

The Self Help Group Approach-Ethiopia



**The Self Help
Approach**

Unleashing Human Potential

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Annual Report 2009

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Cover Page Picture: "Berari Kokeb" SHG meaning shooting star-RPC, Adama

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Foreword by the National Coordination Office

The National Coordinating Team is happy to present the 2009 annual report of the SHG approach implementation in Ethiopia.

Since its introduction in 2002, the SHG Approach has been widely recognized by a significant number of NGOs that have already mainstreamed into their implementation strategies. Currently, 25 organizations are promoting the approach in Ethiopia. The national coordination office is proud of its efforts in the remarkable increase of SHG promoting partners; from two in 2002 to 25 in 2009. Most importantly, the success achieved by all partners in ensuring SHG as a right strategy to liberate and empower the poorest of the poor economically, socially and institutionally.

The coordinating office has also exerted its efforts to facilitate the promotion of the approach by various organizations. The efforts to explain the role of the SHG and to win the interests of these partners' draw on the unique expertise of the coordinating office presented through capacity building support, networking and coordination of partners' effort as well as provision of technical backups.

This annual report constitutes a comprehensive review of the SHG approach in Ethiopia, progresses and achievements of the implementation and challenges encountered.

We hope that the report will shade light on the overall efforts to implement the SHG approach in the country in a way that is informative and in tune with the expectations of all partners.

With best regards,

The SHG Approach National Coordination Office

Hosted by Facilitator for Change (FC)

Addis Ababa

1. Report Summary

This annual progress report of 2009 has been compiled by the self Help Group Approach National Coordination Office in order to give a glimpse into the key accomplishments and challenges encountered in the implementation of the SHG approach in Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia, the SHG approach is being implemented by 25 partner NGOs that are working with and for women and children in different parts of the country. Since its introduction in 2002, the approach has been instrumental in creating positive change in the lives of the target communities in selected areas of Oromiya, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples region (SNNPR) and in the two administrative cities-Addis Ababa and Drie Dawa.

During the last seven years of implementation, about 4,643 SHGs which embrace 88,892 members have been formed. Through the members a total of 190,432 children have been reached. The concerted efforts of the promoting organizations have resulted in the establishment of 229 Cluster Level Associations (CLAs) and six federations.

So far, encouraging progress has been made in the economic empowerment of women. Women belonged in the 4,643 SHGs have saved around 9,489,965.00 Birr, demystifying the prevailing perception that the poor cannot save.

The approach has paved the way for women to develop a culture of saving on a regular basis, and use the savings for loans so as to scale up or start new business projects. Furthermore, the SHG Approach greatly benefited the poor women by equipping them with the knowledge and skills that enable them to get out of poverty and to actively participate in socio-economic activities that affect their lives and that of their children

2. Introduction

The development of a nation is inevitably linked with socio-economic development of its people especially women. It is from this vein that development policies and strategies are geared towards social and economic empowerment of women in general and the poor women in particular.

The Self Help Group (SHG) approach is one of the development models where poor people are equipped with the knowledge to enable them get out of poverty and start to participate in socio-economic and political aspects of life.

The SHG approach was introduced in Ethiopia in 2002. Since then it has proved to be an effective strategy, enabling women improve their lives through social and economic empowerment. The approach sounds very applicable to bringing about empowerment of women in countries like Ethiopia where women are often denied of equal access to education, social services, participation in social and economic activities as well as exposed to cultural and gender-based discriminations.

The implementation of the SHG approach in Ethiopia has been facilitated by the National Coordination Office, seating under the office of Facilitator for Change (FC). The National Coordination Office is in charge of the overall coordination of the SHG approach implementation in the country by different promoting organizations.

Presently, in Ethiopia there are more than 4,643 SHGs consisting of 88,892 members. The SHGs are run by 25 indigenous NGOs that are working in different parts of the country. The approach has been implemented in four region of the country: Oromiya, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, and Southern Nations, Nationalities and People (SNNP) and two administrative cities-Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.

The SHGs are groups of selected women with similar socio-economic backgrounds. The women live in the same village. The groups' main function include meeting and discussion on various socio-economic issues every week, to save on regular basis money and use the saving capital for loans to members of the group. This in turn helps women engage in economic activities that engender economic and social progress.

While implementing the SHG approach in Ethiopia, encouraging progress has been made in economic and social empowerment of women. This accomplishment also led to the formation of cluster level associations and federations. Accordingly, the total number of Cluster Level Associations (CLAs) formed grew to 229 in 2009 from 181 CLAs in 2008. Similarly, two promoting organizations: EKHC and FC succeeded in establishing federations in their project areas. In addition, three SHG approach promoting organizations (MCDP, LCO & OPRIFS) jointly formed a model federation in the city of Addis Ababa.

