

“Ras Agez” meaning “Self Help” is a biannual newsletter published by CoSAP

## Message from the Secretariat

Dear readers,

We are extremely pleased to share with you issue No. 8 of “Ras Agez” newsletter covering January 2018 to June 2018. Please forward your comments, suggestions and remarks to us at [cosap.doc@gmail.com](mailto:cosap.doc@gmail.com)

Enjoy reading “Ras Agez”

Yosef Akalu,

Director of CoSAP

## Decisions made at CoSAP’s annual GA meeting

The Consortium of Self Help Group Approach Promoters (CoSAP) held its 8<sup>th</sup> annual General Assembly (GA) meeting on March 29, 2018 at Ethiopia hotel, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. CoSAP’s member organizations represented by their executive directors and other delegates attended the annual meeting. In addition, representatives from SHG federations from Addis Abeba, Adama, Debremarkos, Hawassa, Jimma and Bulbulla participated in the meeting. Moreover, an official from the Charities and Society Agency observed the meeting.

The GA, among others, passed decision to incorporate few articles in the bylaw of the consortium that will help to implement the code of conduct for CoSAP and its members. In addition, for the execution of the code of conduct; the GA elected three organizations (Gurmuu, Pro Pride and SWDA) to serve as Ethical Committee that will be responsible in handling issues related to the code of conduct. Moreover, with the desire to include women institutions in the SHG affairs, the GA of CoSAP accepted the six SHG federations (*Timrets*) mentioned above as well as two individuals to join the GA as honorary members. The honorary members accepted the membership and promised to contribute their fair shares in the promotion of the SHG approach in the country.

Finally, the GA meeting ended by approving the activity and financial reports of the secretariat office for the budget year 2017 and approving the activity and budget of ETB 7.5million for 2018.



*CoSAP's GA meeting; March 2018*

### **Greener Ethiopia**

Women in the Self Help Groups (SHGs) are contributing much in the natural resource management and greener Ethiopia. They are taking part in seedling plantation; managing nursery sites, production and use of fuel efficient stoves. The project focusing on building the capacity of women groups to manage natural resources and building resilience is supported by the European Union Delegation to Ethiopia under Civil Society Fund phase II (EU-CSFII) and Kinder Not Hilfe. Which has increased the women's awareness on natural resources and enabled them take part in related activities. Due to their increased awareness on natural resource management and their enhanced participations; it is believed that the amount of natural resource that is being destroyed is reducing.



*Women managing the planted seedlings at Siraroworeda; June 2018*

Furthermore, the SHG member women have started utilizing and retailing their self-made fuel efficient stoves.



*Women in fuel efficient stove production at Angolelena Tera Woreda, Chefanen Kebele; March 2018*

### **Social Solidarity Economies platform initiated**

CoSAP in partnership with Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations (CCRDA) established a forum on Social Solidarity Economies (SSE) in an inaugural meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at CCRDA hall. The forum was established with objectives of establishing national platform consisting Charities and Societies Organizations (CSOs) working in Ethiopia under SSE framework and enhancing mutual learning, sharing of best practices, and coordination among CSOs.

The inaugural meeting was attended by member organizations of CoSAP, CCRDA and invited stakeholders from government and non-government organizations. On the meeting, findings of a research undertaken by CoSAP on the existing legal frameworks in relation with the SHG approach in the country was presented and discussed. Finally, three individuals representing their organizations were elected to serve as steering committee to spearhead the national platform.



*Meeting on progress at CCRDA; May 2018*

## Update on the Self Help Group Approach for CoSAP partners

CoSAP in collaboration with Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH) provided training for staffs of its member organizations on the recent updates of Self Help Group approach at Beshoftu Jecdo training center from June 3 to 6, 2018. The training was attended by 41 staffs (21 females) of partner organizations. A detail on the self-assessment at each level (SHG, CLA and Federation) and the eight roles of CLAs focusing on wise investment has been briefed. An emphasis was given on the concept of wise investment in that it is type of investment that shouldn't require much of the women's time and must be a onetime investment income generating activity to cover their administrative costs.



*Training session on progress; June 2018*

## Siiqqee Women Development Association (SWDA) celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary



One of CoSAP's partner organizations SWDA celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary at Alem Gena SWDA's women training center on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. The celebration was attended by government officials, non-governmental organization representatives, staffs and other stakeholders.

*Ras Agez* interviewed the Program manager of Siiqqee Mr. Gelelcha Negassa on SWDA's experiences, achievements and challenges in the twenty years journey.

**Ras Agez:** Congratulations on your 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! How does it feel celebrating 20 years?

**Mr. Gelelcha:** Thank you! We are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with great pleasure since Siiqqee started from very small and reached to a better position today.

**Ras Agez:** For those not familiar with SWDA, can you briefly introduce the organization, its purpose and accomplishments?

**Mr. Gelelcha:** The name Siiqqee was given to the organization to signify a stick that a woman in Oromo culture uses to defend herself and protect her rights.

Siiqqee works with disadvantaged and marginalized women, girls and children. So far Siiqqee has addressed socio-economic problems of 50,000 poor and marginalized women and girls across Ethiopia; mobilized thousands to create awareness and teach women on Harmful Traditional Practices, HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health and other pertinent issues that affect the lives of poor women and children.

**Ras Agez:** When did SWDA started organizing women in Self –Help Groups (SHGs)?

**Mr. Gelelcha:** SWDA started organizing women in SHGs since its establishment in 1997. Currently the number of women in groups has reached 6,263 that have been organized in 359 SHGs. These women were able to save 2.7 million ETB which is equivalent to 108,700 USD.

**Ras Agez:** What did you learn through the process?

**Mr. Gelelcha:** We have learnt that everyone has tremendous potential and only a little support is required from us to help them unleash it. The other lesson we have learnt is; applying different ways when dealing with different community members depending on their need, capacity, culture and religion.

**Ras Agez:** Where should we expect SWDA after ten years?

**Mr. Gelelcha:** In ten years we believe that SWDA will be one of the leading organizations that work with women and girls in Ethiopia.

**Ras Agez:** Thank you for your time. If you would like to add something else?

**Mr. Gelelcha:** Our pleasure! We always get CoSAP's capacity building support and we appreciate it but we would also like to be considered for project implementations when opportunities arise. Thank you!

**የራስ አገዝ ቡድን አባል፣ የጥምረት ተወካይ፣ የፎቶግራፍ ውድድር አሸናፊ**

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*ወ/ሮ ሀይማኖት ወልዴ ከሸናፊነቱ በፊት ፎቶግራፍ አሸናፊነት ሽልማት ጋር፣ ግንቦት 2010 ዓ.ም*

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