

ORDA Brief

Monthly Newsletter

Issue of December 2009



This issue

- Working to change the lives of the poor
- “Let there be Water”
- ORDA organized a public hearing

ORDA

Organization for rehabilitation and development in Amhara (ORDA) is an indigenous, nongovernmental and not-for-profit development organization established back in 1984.

From its establishment to late 1996, ORDA's effort was much on relief, rehabilitation and health services integrated with slight activities of water and soil conservation. As of 1997, however ORDA has made a paradigm shift from relief to holistic development approach so as to achieve its corporate objective of improving people's living conditions on a sustainable basis.

Often working under difficult conditions, our organization is committed to help Ethiopia's rural poor lift themselves from poverty through the following priority programs

Natural Resource development

Water Resource Development

Food Security and Agricultural Resource Development

Mainstreaming of gender and HIV/Aids into all programs is at the heart of our implementing principles.

Working to Change the Lives of the Poor

One Million Dollars raised for Burabx and Girrage

“One Night, One village , 5000 lives transformed”. This was the slogan for a fund raising event organized by A Glimmer of Hope (AGOH) on November 6, 2009 in Austen city, the USA. The event, first in its type, was primarily intended to raise fund for financing the construction of water facilities, schools and health posts in Burbax, forgotten kebele in Gondor town Ethiopia. The occasion however, turned out to be a lot more than intended with the slogan being changed to “**One Night, Two villages 10000 lives transformed**”

The organizing team was fully successful in winning the hearts of the majority and raise money enough to fund one more village in Ethiopia, Girrarge.. With the presence of ORDA's executive Director, who made a depictive speech at the event, Austen community were virtually taken to the poor villages in Ethiopia to sense what life in such villages is really like.

The event raised enough money to pay for 34 classrooms, a regional health center and a health post, 11 latrines and more than 29 water points in the two villages. Having raised the money, AGOH has handed over the responsibility of making it all a reality to ORDA who they described as “an expert in implementing projects in such remote areas of the country”

ORDA has promised to successfully complete the projects within 12 months.

“Let there be Water, Let there be Health, Let there be schools and let there be Hope”

A one year Integrated project in Burbax



If we are asked about Burbax, a kebele 30 km from Gondar, Ethiopia there is at least one common thing we all could remember it of- Burbax is a home of traditional cultural singers or what we call Amzamri.

Unfortunately, these people have been overlooked when it comes to critical basic services such as water, sanitation, health and education. Burbax people like the majority in Ethiopia have long been in an extremity hazardous situation with only nine in hundred having access to clean water and twenty four in hundred accessing sanitation. This figure no wonder is shocking particularly for most of us who might have taken these facilities for granted.

While we demand water facilities in every corner of our rooms, women in Burbax have to travel for hours to get drinking water usually from unprotected, filthy and stagnant river or pond. In this era while most of us bother about choosing better schools for our kids, generations of children have passed in Burbax with no access to any formal education. Especially for girls, going to school have long been just a dream as they have to be engaged in helping the Moms in their back

breaking chores of fetching water for the family.

The time, however, has now come for Burbax people to taste from the facilities which most of us have taken for granted, for Burbax women to start a life with dignity- free from unwanted and unnecessary pain and sufferings. Life no longer has to be the same for the girls in Burbax as they now can go to school unlike their elders- Thanks to ORDA and A Glimmer of Hope who have felt the sufferings of these poor and underserved people and decided to change their lives.

In collaboration with the community, ORDA and AGOH have recently embarked on a one year project that planned to build 20 water walls, 4 first cycle primary schools and 1 health post integrated with hygiene and sanitation promotion activities in Burbax kebele. The project, first for ORDA to be engaged in such a holistic development activity, is hoped to benefit 5393 individuals of which 2723 are women.

The whole project is expected to cost 1 million Etb out of which 94% will be financed by AGOH and the rest to be covered by ORDA and the community.



What do you want to know about us?

Currently ORDA has

- 629 staff member 30% at head office, 69% at project offices and the remaining at the liaison office
- Two offices abroad (ORDA US and ORDA UK)
- 3 Major intervention programs
- Over 86 Active projects
- About 27 Active funding Partners

For more, visit our website

www.orda.org.et



ORDA in partnership with Oxfam, GB organized a public hearing on climate change

Bob Gildof attended the event

As part of its commitment to fight against the current climate change, ORDA has taken the initiative to organize a second public hearing on climate change attended by the re-known rock singer Sir Bob Gildof who has played a major role in raising fund for the humanitarian assistance for victims of the 1985 famine in Ethiopia.