The great achievement that most SHG members are proud of is also their improved capacity to address the educational needs of their children, as parents are able to send their children to school.

All the SHG implementing partners have been exerting a concerted effort to empower the target poor women and children through awareness creation and capacity building trainings. Members of the SHG have also been assisted to have a meaningful participation, greater decision making power and achieve a satisfying way of life with positive self-image, self-reliance and competence.

3. Self Help Group Approach Implementation strategy in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, the SHG approach has been implemented in four phases: pilot, expansion, stabilization and consolidation. In the pilot phase, a promoting organization will take the initiative to introduce the approach to the communities in their respective operational areas with capacity building assistance from the National Coordination Office. The promoting organizations facilitate the establishment of five to ten SHGs with own resources during this phase, which often takes six months.

The expansion phase is a stage where further efforts will be exerted by promoting organizations for the formation of more SHGs. To this end, KNH gives out funding to partner NGOs. Unlike the pilot, the expansion phase is accompanied with activities including workshop with local stakeholders, capacity building trainings to SHGs, community facilitators and project officers and meeting of NGO directors. It is also a phase where additional 25-30 SHGs and 1 to 2 CLAs are formed by partners.

Creating linkages and start of role transfer from the promoting NGOs to people's institution is the focus of the stabilization phase. At least 30 more SHGs and 3-5 CLAs are expected to be established at this stage of the SHG implementation strategy. In this phase, partner organizations will continue to carry out activities like trainings and arranging exposure visits to SHG members and CLAs with a continued financial support of KNH.

Consolidation is the last phase which gives due emphasis on establishing and strengthening more number of CLAs and federation. Unlike the previous two phases, which take a year each, this phase may consume longer period of time ranging from two to three years with strong emphasis on NGO phasing out. In this phase, the CLAs are expected to assume larger community responsibilities such as mobilizing services and resources and implementing need based projects in addition to forming and strengthen SHGs. This is a critical stage, where partner organizations solicit funding from their traditional donors or new ones in order to fully take up the approach. However, KNH continues its capacity building efforts through the National Office where as partners report the progress of SHGs, CLAs and federations existed in their various project areas.

4. Self Help Group Approach Promoting Partners

Since its introduction in 2002, the SHG approach has attracted much attention and is being promoted by a good number of NGOs working with and for women and children in Ethiopia. Presently, 25 organizations are implementing the SHG approach which has growing out of two organizations in the beginning. The geographical coverage of SHG approach has also been expanding, as the number of implementing partners that showed interest to implement the approach has been growing over the last few years.

Currently, the SHG approach is under implementation in four regions of Ethiopia - Oromiya (*Shashemene, DebreZiet, Jima, Tullubollo, Bishofitu, Sebeta, Nekemte, Woliso, Ambo, Ziway, Horoguduru, Nazreth, Modjo, Ginchi, Wellega*); Amhara (*D/Birhan, Bahirdar, D/Markos, Dessie, Bure, Showarobit, Mersa, H/Mariam*); Benishangul Gumuz (*Metekel*) ; and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) (*Hossana, Chench, Wolkite, Hawassa, Wolaita*) as well as in two administrative cities-Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.

Table-1: Annual increase in the number of SHG implementing partners in Ethiopia

Year	No of organizations	Total no of organizations
2002	2	2
2003	4	6
2004	4	10
2005	1	11
2006	4	15
2007	0	15
2008	9	23
2009	1	25

