

Siiqqee Women’s Development Association (SWDA)
Annual Operational Report for the Fiscal Year 2020



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1. Executive Summary

Siiqqee Women's Development Association (SWDA) is founded in 1997 and re-registered as an Ethiopian Resident Charitable Association in October 2009. After re-registration; it has revised its vision and mission. SWDA had renewed its license in 2019. SWDA has engaged itself mainly in improving the lives of women and girls struggling with overwhelming poverty for the past 20 years. To execute its activities and meet its objectives, SWDA has well-organized structure. Hence, the General Assembly of SWDA is the supreme decision-making body that nominates Board of Directors. The Board of Directors oversees the overall activities of the organization while the secretariat facilitates project implementation and the day-to-day activities. There are projects in intervention areas that are managed by field coordinators. There are also social workers and community facilitators recruited from within the community and serve on voluntary basis.

SWDA's vision is "to see disadvantaged and marginalized women; girls and children in Ethiopia live with dignity and security" and its mission is "to enable disadvantage women; girls and children in Ethiopia improve their social and economic wellbeing and develop their capacity as active, productive and respected members of their community". It intervenes in eight program areas. SWDA's women focused programs are categorized in to five major areas. These are: Women's socio economic empowerment, Women's Literacy and Girls' Education, Women's and girls' health risks, Sustainable Environment and Community Based Child Care.

For the year 2020, SWDA secured a total amount of ETB **24,021,691.43** with which it implemented eleven projects significant to its vision and mission, in six zones of Oromia region; namely: East Wollega, Arsi, South West Showa, Bedelle, Ilu Ababora and Sebeta town. The organization utilized 14,251,772.52 birr and benefited **30,360** and **151,800** community members directly and indirectly respectively. The total program cost was Birr 12,322,384.258(86.46%) and administrative cost constitutes 1,929,388.94(13.54%). Summing up of major activities undertaken during the reporting year is discussed in the succeeding section. This report covers all the organization's activities planned and accomplished during the period of January 1/2020 to December 31/2020. The report also narrates challenges encountered, lessons learned and success stories. Additional documents are annexed for further clarification and to complement the report with evidences.

1. Introduction

Corresponding to the program scope and areas of intervention clearly defined in its strategic plan, Siiqqee has integrated program issues in each of its projects to address the multifaceted development problems mainly affecting women in the targeted communities across the country. The organization program intervention areas are:

- Women's socio economic empowerment
- Women's Literacy and Girls' Education
- Women's and girls' health hazard
- Community Based Child Care
- Sustainable Environment

In the reporting year, eleven/11/ projects that address SWDA's thematic areas of intervention were implemented in all project locations (Sebeta, Bokoji, Goro, Ameya, Nekemte, Jima Arjo, Sasiga, Guto Gida, Bedele and Ilu babora woredas). As much as possible, the projects aimed to address the diverse needs of women across the project intervention areas.

2. Programmatic Interventions and Obtained Results

2.1. Women Socio Economic Empowerment Program

Women's empowerment is the process of achieving women's equal access to and control over social, economic resources and ensuring they can use them to exert increased control over other areas of their lives. Empowerment is the process that creates power in individuals over their own lives, society and in their communities. "This puts a strong emphasis on participation in political structures and formal decision-making and, in the economic sphere, on the ability to obtain an income that enables participation in economic decision-making Women's economic empowerment includes women's ability to participate equally in existing markets; their access to and control over productive resources, access to decent work, control over their own time, lives and bodies; and increased voice, agency and meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels. Despite their contribution in the Country's GDP, they are not benefiting much from it. Hence, SWDA strives to boost women's role in economic, social and political aspects through its empowerment program to fulfill its vision and mission. This has affected the country's development in terms of social, economic and political sectors.

Scarcity of women's basic rights which includes but not limited to inequality, illiteracy, economic dependency, pressure groups, lack of awareness, lack of security, lack of access to services, lack of opportunities etc. Furthermore, less involvement in decision making process, reproductive and sexual health, low wages, risky child delivery, poor health, inhuman social customs and traditions, sexual and physical violence are other general problems faced by women in our society. The importance of women empowerment cannot be neglected in the modern world. Women face tremendous socio-cultural and economic obstacles in their development. This disengagement of women from power has centuries old deep roots in local traditions. Though the government has been playing its role to provide equal opportunities to both male and female to participate in common activities to ensure their contributions in every field of life which will lead to national development, the problems remain untouched. Hence, more intervention is demanded and cognizant of this, Siiqqee has been playing its role to contribute its share to address socio economic issues of women and girls through its different projects. To this end, projects that focused mainly on the improvement of socio economic issues of women were implemented in five project areas.

