

ETHIOPIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
COORDINATING OFFICE OF SODDO (ECC-SDCO/S)

Coherence Project Gender Empowerment Progress Report



March, 2025

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Introduction

ECC-SDCO/S has been engaged in different interventions to contribute to the integral development of human being and many of the community members enjoying the benefit through the intervention of Food Security and Resilience, Health and HIV/AIDS, Education, Gender Equality and Social rehabilitation, Emergency and Relief, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection and Management of Natural Resources in general

ECC-SDCO/S has been given big priority for holistic Socio-Economic and Development regardless of religion, ethnicity, clan, culture, and colure and without any choice of geographic/topographic barrier given that No One Left Behind (LNOB)

To make realized the humanitarian action, ECC-SDCCO/S will be carried out different projects in the jurisdiction for the improvement of socio-economic wellbeing of the community in particular and livelihood change in general. In general operation areas male-headed households are more resilient and most female-headed households (FHHs) have the capacity to bounce back. The improvement of livelihood of the marginalized poor women, the needy people and children are the thematic focusing and without prejudice to be addressed.

ECC-SDCCO/S through coherence project planned Mainstreaming gender during the project design and its effect during implementation also seriously monitored and improvement actions taken based on practical evidences on the ground. To have a concrete fact, detail gender analysis conducted at project specific area through following household gender transformative approach.

1. Overview of activities planned during the quarter

The Coherence has given priority for gender mainstreaming. The overall objective has been to ensure that gender issues are mainstreamed in all projects cycle and to strengthen, communities' capacity to prevent and manage resource-use related conflict in a (gender) equitable way through improving capacities of Project staff, Stakeholders, Gender Agents and communities by providing strategic direction and operational tools that will help project team and implementers to promote and integrate gender equality in all interventions.

2. Conduct a rapid gender context analysis at community level.

In order to obtain a basic understanding of the gender context in the kebeles targeted by the COHERENCE project and to collect information that will allow to develop the context-specific gender

empowerment index (one of the program's four outcome indicators) and to collect basic data that will inform intervention priorities, a rapid gender context analysis was conducted. This included the consultation of secondary data (reports and information originally collected by other organizations, for instance government offices of women affairs) and the collection of primary data through participatory workshops and key informant interviews.

During the participatory workshops, a “gender roles and responsibilities timeline tool” was used to establish an overview of gender roles at household level and to assess inequality with regard to division of labor and use of time between girls and boys, women and men.



The main focus of the context analysis was then on gender roles and responsibilities, access to and control of household resources, and

FGD during gender context Analysis

decision-making processes. Findings indicate that gender disparity is important in all spheres, social, economic or political. Based on the findings, a gender action plan was developed and recommendations were formulated for the project and for government and other stakeholders working in the area.

Among the disparity issues that were identified, the following stand out: participation in productive and income generating activities and labor division, autonomy level (access to and control of household resources, decision-making power), political participation, gender-based violence.

To challenge these gender disparity problems that were revealed by the context analysis, the project working in accordance with the above recommendations and take into account the activities proposed in the action plan. Adopting the Household transformative method, community animators with Gender officer are conducting “continuous” HH community dialogue, by taking up successively each of the issues identified by the gender context analysis. Thus, improvement is expected to be achieved with regard to gender equity, which will be assessed by context analysis findings at the end of the project by a second gender context analysis.

3. Community dialogue sessions on gender issues (using the household transformation method which will be cascaded to household level).

To promote gender equality the project planned and conducted workshops, awareness creation session mainly focusing on basic gender concepts, gender-based violence (types, reasons) and Transformative Household method (HTM) to challenge the existing situation in the project target areas where, women and girls were having no chance to participate equally with men, in economic, social and political activities of the society.



Photos of THM for Agents

Gender Empowerment training was facilitated for selected gender empowerment agents (90) from two kebeles (Kindo Koyo and Mayo Kote). They represent their communities in several sectors elderly people, religious leaders, youth representatives (boys and girls), women and children affairs and occupationally separated groups (so-called minority groups, such as potters.

