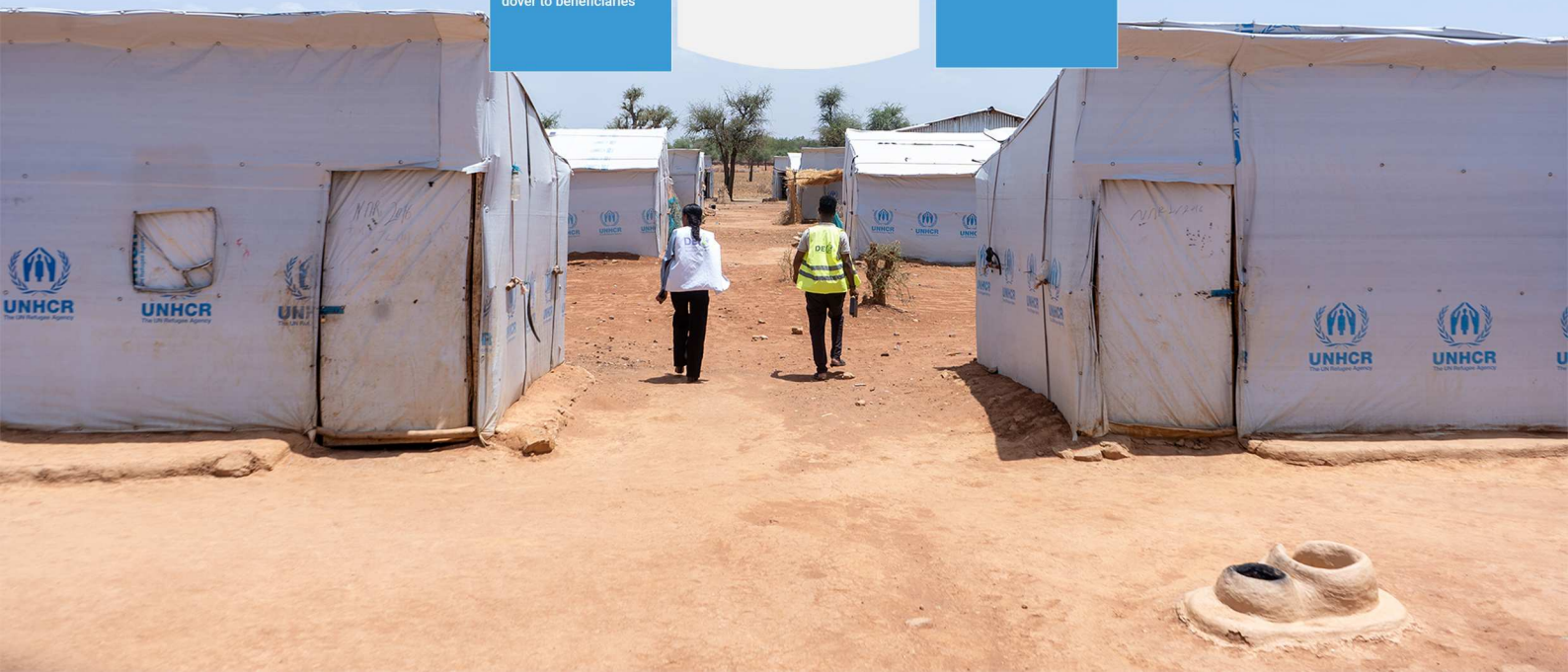
He also speaks “I am not defined by disability. I live life just like anyone else without a disability would live their life. There’s lots I can do and there are some things that I can’t do, I enjoy being healthy and being independent”. Finally, he said “I see many of the barriers and attitudes towards people with disabilities persist, but I also seen many positive changes to get people with disabilities active through job and other opportunity.”

Humanitarian Emergency response Program

Development Expertise Center (DEC) in partnership and financial support of UNHCR, have been implementing Camp Coordination and Camp Management(CCCM) activities in 20 IDP sites in North Shoa , South and North Wollo Zones in Amhara region and 5 IDP sites. Adi-abay IDP site, TVET, Catholic Museum, Adihgarey primary school and Adi-daero primary school in Tigray region with EHF fund with I1Dand PIE,. Moreover, with financial support of EHF, DEC has been implementing ES kit and MPCA in South wollo (Mekedella) and North Shoa Zones (shoa robot & Debrebrihan).