Table2. List of SHG implementing organizations in Ethiopia

S/N	Name of Organization	Started promoting SHG	Implementat ion area	Total number of SHGs	Total number of SHG- members	Total number of Children of SHG- members	Total number of CLAs	Number of Federation	Total Saving	Total Capital	Total loans given out	Loan /saving ratio
1	BIGA	2008	Hawassa	24	432	1,296	0	0	29,391.00	32,657.50	25,495.50	0.87
2	EECMY	2003	Dessie	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
3	EFDA	2003	Woliso	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
4	EKHC	2002	Addis Ababa	3,014	60,280	104,400	103	3	6,323,784.11	7,342,726.32	8,863,630.65	1.40
			Awasa,Sha shemene,N azareth, Hossana, Jima,Arba Minch									
5	ERSHA	2006	Ambo, H/Mariam	111	1,655	6,221	7	0	46,910.00	210,310.50	NA	
6	FC	2003	Jima, Bure, D/Markos, Tullubollo, Bishofitu	301	4,805	16,866	40	2	806,094.90	1,338,495.15	2,348,549.65	2.91
7	FSCE	2006	Dire Dawa, Akaki	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
8	GADA	2004, 2009	Ginchi, Wellega	111	2,169	8,805	14	0	185,596.85	251,130.30	464,237.25	2.50
9	GPSDO	2008	Wolkite	29	432	1,296	2	0	11,737.50	16,510.95	15,089.00	1.29
10	Gurmuu	2008	Horoguduru	35	655	1,730	2	0	27,795.40	40,122.90	23,818.00	
11	Hundee	2008	Modjo	38	659	1,977	2	0	51,465.00	80,997.00	115,886.00	0.86
12	JeCCDO	2002	D/Birhan, Awasa, Bahirdar, Direadawa,D ebreZiet	248	4,640	12,181	16	0	506,134.80	876,880.31	1,128,906.65	2.23
13	LCO	2004	Addis Ababa	130	2,860	11,440	14		670,161.45	887,500.00	618,261.00	0.93
14	MCDP	2004	Addis Ababa and Chencha	124	2,217	2,760	8	1*	265,795.45	310,501.00	434,588.00	1.60
15	MLWDO	2006	Benshangul	159	2,119	5,297	4	0	72,904.75	78,942.70	76,349.20	1.05
16	MOL	2008	Addis Ababa	18	324	694	0	0	12,119.00	12,306.00	7,552.00	0.62
17	OPRIFS	2006	Addis Ababa	67	1,159	1,700	4		110,824.00	152,930.00	181,713.00	1.64
18	Pro Pride	2008	Addis Ababa	37	721	1,430	1	0	40,112.00	54,182.15	42,496.00	1.06
19	RPC	2008	Nazareth	16	234	453	0	0	15,762.20	15,762.20	34,348.00	2.18
20	SWAAE	2008	Addis Ababa	34	605	1,542	2	0	39,330.50	41,634.50	30,161.50	0.77
21	SWDO	2004	Sebeta, Woliso, Nekemte	35	564	0	2	0	80,461.00	100,811.00	99,221.00	1.23
22	VOCDA	2005	Addis Ababa	72	1,295	6,900	6	0	151,425.50	264,742.35	205,091.00	1.35
23	WRDA	2009	Wolaita	31	611	2,750	0	0	10,237.90	10,287.90	7,453.00	0.73
24	WSA	2003	Showarobit, Mersa	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
25	YWCA	2008	Nazareth	29	456	694	2	0	31,921.25	33,764.50	47,153.50	1.48
Total				4,643	88,892	190,432	229	6	9,489,965	12,153,195	14,770,000	1.56

* Joint federation formed by MCDP, LCO and OPRIFs

5. Review of the three levels of the SHG Approach

Self Help Groups

The primary purpose of the SHG approach is empowerment, which takes three dimensions: social, economic and institutional. Empowerment by way of participation in SHG can bring about enviable change in the lives of women in poor and developing nations. Self Help Group (SHG) is a process which brings together a group of 15 - 20 poor women voluntarily who share a common objective and are willing to participate in the activities such as saving, credit and income generation thereby ensuring economic independence. The underlying principle for SHGs is enabling the poorest of the poor to achieve holistic empowerment.

Members of SHGs are required to carry out activities that help meet the objective of their respective groups. These include attending meetings on a regular basis, discuss on various socio-economic issues and saving money. These savings are loaned out to members at an interest agreed by the members.