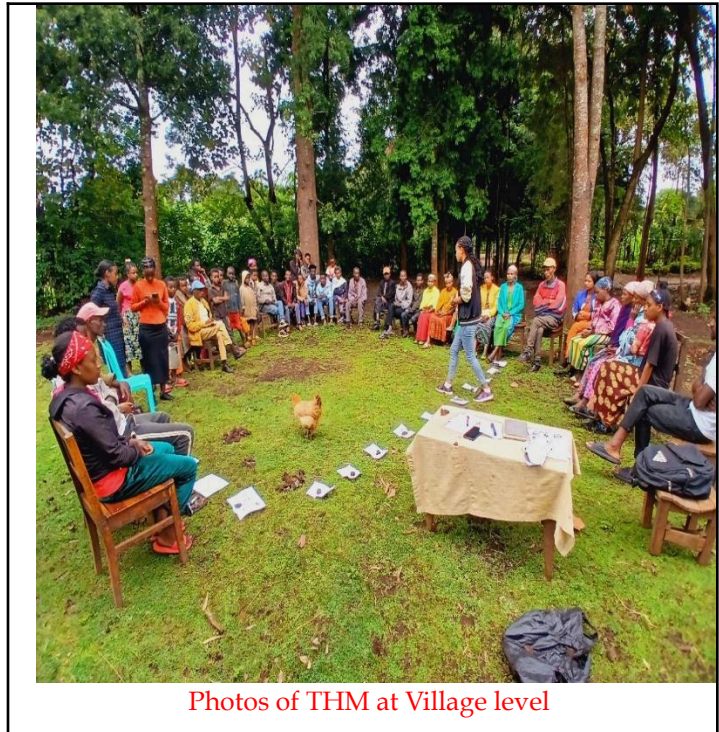
Community dialogue sessions on gender issues using Household transformation method at household level have been used to empower women, encourage the participation of women and benefit them as equal as men in social, political and economic areas as women and girls have less competence & participation. Thus, conducting dialogue at HH Level with men involved helped to promote household dialogue and increase the self-confidence of women that will continue throughout the project life span.

The community dialogue sessions on gender issues facilitated for (72) Community dialogue sessions on gender issues at 18 village (Five representative per each group per Ketena) for 90 HH (82MHH and 8FHH) by community cohesion and gender agents in collaboration with community animators and support of project gender and cohesion officer.

The goal of this discourse was to share and discuss the selected Gender Agendas, as well as to understand current gender issues and collaborate to fill identified gaps.

This year, the community dialogue sessions was focused on ‘gender **division of labor**’ at the HH level, as this was one of the significant gaps identified during the baseline survey and Gender context analysis. After conducting of the community dialogue session on gender issues, the agents have reported some improvements, including:

- Some men and boys began to engage in household chores such (making coffee, cleaning the house, fetching water, washing clothes, and caring for children).



Strengthening livelihood basis of Female HH, through improved access to and use of financial and technical capacity building services.

Gender distribution of livelihood assets and benefits mapping, implies that men are more benefited than women. Even though, natural assets, land and forests are accessible to all, financial asset, all high valued equipment's and Household incomes are held by men. The women in project target area are undermined and discouraged in utilizing their own property. Women and girls commonly do not have their own resources for their livelihood; they are dependent to their husband.

Identifying beneficiary households giving priority to FHH and LHH (63%)

The project in order to challenge the existing gap gave priority to women as selection criteria and therefore 252(63%) are FHHs from the total 400 beneficiaries for the proposed HABP programme.

Women Participation in Trainings

a) *SILC group leaders on SILC principles, bookkeeping, compliant handling,*

To increase the participation level and Enhance leadership skill of women the project trained *SILC group leaders on SILC principles, bookkeeping, compliant handling* Among the total 72 SILC groups trained 23(32.8%) are women . After the programme capacitated the SILC groups through providing training for leaders and providing orientation for all members; the project provided stationary materials such as: saving box and small stationery items for each SILC groups to facilitate the business recording.

b) *Basic Business Skill (BBS) training*

The project also trained 252 women (63%) of HABP beneficiaries on Basic Business Skill (BBS) training three days, each beneficiary after training each of them developed their own business plan with support of Kebele cooperative offices and project staffs.

c) *HABP specific training*

Three days HABP specific training was provided for only 120 (48M and 72F) beneficiaries, who engaged on livestock production (44) and fattening (76).

Women Engagement in Saving and progress

Women are also actively participating in Saving Within SILC groups. In practice, each member of SILC group is responsible to save 10 to 15 birr (depends on each group bylaw) and the frequency of saving is every week for all groups. Side saving depends on the interest and saving capacity of the individuals. All FHH are actively participating in saving SILC groups are saving on Metemamen Microfinance Institute (MMFI) which is available in their locality and trusted and preferred by all SILC members for its financial security. From the total 332,375 ETB saved by 400 HHs of SILC groups 209,396&25/100 ETB saved by 252 women .

Finally, the project provided ETB10, 000.00 fixed subsidies for 252 women beneficiaries regardless of business type and saving amount.



W/ro Bekelech Derese (Coherence Project HABP participant) packaging butter for sale

Households in financing their business plans by means of subsidy

Initially the project was planned to cover at least 20 to 25% of the total investments and for remaining it was planned to encourage internal saving and creating linkage with other feasible microfinances including RUSACOs. In practice, the project promoted internal saving for one year prior to providing of subsidy among HABP beneficiaries and introduced with Matemamen Microfinance institute for those who have interests to do with.



