

CoSAP participated in the visit to Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)

FDRE-Charities and Societies Agency in collaboration with major consortiums in the county facilitated a special visit for CSOs to Guba, the GERD's specific site in Benishangul Gumuz Regional State, from November 21-26, 2014. CoSAP, represented by its board member, has participated in this visit and demonstrated its solidarity.

Scholarly Article proves the effectiveness of the SHG Approach in Ethiopia

Dr. Mamta Singh, an Indian professor from Noida International University and currently lecturer at Dilla University has witnessed that self-help group is of paramount importance in empowering women in all aspects. In her article entitled 'Plausible move help sustain self-help groups in Ethiopia', she argued that Ethiopian government should acknowledge these informal groups as legal entities as they are key to the country's poverty alleviation efforts. You may get her full article on The Ethiopian Herald Newspaper dated May 7, 2015 (Society Column) or the link below:

<http://www.ethpress.gov.et/herald/index.php/herald/society/10571-plausible-move-help-sustain-self-help-groups-in-ethiopia>

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Consortium of Self Help Group Approach Promoters (CoSAP)

CONTACT US: Consortium of Self Help Group Approach Promoters (CoSAP)
Lideta Sub City, Woreda 10, African Union Area Behind National Tobacco Enterprise
Tel:+251115525251/+251118959233/
+251930014725
Fax: +251115571290
Email: consortium.shg@gmail.com
info@shgconsortiumeth.org
www.shgconsortiumeth.org
P.O.Box 26720 code1000
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Message from the Secretariat

Dear CoSAP partners and stakeholders, We are extremely pleased to share with you our issue of "Ras Agez Newsletter". This is the second bi-annual newsletter. Your contributions, feedback and inputs are very much appreciated. Please forward them to our address at your best convenience. Enjoy reading "Ras Agez"!
Yosef Akalu
Director, CoSAP

CoSAP's General Assembly endorsed ETB 16.8 million

CoSAP has conducted its General Assembly (GA) on 23rd of March, 2015 at Wabishebele Hotel, Addis Ababa. Executive Directors of 21 member organizations, out of the total 28, attended the meeting.

Chaired by Mrs Lemlem Tikuye, the GA has dealt with various important issues for the smooth running and strengthening of CoSAP. The request for CoSAP membership by two organizations- Guraghe People's Self help Development Organization (GPSDO) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) - were accepted by the GA.

Reminding participants about GA's recommendation to create Center of Excellence that serves as a hub for a capacity building, Mr Mulugeta Gebru-Board Chariman- informed participants that Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization pledged a land in Debre-Birhan.

A draft code of conduct, a guiding document which CoSAP members are expected to abide by, was also presented. The members reserved it for further review and discussion prior to its approval.

After a presentation and discussion of activities held in 2014, the external auditors report concluded that books and accounts are held correctly and that their examination found no major comment. Finally, the planned activities for the year 2015 and the proposed budget plan of ETB 16.8 million have been endorsed by the GA members.

National SHGs Day Celebrated in Adama

With the intention of demonstrating the success of SHG approach implementation in the country, CoSAP collaborated with Oromia National Regional State- Women and Children Affairs Bureau- to celebrate the event in Adama City from December 19 to 21, 2014.



Mrs Sa'ada Kedir, opening the event

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The Grand opening ceremony was held in the presence of Mrs Sa'ada Kedir, Head of Oromia Women and Children Affairs Bureau; representatives from the Office of the First Lady and Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs; Mr Usman Surur, Director of Federal Cooperatives Agency; CoSAP Board of Directors and other various stakeholders estimated to be 700 in total.



SHG Women Exhibiting their best practices.

Exhibiting best practices of individual SHG members, Cluster Level Associations (CLAs) and federations; integrations of SHG with other development interventions; role of men (husbands) in women empowerment efforts; and a panel discussion on "Local Resource Mobilization Strategies for CLAs" were the main themes of the event.

The event was successfully aired to the wider public through six national and regional mass media. Including the 22 SHG approach promoting organizations which also exhibited their SHG-related works, a total of 57 certificates were awarded to all contributing stakeholders during the closing ceremony.

International Experience Sharing Visit held to India

To learn from similar experiences that can be replicated in Ethiopia, CoSAP in collaboration with the FDRE Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (WCYA) and Ethiopian Embassy in New Delhi organized a high-level delegation visit to India from 09th -18th October 2014.

The delegation comprised of 22 participants from WCYA, National Bank of Ethiopia, Federal Micro and Small Enterprises Agency, Micro Finance Association, representatives of two Commercial Banks. CoSAP was represented by four Board members, the director and a project coordinator.



Ambassador Dr Genet zewde (left) and Mr Yosef Akalu (CoSAP Director, right)

The visit was officially kicked off with a half day meeting held on October 8, 2014 in the office of the Ministry of WCYA, at the office of H.E . Minster Mrs Zenebu Tadesse. This helped the delegates to set expectations for the visit.

The need for financial inclusion in poverty reduction efforts; the strong social bondage and peer influence existing among SHGs as guarantee to SHG-Bank linkages; recognizing convergence among the major pro poor service providers as critical success factor were among the major learning points.



Partial view of the experience sharing visit participants

On the last day, the learning and actions for the way forward that were agreed upon by the participants were presented in the presence of H.E Ambassador Dr. Genet Zewde. The visit was concluded with an eager promise of the participants to continue their discussions for facilitating the adaption and adoption of the learning. Consequently, a multi-stakeholders platform which enables synergistic work in women empowerment initiatives is expected to emerge.

CoSAP participated in the National DRR Day

As part of strong cooperation with the Federal Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) of the Ministry of Agriculture, CoSAP considerably represented its members in the National DRR Day event organized by the office, on 13th of October 2014 at Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa.

On this event, CoSAP was given a corner to display its members' efforts in line with disaster risk reduction (DRR), being the only exhibitor demonstrating SHG women's contribution towards building resilience from within.



Banner of the Exhibition Displaying contributions of SHGs for DRR

In line with an effort to integrate the SHG approach with DRR, CoSAP has organized training for 44 community workers of the nine DRR project partners, from October 13 - 19, 2014 at Bonita Training Center (Bishoftu). A national workshop on SHG-DRR-Interlocking, attended by a total of 32 participants- from DRMFSS, project implementing partners and government DRR/Early Warning offices of their respective intervention districts- was also held on October 20, 2014, at Ethiopia Hotel, Addis Ababa.