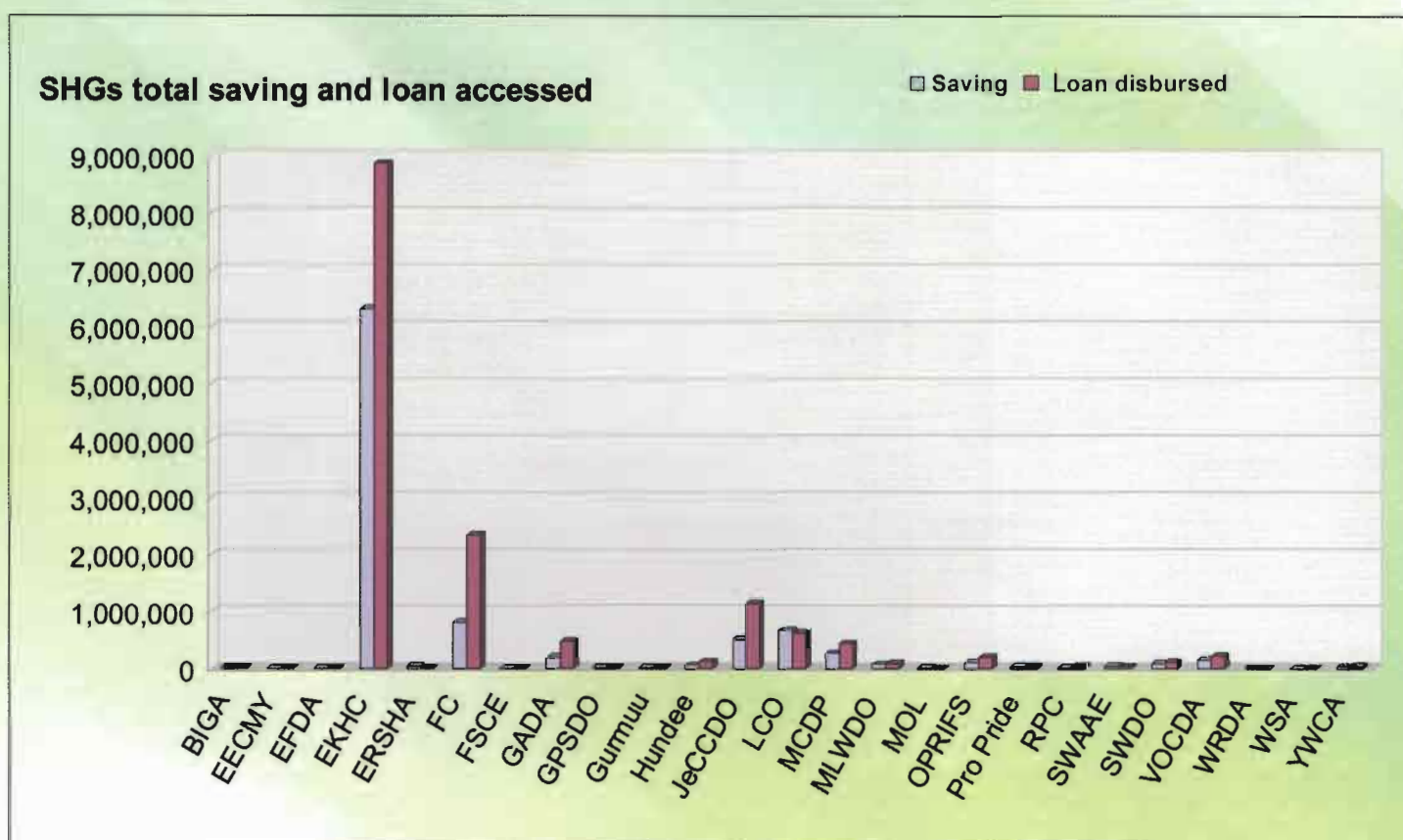


Small savings can add up to national saving. Metebaber SHG, Addis Ababa

Currently, the 25 implementing partners have organized 88,892 women having a total of 190,432 children. In 2009, the number of SHGs grew to 4,643 from 2958 in 2008.

In 2009, encouraging progress was made in the economic empowerment of women. Women organized under 4,643 SHGs saved a total of 9,489,965 Ethiopian Birr and were able to disproof the prevailing perception that the poor cannot save. Moreover, almost all of them have got the opportunity to scale up their businesses and start new income generation schemes after investing total of 12,153,195 Birr from their capital. This, as a result, improved the women's capacity to sustain their business, addressed the education needs of their children and covered other expenses needed for the well being of children.

Graph-1: Saving and loans given out in SHGs



The endeavors of promoting organizations to increase the formation of SHGs in the country thereby enabling their members to meet their basic needs through engaging in income generating activities have borne fruits. These SHGs are known to have created a venue for member women develop group consciousness, sense of belongingness, self confidence as well as understanding about their rights, roles and responsibilities.

6. Noteworthy practices

Case I

SHG has reinstated the social support mechanism

Bikiltu in Amharic, Ethiopia's working language, means a growing seedling. Bikiltu is an SHG established in the district of 'Qobo' in Horo-Guduru Wollega zone, Oromiya region by 20 self-oriented women with similar socio-economic background. The SHG was formed in July 2008. When members gave the name "**Bikiltu**", they had a goal to make their SHG a truly growing seedling of 'Qobo'. Currently, the group has an accumulated capital of Birr 2,162.00, out of which 1,800.00 Birr is designated as a revolving loan accessible to all members.

32 year-old Emebet Legesse is one of the members who are proud of being a member of "Bikiltu" SHG. Emebet is engaged in processing and selling locally made drinks to provide for the family. While dwelling on her business freshly inspired by the SHG approach, Emebet came across bad days of life when she learned that she had a breast cancer. With the meager income she and her husband earned they could not go beyond meeting the family's basic needs.

She thus requested her group for a loan. After discussing her health problem, the group approved a loan of Birr 700.00 to Emebet without bearing interest. The loan helped Emebet to get access to better health care in Ambo Hospital where she had undergone surgery. Today, Emebet is healthy. Emebet says, "my presence in the group has really saved my life."