Currently, around 1,060 poor and marginalized women are organized in self-help groups and Village Saving and lending Association became empowered socially, politically and economically. The women are from South West Shoa zone Goro woreda/800/, East Wollega zone Guto Gidda woreda and Nekemte town/100/ and Arsi zone Bokoji town/160/. The ultimate goal of the project/program of women economic empowerment as stated in the "vision mission statement" is to see women live with dignity and security as respected, active and productive citizens in the society. Therefore, the following results were achieved in terms of social and economic interventions:

- The VSLA and SHG members saved nearly 900,000 birr and accessed loan from the SHG savings and solved their financial problems. Moreover, they are involved in different income generating activities and created job opportunities for themselves and their family members.
- The women gained knowledge and skill and built confidence due to various trainings they got during the program.
- The SHG members established close relationship and solidarity. They built confidence and started expressing themselves and their ideas in public as a result of the leadership skills they developed through rotational leadership in their respective groups.

- All SHG members have the right to use loan and are involved in individual IGAs depending on their interest and capability. According to community facilitators' daily recordings and ledger of SHGs, of the total SHG members, all the women have started generating income.
- Enhanced qualities of businesses: they are engaged in better returns on investments and promising income at a household level. Based on the field offices' report, SHGs' financial records and community facilitators' reports, all SHG member women got access to internal loan from their own saving. As a result, all of the women are engaged in various income generating activities after getting business skill trainings that helped them to have exhibited changes in various aspects.
- Sequentially to concentrate on social problems faced by the communities, various community driven development activities were accomplished by the communities themselves within their locality. Indigenous resources were mobilized to solve social problems. The communities participated in the construction of nursery sites, plantation of tree seedling and maintenance of erosion canals with their money, labour and time.

2.2. Women's Literacy and Girls' Education

The major and successful intervention areas needed to address women's problems is education. SWDA recognizes education as the ideal key to unlock women's potentials so that they could address their own problems. Having acknowledged the results of education in changing women's lives and the contribution of educated women to the development of their nation, SWDA took the initiative to address women's illiteracy and girls' education in an exclusive manner.

2.2.1. Girls' Education

Girls' education focuses on ensuring girl-students' learning through creating conducive school environment and provision of educational materials support. Creating conducive school environment involves construction of separate latrine for girls and boys, construction of libraries, establish and furnish girls clubs in the school compounds. Provision of counseling/mentoring and tutorial services for female students are also parts of this program. It also considers construction of additional classrooms. On the other hand, the education support entails provision of school uniforms, food support and provision of free counseling and tutorial services for girls from needy families. With modest sum of funds obtained from two donors, i.e., Partnership for Change and Girls Gotta

Run Foundation, two different projects that address education problems in two woredas were implemented.

Education seems to be luxury for girls from poor and marginalized families. Most rural girls are not lucky to pursue their education due to several challenges. One of the major problems of girls' school dropout is economic problem. To reduce number of girls' dropout due to economic problem, two projects that strategized girls' entrepreneurship and educational support and athletic girls' scholarship have been launched to support 248 girls at Sebeta(168) and Bokoji(80). 201 girls attend primary and secondary schools, 27 attended TVET & college, 18 entrepreneurs who got training on tailoring have started their own business while 2 girls graduated from university. The project proposed entrepreneurship, school materials support, athletic gear and skill training as well as mentorship as the main strategies for the girls to be kept at school and colleges. The project got acceptance and as a result of the fund obtained from Partnership for Change and Girls Gotta Run foundation, the girls who were on the border of dropping out of school were retained in school. In addition, two girls graduated from University in the reporting period. In addition to the academic performance, the girls get trainings on gender, Reproductive Health, Basic Business development, guidance and counseling sessions by trained and oriented trainers and teachers. In order to create a means of income for girls, they were trained in sewing skills and they started making sweaters, scarves and hats that could be sold and generate income to support themselves and their families in the future. Beside these activities, PFC started construction of girl's center in Sebeta city administration and currently the building is on the final stage. On the other hand; the Girls Gotta Run Foundation supports 80 destitute girls with academic scholarship and athletics career. The girls do athletics training four times a week. They have a professional coach that helps them with the training which has different patterns and their career is improving.

The following results were obtained from the intervention:

- Two girls graduated from university in degree from PFC project.
- 27 girls attended TVET and college programs from PCF project
- 32 blind girls develop self care on support of cane and voice recorder
- All girls in the project have improved their educational performances
- Due to the provision of financial and material support to 248 needy girl-students, they were able to pursue their primary, secondary, college and University educations.