In addition, EHF fund extends to Tigray Region in CCCM entitled by rehabilitation and site improvement to improve life condition of IDPs and decommissioning institutions to restore and make ready for use where DEC acting as implementing agency and Imagine one day and PIE were the project activities holder at sheraro, Adi-Hageray and Adi-daero. And in the meantime DEC has been also implementing ESNFI at the same camp with the support from EHF-PIE. However, due to funding gaps at UN agency in general and Global UNHCR funding depletion in particular, some of the interventions are limited to only two major CCCM pillars such as Coordination and Information Management and Community Participation and self-governance in, North shoa, North and South Wollo Zones.

In general, DEC as a camp management agency coordinates the intervention closely with UNHCR, EHF, Zone DRMO and the local administration across all target areas.



Camp Coordination and Information Management in Debrebrihan, South and North Wollo Zones:



3 (Monthly) 4W CCCM matrix and service monitoring report submitted via Kobo Toolbox from all Zones.

Monthly Service Monitoring and data collection, activity info and 4W matrix report submitted on timely manner.



Weekly Committee Meeting

44 review meetings conducted with stakeholders, IDP representatives and partners at camp level bi weekly.

Support and coordination of different IDP committees to conduct regular weekly meetings conducted in each camp except Mekaneselem which is not accessible.

6 round Bi-weekly monitoring of the existing services and service providers was done across all the IDP sites (20).

2 monthly and 2 quarter CCCM Coordination meetings were held at Zonal level with the presence of UNHCR, government stakeholders and partners.

Community Participation & Self Governance

8 IDPs self-governance setup representatives and Accountable IDPs committee were supported with meeting facilitation and procurement of meeting agendas.

91 weekly Camp level environmental cleaning campaign and minor drainage activities done; compound cleaning, solid waste disposed and latrine cleaning were the main activities. A total of 15,318 individuals participated from all sites.

22 Awareness raising sessions were conducted in 20 IDP site regarding the hygiene and sanitation and how to use latrines and communal facilities in proper manner. A total of 11,788 individuals reached.



Excavation of Waste disposal pit by community mobilization



Awareness creation by community facilitators/Jara.



B. Awareness Creation at Debrebrihan.



grinding mill installation in Adiweala

DEC along with UNHCR has implemented the following major ESNFI activities in the 3rd quarter:

We have distributed NFIs for 279HHs in Abiadi, Edaga hamus/Eastern Tigray and Mekelle Areas for IDPs and refugee returnees from Sudan.

81 damaged shelters were maintained at Madium IDP sites
Grinding mill installation: as you all know last year, we have constructed grinding mill house and latrines in Maekelay Adiabo/Adiweala area and in this year and quarter we have installed the grinding mill and make it ready to handover it to beneficiaries.

ESNFI in Tigray

NFI Distribution in Amhara region

Different NFI items leftover in the warehouse such as sleeping mats and warm clothes were distributed for a total of 1,386 HHs(4,658 individual IDPs) at Gerado, Kutaber and Mekdela camps. In addition mosquito nets was distributed for a total of 1,443 HHs (5,152 individual IDPs) at the most malaria prone areas such as Jari#1, Jari#2 and Degan.

During NFI Distribution at Kutaber IDP site.

Shelter construction and maintenance in Amhara region

- With EHF fund 178 single shelters were constructed by IDPs themselves at shoa roobit and Mekadalla and benefited 178 HHs and 1068 individuals
- 91 communal hangars were maintained with community participation at Jara IDP camp and Deberberhan



The case of Kahsu W/mariam G/slassie Abiadi

Tigray-Ethiopia.

Kahsu W/mariam G/slassie has flee from Humera town to Sudan after the Conflict broke out in November 2020 between the conflicting parties and hosted in Tendebe Refugee camp in Sudan.

He fled with his wife and his two children, one daughter and one son and as I mentioned above he has been living in the refugee camp in Sudan until the war broke out in Sudan in 2023, When the war get intensified the situation was not good for him and his family and he was forced to returned back to Ethiopia as a Sudan refugee returnee and found him in Abiadi while we were targeting vulnerable Sudan refugee returnees.