Emebet paid back the money she borrowed from her SHG. She is also doing her petty business with the money she took from the SHG. As a result, she is able to send her daughter to school and cover all education expenses. Emebet is very happy with the work of her group, and she described it as "an SHG that is truly serving its purpose"

Gurumuu, Horo-Guduru, Wollega zone

Case II

Support opportunity for the needy

'Besu fekad' SHG was established two years ago by 20 members who are from the poorest community in Misrak Sub City of Hawassa. When the members met for the first time to organize themselves into SHG there were lack of awareness and attitudinal problems. They also felt that they were unable to raise the weekly saving amount and had no time for meeting. After repeated awareness raising sessions on the concept of SHG approach, the SHG members started to conduct a weekly meeting once every week to discuss various issues and collect savings. Members also received trainings on the benefits of saving and credit. The members, who were voiceless and powerless, soon realized that they had the potential to create positive change in their lives. As a result, they started sharing their problems and discussing different social issues. This led to the development of trust and partnership. The group members began undertaking IGAs in group as well as individually with a hope and a commitment to gradually increase their income.



Educational material support to OVCs, Besufkad SHG-
JeCCDO Hawassa,

When Besu fekad SHG members succeeded in making progress in their lives, they decided to extend their support to members of their community who are desperate in meeting their basic needs. Currently, the SHG is supporting two elderly people and 15 OVCs in their locality. 'Besu fedad' SHG put monthly cash support of Birr 40 for each elderly persons. In addition, the SHG members are covering school expenses of fifteen OVCs by supplying school uniform, materials and monthly fees of those children.

The SHG members who were unsure about their potential to make a difference in their lives at the beginning went beyond meeting their objectives of changing their lives. Today, their SHG is seen as a role model in making tremendous change in the lives of its members and other people in need.

JeCCDO-Hawassa CDPO

Case III

An empowered women challenged early marriage



Almaz, 35, is mother of six children and a member of 'Ginbarkedem' SHG (means pioneer). Almaz's daughter was to marry at 12 years of age in 2007. However, she was rescued from the perilous effects of early marriage by Ginbarkedem's by-law that punishes members with 300.00 birr for allowing their children to engage in early marriage and 100.00 birr for attending such a marriage ceremony. The discussion she had with her SHG members helped Almaz to cancel her daughter's early marriage.

Almaz is grateful to her friends in the SHG for saving her daughter from early marriage." The marriage was already arranged few months ago and I played a key role in the process," she says. "So, I thank all members for putting an article that forbids early marriage and educating me about its danger." Her daughter, who is now in grade 10, says: "I am happy to escape the marriage." She also aspires to be a doctor after taking a woman who is nurse as a role model.

(FC-Bure)

Cluster Level Association

Cluster Level Associations (CLAs) are the second level of the three tier people's institution in the SHG approach. The CLAs are formed by SHGs for SHGs to take up social and economic issues that are beyond the scope of individual SHGs.

All the SHG implementing partners have been exerting a concerted effort to empower women through awareness creation and capacity building trainings. By facilitating the formation of CLAs, the promoting organizations have been assisting women to have a meaningful community participation and greater decision making power and achieving a satisfying way of life with positive self-image, self-respect and competence.

Currently, the number of Cluster Level Associations (CLAs) reached to 229, which shows an increase by 48 as compared to the 181 CLAs at the end of 2008.

Members reaching the community through their strong institution

Raey (meaning visionary) CLA consisting of eight member SHGs was established in 2004 with a total of 152 mothers. The CLA has been involving in various social, economic and other matters of the community, which are beyond the capacities of member SHGs.

The CLA mobilized external loan of about 34,000 birr by establishing linkage with MFI based on the need of constituent SHG members. In addition, the CLA facilitated functional adult literacy classes for about 50 women in its member SHGs. Moreover, Raey CLA pioneered in village cleaning, afforestation and environmental protection works by mobilizing the community at large. Besides, the CLA mobilized funds from member SHGs and that of the wider community to extend help to street children and the elderly.



Environmental protection for better future-
Raey CLA, FC D/Markos

The long sighted members of Raey CLA helped the establishment of five new SHGs that would eventually join them. However, nothing compared with Raey's commitment and courage to hire community facilitators that would provide technical support for its member SHGs.

Now the multi faced presence of Raey CLA has been widely felt in the community by various stakeholders including the government, which revoked the old hesitation that women might not do it alone.

FC, D/Markos

Federation

Federation is a level which is to be reached following the formation of well functioning SHGs and CLAs. The federation through its empowered eight to ten CLAs seek to bring social transformation in the community. The federation is an apex body and identity of the people's institution.

Some two promoting organizations - EKHC and FC- have succeeded in the establishment of federations. Moreover, three organizations in Addis Ababa (MCDP, LCO & OPRIFS) established a joint federation having 21 members drawn from 11 CLAs.