W/ro. Alemnesh Yohansis (Coherence Project participant with her butter for sale)

Women Progress in Livelihood

The progress tracking shows that all women engaged in different pathways for livelihood strengthening; off farm identified by fattening of small ruminants by and livestock production by of HABP participants are successful.

Many activities are supporting women's empowerment and promoting gender equality however the following were key issues integration focused and achieved.

- Staff is assigned (Coherence project Gender officer) to ensure gender is mainstreamed and women and men, girls and boys have got equal opportunity in the project intervention
- Kebele and Beneficiary targeting criteria and procedure developed by the projects and programmes gives priority to focus on gender issues
- Gender considerations have been mainstreaming on project delivery and impact
- Women-headed households were given priority during targeting to give equal opportunity for men and women, and boys and girls

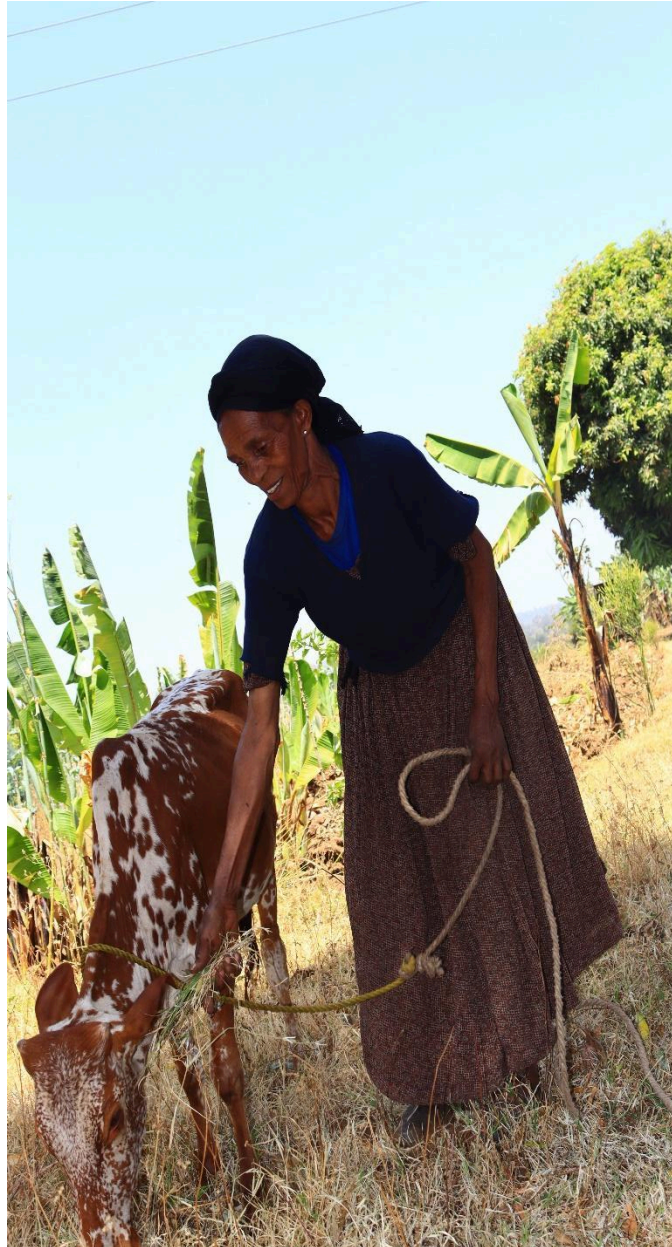


W/ro. Tamenech Markos (Coherence Project HABP participant with her butter for sale)

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- Gender considered during Establishment of Beneficiary Selection Committees (BSC) at kebeles:
- which comprised: Kebele leader, Manager, DAs, HEW (usually a woman), Woman Association representative and at least additional two women
- Targeting of kebeles and beneficiary by Woreda level has also tried to generate gender responsive targeting criteria.
- Women and men participated on the Selected as per the criteria meeting

The distance from the distribution point and the distribution were women's activities and the organization of groups together to and from the point

- The meeting or were begun and daylight hours.
- Sex- disaggregated collected for monitoring and the project
- Diversified opportunities and incomes: Women diversified opportunities and SILC groups
- Secure asset base: The asset base of extremely poor women is broadened and and they have their and independent which should reduce the need for distress sales of assets and resilient during shocks. In addition, they have the confidence and capacity to learn and practice new ideas to adapt to a hunger period because of knowledge of options



were approval of beneficiaries list in a community

meeting and time of considered needs, to permit that can travel distribution

distribution end during

data was targeting, evaluation of interventions.

livelihood independent have new and livelihood through HABP

Markos (Coherence Project HABP participa

strengthened own asset base income streams

- Individual voice and well-being: Having an independent income and their own assets, given women a voice, more choice and more status. More respect in the home and neighborhood and will reduce their vulnerability to GBV
- Participation in SILC groups and other groups given women an opportunity to exercise collective action and air their views in the community.