- 18 entrepreneur girls able to run their own business,
- The athletic girls participated in different werda, zonal, regional and National championship and won races. Out of forty (40), seventeen girls revealed the best performance in woreda, zonal, regional competitions.
- 4 girls girl recruited by the regional athletics program and joined to the renowned athletic camp.
- The other six girls are also doing their best on March 8 computation in Addis Ababa and scored attractive ranks.
- The girls became assertive, self-supportive and model to other girls in their respective schools and their community.

2.3. Reduction of Women and Girls' Health Risks/reduction of Harmful Traditional Practices and Gender Based Violence, Sexual reproductive Health/

By virtue of their gender identity and social statuses associated with it, women and girls are vulnerable to various kinds of health hazards. They often encounter physical, psychological and social damages in their lives in one or another way and this needs due attention. Since its establishment, SWDA has been implementing health education and provide psychosocial support to reduce and/or avert the health risks encountered by the women. Through integrating health education and socio economic empowerment program, over 12,000 community members were addressed and got sexual and reproductive health education. As a result of the intervention, the community members got awareness on how to protect women from possible health hazards that put them at risk of biological, psychological, social and economic problems.

Due to the intervention made to change knowledge, attitude and practice of the target communities on sexual and reproductive health right issues through enhancing their participation. The community conversation and school discussion were conducted in 16 kebeles and 10 schools for six rounds at Goro & Ameya. Totally a member of 4,367 communities/women, elders & youth/ and 3,011 students/girls & boys/ participated on events/dialogue.

Accordingly, Changes in social norms and institutions were noticed due to the platform created that led to the following intermediate outcomes.

- The wider community approved and authorized the issues which identified by community groups /elders & boys and schools /girls and boys/ and decided to implemented in their community based organizations like iddir

- Selected community groups from local community and schools consolidated issues and action points and submitted to concerned government sectors
- After the discussion held on socio economic problems pertaining to women and girls, the community perception has changed and women began participating in small businesses that generated income for house consumption,
- Improved their understanding to defeat prohibited beliefs towards, women and girls health factors which raised their awareness to device local strategies to reduce the risks,
- The cumulative effect brought about was mass awareness and behavioral change to reduce women and girls health risk factors.

2.4. Sustainable Environment

Environmental sustainability is concerned with whether environmental resources will be protected and maintained for future generations. Sustainable environment program has been one of the large concerns of SWDA; given environment has greater impact on women's lives. As a cross cutting issue, the matter of environment is not limited to a single project but is mainstreamed in the entire project interventions. Siiqqee took the initiative to mobilize funds from different sources to intervene the issue of environment. Through a fund obtained from a Norwegian organization called Partnership for Change, Daleti Ecological Center has been being strengthened and infrastructure development has been undergoing. In the reporting period, a production of potatoes in ¼ hector and harvesting 900 Kg and honey bee produced in modern/14/ and traditional/4/ways and harvesting 9Kg as the demonstration center for the community too. In addition, over 200 indigenous tree seedlings were planted and totally around 2000 seedling and trees are found in the garden.

Another project entitled, "Build Climate Change Resilient Economic Capacity and Environmental Protection Role of Ethiopian Women through Integrated Approaches" is being implemented in East Wollega zone Jimma Arjo woreda. This project was realized through the donation of SIDA through UEWCA and it targeted 53,570 beneficiaries. This three year project intervention was launched in June 30, 2017 and finalized in December 2020. The following major results were achieved:

- More than 150,000 peoples were accessed updated COVID-19 information by local language through Nekemte FM 96.1,
- More than 10,000 peoples have been using the water containers for protection of COVID-19 through hand washing,
- 80 destitute women were saved from food insecurity,
- More than 25000 community have been gain information of COVID-19 which found in far distance
- 90 sheep were supported for 45 poorest women for fattening and breeding
- Approximately 50,000 people have gotten information of climate change mitigation from the billboard erected at different locations,
- 108 HHs were attended on water shade management practices like, SWC structure ,plantation of tree seedlings,



Photo:-Watershed and dam@Jima Provison of COVID19 protection materials Arjo/Wolega/

3. Approaches Utilized to Intervene

SWDA used different approaches for ease implementation of project activities. The major ones are: formation of Self Help Group, community conversation, working in collaboration with stakeholders, involving CBOs and government structures and community participation. The strategies employed, the way staff & volunteers handle beneficiaries, the trainings provided and awareness created, close follow-up of the progress of the project activities have contributed for the results achieved.

3.1. Formation of Self Help Groups

The self help approach is a successful instrument for combating poverty in a sustainable way. It empowers the very poor, the majority being women, socially, economically and politically empowering them to live a life of dignity with their children in the community. This is one of SWDA's excellence areas of intervention through which marginalized women's socio economic needs are addressed and strategy to enable them generates their own income. Besides, the approach had played significant role in providing them safe space for their social empowerment.