In all implementing partners, efforts are underway for the establishment of additional SHGs, CLAs and federation across the areas where SHG is operational.

7. Major Achievements and Challenges

Achievements

The SHG approach in Ethiopia has proved to be successful in creating positive impact in the lives of the target community. The relentless efforts of the promoting organizations and most importantly the commitment of the target women have brought about significant achievements. Through the efforts, it is possible to:

- Create access to local credit and saving institutions
- Increase skill on income generation and small business
- Improve household's resource management (shared responsibility and understanding between husband and wife)
- Encourage capital and asset formation
- Raise awareness on HTPs, HIV/AIDS and other social issues which resulted in the improvement on the participation of social issues
- Improve saving culture among members of SHG
- Enable some SHG members to develop their own business plan
- Empower SHG members economically
- Increase confidence and self-esteem of members
- Develop leadership capacity among SHG members
- Increase the spirit of mutual support and social integration among members and other community through group activities
- Develop personal confidence through weekly shifting of leadership
- Develop entrepreneurship skill of women through participation in group idea sharing
- Create access to loan for self help group members at agreed small interest rate

Challenges

Despite the significant progresses made over the past years, there are both internal and external factors that adversely affect the progress of SHG implementation in the country. The following can be cited as major challenges;

- Use of saving money for non income generating activities
- SHG members influenced by other actors. For example, provision of hand outs in same community
- Identifying poor women solely through PRA techniques to form homogeneous SHG members in rural areas is somehow difficult
- Illiteracy among some members of SHGs which created burden on SHG facilitators
- Turnover of community facilitators and project officers adversely affected the pace of group formation and delivery of required technical support to SHGs
- Difficulty to establish CLAs due to the distance between SHGs
- Disagreements among some SHG members
- Engagement of SHG members in other activities (e.g. funereal) that affect attendance of regular meeting and saving and operation of the groups
- Failure of some members to pay loans on time
- Dependency of some SHGs on external actors
- Lack of uniform SHG approach promotion

8. The SHG Approach National Coordination Office

Facilitator for Change (FC) has been hosting the National SHG Coordination Office since 2006. The Coordination Office has been providing different kinds of support to implementing partners with a view of building their capacity in promoting the SHG approach. The Office has also been exerting efforts to pave the way for the sustainability of the SHG approach in Ethiopia.

Accordingly, the Coordination Office organized various trainings, workshops and experience sharing visits in the reporting period. In addition, the Office celebrated the National SHG Day for the first time.

The following are some of the major activities undertaken in the year 2009.

National SHG Day celebration

The increased recognition of the SHG approach was further enhanced by the first ever national SHG day celebration in the reporting year. The national celebration was organized as part the effort to promote the mainstreaming of the SHG approach in various development endeavors in the country. The event, thus, enabled the existing SHG promoting organizations to demonstrate their activities to the public, policy makers and private sector as a strong social network in the fight against poverty and brining about development.

For that to happen a national taskforce composed of five-members was set up. Accordingly, the four-day event held form May 20-23, 2009 included a half-day workshop with government representatives, donor community and banks/MFIs. Bazaar and exhibition of products of SHGs were also part of the event.



National SHG day official opening ceremony

The celebration was officially opened by W/o Atsede Guta, a representative from Ministry of Women Affairs. In addition, a Best Wish message sent from the African desk of Kindernothilfe was read out in the opening ceremony. A total of 130 (male=30) invited guests, SHG members and project staff attended the ceremony.

The National Coordination Office and the national celebration committee presented reports in a reflection session organized at the end of the four-day event. SHG members also used the session to share their best practices with the participants.

Documentary film launched

The National Coordination Office in collaboration with SHG promoting organizations launched the first ever documentary film on the SHG approach produced in two languages; Amharic and English. SHG members, government officials and representatives from the promoting NGOs highlight the accomplishments, experience and challenges in implementing the approach. The documentary film also captures best practices and cases that can illustrate best the SHG approach in the country. The film was distributed to various promoting organizations and other stakeholders.

Experience sharing visit

The Office arranged in-country experience sharing visit for project officers and community facilitators. The visit was made to SHGs and CLAs organized by EKHC-Shashemene and JeCCDO-Hawassa projects. The four-day exposure visit was attended by 17 project officers from SHG promoting organizations. The participants prepared a checklist for the visit and held discussions with members of SHGs and CLAs in two groups. In addition to meeting with members of SHGs and CLAs, participants also visited urban agriculture program and learnt its integration with the SHG approach at JeCCDO-Hawassa project.