During his stay in Abiadi, he was mostly suffering to cook food, since he don't have cooking utensils and even if it was not enough he was sharing blankets and sleeping mats with others in the collective center.

Meanwhile, he was our target and we have distributed CRIs including Kitchen sets, Blankets, Sleeping mats, and Mosquito nets for each house hold.

Finally, he thanked DEC/UNHCR for the lifesaving support and he has mentioned he has got temporary relief after receiving the CRIs/Lifesaving items, especially for his children and he is appreciating if such lifesaving assistances continues until he returns back to his home of origin.



Advocacy Program

International Youth Day Celebration

The International Youth Day was warmly celebrated across seven districts the GFC program implemented. The celebration was organized with the collaboration of the community of practice, government stakeholders, and youths. This International Youth Day was celebrated for the 24th time in the world in our country Ethiopia for the 21st time. The theme of this year is "Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development." Based on the motto, the digitalization awareness is provided to youths and CoP by the experts of the Ethio-telecommunication, Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, and Awash Bank. CoPs engaged in different philanthropic activities: street cleaning, needy persons' house construction, tree planting, collecting books, providing blankets for destitute persons, mobilized 800,00 birr for CoPs initiatives and other activities in all seven districts.



International Peace Day Celebration

DEC, through the giving for change project, in collaboration with CoSAP and GFC community of practices, celebrated the International Day of Peace at Bedele, Adama and Holeta City with the theme of "Cultivating the Culture of Peace" on November 2024. The event featured a panel discussion focused on vital aspects of peace, engaging various stakeholders including government officials, elders, religious leaders, youth, and community representatives.



This diverse participation underscored the collective commitment to fostering a peaceful society. The event included a traditional blessing from Aba Gada leaders, a presentation on indigenous peace building, panel discussions on traditional conflict resolution methods and experts that raised awareness of peacebuilding strategies. Participants pledged to support peace building and solidarity.



Global GfC Alliance Annual Learning and Sharing



DEC was participated in GfC Annual Learning and sharing event in Uganda, Kampala, under the theme 'Connecting, Supporting and Influencing' community philanthropy. It was an Insightful event that combines field visit with reflection, sharings and achievements country based, regional and global level.



DEC Signed Sub-Grant Contract With Six Local and Grassroots Civil Society Organizations



Currently DEC has been implementing the action entitled "Enhancing the Role and Participation of Civil Society Organizations in Promoting Good Governance and Ensuring Inclusive Development in Ethiopia for a period of five years (01/02/2023 - 31/01/2028) in collaboration with Welthungerhilfe(WHH) and Consortium of Self-Help Group Approach Promoter(CoSAP). The program has been financed by European Union Delegation to Ethiopia (EUD) through the Civil Society Fund Plus (CSF Plus) initiative. It has implemented in four regions namely Amhara, Afar, Benishangul Gumuz and Oromia by the three consortium members where DEC lead the program implementation in Afar and Benshangul Gumuz Regional states.

Here, under the principle of financial support to third party (FSTP) to avail financial support for capacity development Local and Grassroots Civil Society Organizations to promote the localization agenda also launched as early January 2024. Accordingly, call promotion events with project familiarization organized, call for proposal to accept expression of interests acceptance and evaluation underwent for a couple of months and finally CSOs pool consisting of 101 local and grassroots CSO including network associations established where they invited to present full proposals for sub-granting on competitive basis.

Therefore, Six CSOs for the first round sub-granted under Group A Call 1 (Economic rights and empowerment) signed sub-grant contract with DEC to implement projects in the two regions.

Linking and Learning Event



Development Expertise Center (DEC) hosted a Linking and Learning event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on August 22-23, 2024. The workshop aimed to create a cross-learning platform for Wilde Ganzen Foundation's national partner organizations in Ethiopia and facilitate a capacity building training on networking, partnerships, and collaboration.

CoPs Capacity Strengthen Trainings

Peace Building and Conflict Resolution, organized for the Liben Chukala Wereda Community of Practice (CoP). A training for the Liben Chukala CoP established a foundation for promoting peace and conflict resolution strategies. Participants are encouraged to implement learned strategies for a harmonious community, committing to ongoing learning and collaboration for sustainable peace.