The public hearing which took place at Enkurkuba Kebele of farta District on 27th November, 2009 had an aim of discussing the effects of the climate change on the lives of the farmers in the region. Bob was further interested to hear how the farmers in the region are trying to cope up with this environmental threat facing the globe. Enkurkuba Farmers all in one voice told BOB that they are feeling the impact of the climate change in their day to day life worse than ever alerting him of the urgency to reflect their concerns to the other part of the world so that appropriate actions could be taken as early as possible.

As Bob is attending the Copenhagen meeting on climate change, the event is an invaluable opportunity to reflect the voices of farmers in the region on the issue.

Listening all the concerns of the farmers and promising them to do his level best as to communicating their ideas to the world, Bob has appreciated the farmers and ORDA for the environmental protection activities the organization together with the farmers have accomplished around that area. He further appreciated ORDA for taking this initiative to organize the hearing which has given him the chance to have a sense of the problems Ethiopian farmers are facing. For Bob, the event was also an invaluable opportunity to hear the coping up mechanisms being undertaken by the farmers so that their experiences could be transferred to farmers in other parts of the world who are now facing similar problems.

It is to be remembered that ORDA in collaboration with the National Climate Change Forum (NCCF) had organized the first public hearing on climate change in Lay Gayint on October 10, 2009 in the presence of the state minister, H. E. Dr Abera Deressa and the regional president, H.E. Ato Ayalew Gobeze.

Fact Sheet

In the year we are just ending, we have achieved the following major accomplishments

Water Resource Development Program

- In 27 districts in the region, ORDA has accomplished the construction of 647 water facilities that benefited 2about 00, 000 individuals
- About 5823 individuals have been trained on hygiene and sanitation
- 7 small scale irrigations which could benefit 5800 individuals have been completed

Fruit and Vegetables

- In five woredas in the region, ORDA produced 9560 low land fruit (2526 Mango and 7, 034 Orange) seedlings that benefited about 1,144 individuals
- In other three woredas in the region, 13 17 Apple seedlings were produced that benefited 501 households out of which 3% are women.
- Over a million Casava pieces were distributed to 8,201 farmers

Forest Development

- In just one year, 81, 216 580 seedlings were planted of which 58, 227, 617 are Jatropha seedlings that covered about 9,566 ha land.

Bio-Diversity policies under close scrutiny



A four Days Workshop on policy analysis is organized by the Bio-diversity program in ORDA. The workshop held from December 14-17 was attended by over fifty six participants from various NGOs and government sectors, ORDA's project offices and cooperatives working related to bio-diversity.

According to the organizers, the workshop has an aim of enhancing participants with better understanding of the importance of policy and policy analysis with respect to bio-diversity. As well, the workshop focused on familiarizing participants with existing bio-diversity related policies, strategies and regulations.

During their stay, participants have closely commented on six federal and regional level bio-diversity laws and policy documents. They were also engaged in identifying existing gaps in the policies particular attention given to assessing the impact of the policies at the ground level during implementation.

End of the workshop, participants have identified and proposed policy options for further promotion and advocacy.

The bio-diversity program in ORDA, a five years project in partnership with GAA has commenced early 2009 as a response to the alarming deforestation problem in Amhara region.

Contact Addresses

Wuletaw hailemariam

Executive Director

Tel- 251582200985

Fax 251582200987

E-mail orda-1@ethionet.et

Website www.orda.org.et

Eskedar Muluaem

Communication and IT Manager

Tel- 251582201486

Partnerships and Networking

For maximum potential and accomplishment of its activities, ORDA collaborates and coordinates with various international NGOs and Community based organizations and the government.

Recognizing the benefits of community participation in bringing lasting change in the livelihoods of people, we have also made significant strides to strengthen our partnership with the community.

With over 25 years of experience in development activities, we have proved to be experts in implementing projects financed by various funding international organizations of which the following are just a few

German Agro Action (GAA)

CHF/CIDA

A Glimmer of Hope /AGOH/

NOVIB

OXFAM GB

OXFAM Canada

OXFAM America

Save the Children Norway

Save the Children UK

EU

NBI-ENTRO/World Bank

**Food for Hungry International /FHI/
UNICEF**

UNDP-SGP

WFP

CRDA

Water.Org

Brook Ethiopia

Liaison Office

Tel-251115504455

Fax-2511155172444

E-mail orda.liaison@ethionet.et