At the end of each visit participants provided feedbacks to the SHGs, CLAs and officials of the visited projects. Finally, the participants discussed the lessons they learned and best practices they obtained from the visit.

In general, the experience sharing visit enabled partners to identify their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in promoting, implementing and sustaining SHG approach in their respective organizations. Moreover, it has helped partners to devise a feasible strategy to address their weaknesses and capitalize their opportunities.

Trainings

The establishment of CLA is of paramount importance for the sustainability of the SHG program. Accordingly, the Coordination Office organized a five-days training on CLA formation for project officers and community facilitators represented from ten SHG implementing organizations. The main objective of the training is to familiarize participants with the formulation and the management procedures of CLAs. The training created an opportunity for the participants to share their experiences on the practical promotion of the SHG approach in their respective projects. The training included field exercise where participants were able to form a CLA in one of the promoting organization.

Report Writing and Case study Development Training

The Coordination Office organized a training to enhance the capacity of partners in report writing and case study development. Eighteen participants drawn from SHG implementing organizations participated in the five-day participatory training, which included visits to different projects and development of case studies. The collected cases were reviewed and incorporated in the training manual which was eventually distributed to the trainees.



Capacity building inputs for CFs and POs play key role in SHG approach implementation

The training, therefore, enabled participants to improve their reporting and case study writing skills and created opportunities for sharing each others experiences.

Federation workshop

As the number of CLAs is growing and become strong, their transformation to a federation is a subsequent step in this three tier approach. Therefore, to meet the growing needs of promoting NGOs that reached the stage of forming federation, the national coordination office organized a five-day workshop on federation. Mr. Thomas Paul, KNH-consultant for the SHG approach facilitated the workshop. Presentations, field exercises and forming a model federation were employed during the workshop. Some seventeen project officers and senior program officers drawn from nine partner organizations attended the workshop. At the end of workshop, participants prepared a six-month action plan that focused mainly on strengthening CLAs.

9. Looking to the future: plans and commitments

Partnership with the government

The relentless efforts to engage the government in promoting the SHG approach started bearing fruit in the year ended.

After subsequent interactions with the Addis Ababa Women and Children Affairs Bureau, the Coordination Office was requested to provide a one-day familiarization workshop for the staff of the office. The workshop enabled to create good understanding of the SHG approach among the participants who described the approach as an effective tool to address the deep-rooted socio-economic problems of the country. The participants included higher officials of the bureau and officers from ten sub cities of Addis Ababa.

Accordingly, the Addis Ababa City Women and Children Affairs Bureau decided to promote the approach in the ten sub cities of Addis Ababa. The National Coordination Office on its part planned to train officers of the Bureau on the SHG approach in order to strengthen the partnership with the government, thereby ensuring the expansion and pure promotion of the approach.

Apart from the training, preparations have also been completed to undertake a research on SHG approach in Addis Ababa by the Addis Ababa City Women and Children Affairs Bureau and the National Coordination Office. The actual research work will commence in the coming year. This attests the growing partnership between the National Office and the government.

The future direction of the SHG approach in Ethiopia

The year also marked the first ever discussion to decide on the future direction of the SHG approach in the country. The strategic discussion was initiated by KNH. Representatives from seven SHG promoting organizations attended the roundtable. After deliberating the future direction of the approach, the promoting organizations set up a taskforce that will further study the issue with the National Coordination Office.

Technical support to form more federations

Federations are vital institutions that help ensure the sustainability of the Self Help Group approach, as they take over responsibilities from the promoting organizations. They are the identity of the People's Institution.

A joint federation (by three organizations; MCDP, LCO and OPRIFS) was formed in Addis Ababa after the introductory workshop on federation. Strengthening the new federation and replicating its model to other project cities are scheduled in the coming years.

Challenges (National Coordination Office)

Despite the achievements gained in creating positive change in the lives of women, children and their families, there were some problems and challenges in implementing the SHG approach. One of the major problems is associated with the legal framework. The SHG approach still lacks a legal framework in the country that can be compatible with the underlying principles embodied in the approach.

More efforts are, therefore, needed to influence the federal government agencies and policy makers to get legal recognition of the approach. Side by side legalizations of federations can be used for a short term solution as its legal entity would serve to constituent SHGs and CLAs.

In addition, the coordination office did not obtain support and encouragement from all the 25 promoting organizations in the year. Different activities have been undertaken in this regard, but it needs more effort to approach those partners that fall back so as to bring them on board in the year to come.