Social accountability and responsibility training was conducted in two districts to enhance the Community of Practice (CoP) understanding of social accountability and its tools. Participants identified community issues, developed action plans, and collaborated with government stakeholders.

A refresher training on media advocacy provided for community of practice in Liben Chukala Wereda focused on empowering participants to engage effectively with media for social change. The training fostered strong connections between CoPs and local media, equipping them with necessary skills for advocacy.





Community of Practice Supports Scholastic Needs for Students from Poor Families

Burtukan Dersu, an 8-year-old girl from Liben chukala wereda in the East Shoa Zone, is one of six siblings facing financial hardships that hinder her education. Despite being a second-grade student, her family struggled to provide essential school supplies. The Liben Chukala Community of Practice (CoP) recognized her situation and, with local leaders' help, organized a contribution drive to support vulnerable students. They gathered donations from the community to supply 60 needy students, including Burtukan, with necessary items like exercise books, pens, and bags. In a ceremony attended by community leaders, Burtukan received her supplies joyfully, expressing gratitude and highlighting the importance of this support for her education. This initiative emphasized the strength of community collaboration in helping children in need.



Gender and Life Skills Development Program

Planning for RHRN2 2025 Implementation

As we look ahead to 2025, our department is actively involved in planning for the RHRN2 implementation alongside our alliance group. This marks the final year of the project, and we are emphasizing advocacy for the sustainability and scalability of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) initiatives for both in-school and out-of-school youth. Our collective goal is to ensure that the progress made during this project continues to benefit young people beyond its conclusion. We are focusing on strategies that will integrate SRH education into existing frameworks, fostering long-term impact and community engagement..

Preparation for the School Year

With the new school year now underway, our team is actively implementing our SRH programs in schools. We have finalized training materials and scheduled sessions to ensure a smooth rollout. Our focus remains on creating inclusive and supportive environments for all students.

We are conducting induction and refresher training for teachers to equip them with the necessary skills to deliver effective SRH and life skills education. Additionally, we are providing ongoing supportive supervision to ensure that these programs are effectively integrated into the school activities and that students receive the guidance they need

Integration of Meharebe SRH and Life Skill with Mental Health



GRASSROOTSOCCER DEC
Mental Health Integrated
Life Skill Program
For
Adolescents Youth

Rationale for Integration

In response to the significant demand for adolescent mental health support in schools targeted by DEC's life skills and SRH programs, DEC has established a synergetic partnership with Grassroot Soccer. This collaboration led to a successful three-day manual integration workshop, creating a pioneering curriculum for adolescents. Utilizing GRS's signature MindSKILLZ manual and DEC's Meharebe manual, the workshop developed a seamless curriculum offering comprehensive support essential for positive health outcomes. We are excited to pilot this innovative manual and look forward to its positive impact!

Engagement with the Human Rights Council



We have actively engaged with key permanent missions to secure international support for our recommendations, aiming to compel our government to adopt and implement these essential proposals.



We are excited to share our recent engagement with the Human Rights Council in Geneva prior to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), where Ethiopia is one of five countries under review this year. Our team submitted a comprehensive shadow report outlining recommendations on critical issues, including gender-responsive budgeting, menstrual hygiene management, and gender-based violence.





Right Here Right Now 2 Program Experience Sharing

The Right Here Right Now 2 Program, led by DEC Ethiopia, proudly hosted an inspiring experience-sharing event with the Kenyan RHRN2 coalition. The discussions highlighted the achievements of the RHRN2 program in Ethiopia, sharing innovative tools and approaches. A key highlight was visiting one of the program's target schools, where reproductive health information and education are tailored for young people with disabilities.





Capacity Building of Youth Network and Project Alliance

Our department is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of the youth network and the project alliance, which includes DEC staff. Recent training sessions have focused on Gender Transformative Approaches (GTA) and social accountability. These trainings aim to empower youth leaders and staff with the knowledge and skills necessary to drive meaningful change in their communities. Experience-sharing events have also been organized to facilitate collaboration and learning among participants.

Our Partners



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