SHG members had a lot to say! SHG day closing ceremony

Annexes

Annex-1: Trainings, workshops and learning exchange visits carried out in 2009

Date	Topics	Participants	Venue
April 16, 2009	Directors meeting	NGO directors and Program coordinators	Ras Amba Hotel Addis Ababa
June 11-15, 2009	Training on SHG formation and management	Staffs of Wonta Rural Development Association	Wellayita Soda
June 22-26, 2009	Federation workshop	Project officers and senior program coordinators	Ras Amba Hotel Addis Ababa
August 14, 2009	Workshop on the Introduction of self help group approach	potential partners and stakeholders	Mekelle
August 25-29, 2009	Training on Participatory Rural Appraisal Techniques	Project officers	Ethiopian Red Cross Training Institute Addis Ababa
August 31-September 5, 2009	Training on CLA formation and Management	Project Officers and Community Facilitators	Ethiopian Red Cross Training Institute Addis Ababa
November 18-21, 2009	Experience sharing visit	Project Officers	EKHC-Shashemene Project JeCCDO Awassa
December 7, 2009	Round table discussion on the future of the SHG approach in Ethiopia	KNH staff and 8 partner organizations	Ras Amba Hotel
December 21-25, 2009	Training on Facilitation Skills Development	Project officers	Ethiopian Red Cross Training Institute Addis Ababa
December 28, 2009- January 1, 2010	Training on Report Writing and Case Study Development	Project officers	Ethiopian Red Cross Training Institute Addis Ababa

Annex-2: SHG Approach promoting organizations

No.	Organization	SHG Implementation area	Contact person	Address	
				Tel	E-mail
1	BIGA	Hawassa	W/o Tigest Enyew	251-04622 14130	bignysociation@yahoo.com
2	EFDA	Woliso	Ato Hailu Benti	N/A	efda@ethionet.et
3	EECMY	Dessie	Ato Deed Jaldessa	N/A	ecmya@ethionet.et
4	EKHC	Addis Ababa, Awasa, Shashemene, Nazareth, Hossana, Jimma, Arbaminch	Ato Simon Haile	251-011 5501394	Ekbcs-iudd@ethionet.et
5	ERSHA	H/Mariam, Ambo	Ato Eshetu Yimer	251-011 4661493	ersha@ethionet.et
6	FC	Jimma, Bure, D/Markos, Tullubollo, Bishofitu	Ato Gelaye Hailu	251-011 6610892	fc@ethionet.et
7	FSCE	Dire Dawa, Akaki	Ato Meseret Tadesse	251-011 5534432	fsce@ethionet.et
8	GADA	Ginchi, Wellega	Ato Tariku Kassa	251-011 1227388	gadagada96@yahoo.com
9	GPSDO	Wolkite	Ato Bediru Jemal	251-011 1558484	gpsdo@ethionet.et
10	Gurmuu	Horoguduru	Ato Abebayehu Jebessa	251-011 1248620	gurmuu@ethionet.et
11	Hundee	Modjo	Ato Zegeye Asfaw	251-011 6631290	hundee@ethionet.et
12	JeCCDO	D/Birhan, Awasa, Bahirdar, Diredawa, DebreZiet	Ato Mulugeta Gebbru	251-011 6611092	jccdo@ethionet.et
13	LCO	Addis Ababa	W/o Lemlem Tilaye	251-011 5521501	lco@ethionet.et
14	MOL	Addis Ababa	Ato Solomom Sileshi	251-011 4667193	messenger@ethionet.et
15	MLWDO	Benshangul	W/o Tirhas Mezgebe	011-911-508564	mllwdo@ethionet.et
16	MCDP	Addis Ababa and Chench	W/o Mulu Haile	251-011 2765995	mcdp@ethionet.et

No.	Organization	SHG Implementation area	Contact person	Address	
				Tel	E-mail
17	OPRIFS	Addis Ababa	W/o Zinash Bezabih	251-911-451871	oprifda@ethionet.et
18	Pro Pride	Addis Ababa	Ato Digafe Feleke	251-011 5524418	propride@ethionet.et
19	RPC	Nazreth	Ato Samuel Asefa	251-011 4162819	rpc@ethionet.et
20	SWDA	Sebeta, Woliso, Nekemte	W/o Zertihun Tefera	251-011 5519363	niqqet@ethionet.et
21	SWAAE	Addis Ababa	W/o Bosena Kassa	251-011 1569075	swaae@yahoo.com
22	VOCDA	Ziway	Ato Dessisa Kabeta	251-011 4430480	voda@ethionet.et
23	WSA	Showarobit, Mersa	W/o Martha Nemera	251-011 6182492	wsaorg@ethionet.et
24	WRDA	Wolaita	Ato Kebede Nana	251-046 5512655	wrda@ethionet.et
25	YWCA	Nazreth	W/t Melat T/tsadik	251-011 1563047	ywca@ethionet.et





Communities participate in social mapping & wealth ranking exercises to form their own SHGs. WRDA-Wolaita Sodo



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