3.2. Community Conversation (CC) and school discussion

Community conversation build awareness about the purpose and activities of the starter group, begins a community dialogue and visioning about children and child well-being, and leads to the identification of priority areas that lead towards planning. It is important to see the conversations not as a means to an end, but as a way to build momentum, understanding, and ongoing participation from different groups in the primary focus group. This is a key opportunity to lay a good foundation for structured participation and community ownership. Community Conversation and school discussion are another approach used to bring mass awareness among the target communities and schools with issues pertaining to women and girls health risk factors and associated socio economic problems. The communities are selected from Male and youth groups and schools, the total number of participants in a group were 50, (25 Male and 25 Youth) and (25 Male and 25 Female) respectively. The discussion is held twice a month for six months. It served as a platform where community members in the targeted kebeles hold conversation on various issues prevailing in their locality and take collective action to change the situation.

3.3. Community Participation

Community participation can contribute greatly to the effectiveness and efficient of the program. For this result it is important to identify key influencers from different stakeholders. As it has been one of the intense intervention strategies, meaningful participation of concerned stakeholders has catalyzed the change observed. Community elders, Woreda & Kebele Women, Women Children and Youth Affairs' Office, Kebele administrations, health extension workers, militias, teachers, cooperative Office, education office, the

police and justice office were the local government sector offices that played significant roles in bringing the changes.

4. Administrative Activities

SWDA has been doing its activities within the limit of the obtainable finance and manpower to accomplish its plans without compromising its vision and mission. In the reporting period, the organization has utilized human and financial resources.

4.1. Human Resources & Finance

SWDA has experienced; fervent and dedicated work force that has well-known capacity to undertake any activities pertinent to the organization’s mission and vision. There were a total of 40 full time staff (19 Female and 21 Male) qualified and 2 advisors in Management, development studies, project management, Economics, Agriculture, Accountant & finance, sociology & social work, Environmental studies, Law, gender studies, IT, and business fields with academic qualifications ranging from diploma to master’s degree. There are also 17 volunteers who gave their time to support the organization as community facilitators and 24 peer to peer session organizers at Goro, Bokoji, Debo Hana and Ameya project sites. In addition SWDA’s board members profiles are as follows

SWDA Board and Staff profile

Siiqqee Women’s Development Association (SWDA)

Governing Body of the Organization

No	Name of Governing Body	Qualification	Position	Address	
				Tel.	E-mail
1	Wz. Selamawit Terefe Tiruneh	LLB Degree	Board Chair person	+251-911205472	selamtere@yahoo.com
2	Ato Wakshuma Terefe Gute	MSc Degree	Board Vice Chair Person	+251-911102010	wakshuma@gmail.com
3	Ato Fasil Solomon	MA degree	Board	+251-	fasil6366@yahoo.com

			Member	912644643	
4	Wz. Samiya Mohhamed	MA degree	Member	+251- 911009616	nuwelin1@gmail.com
5	Wz. Wude Atenafu	LLB	Member	+251- 967612335	-
6	Wz. Abeba Tesfaye	College	Member	+251- 911480221	abeba.tkirkos@gmail.com
7	Ato Gemechis Didi	MA degree	Member	+251- 911653402	cgemechisdidi@gmail.com

Table 1:- profile of board members

4.2. Finance

The financial activities of the organization were undertaken in line with financial policies and legislations of the government and SWDA's manual. Almost the organization's entire source of finance is from project and program grants from donor organizations. The organization adhered to the 20/80 CSA legislation in allocating budget for administrative and program cost. The proportion of program and administrative cost for this year was 86.46% and 13.54% respectively. The financial report is annexed to this report (See Annex 2).

5. Other Activities

5.1. Partnership and Network

Partnerships and networks can come out at different levels. It might also come from conversations between workers and partners at inter-agency training sessions or conferences, where shared interests are identified and an exchange of ideas and information can enrich the practice of both. This in itself would be a positive outcome of networking, but if taken further it might lead to a more formal partnership between organizations. So working in partnership can be small-scale, local and temporary, and it can also involve formal arrangements between one or more organizations working together across regional boundaries over a period of time. Partnership and networking are the key approaches to effectively undertake project activities, maintaining good

relationship with existing donors and attract new donors. All of the projects and programs were implemented in cooperation with local authorities, and in accordance with government policy legislation. The projects and programs have been implemented in collaboration and consultation with concerned government line departments. All concerned bodies were communicated about the project from the planning stage till phase out stage. Assessments and follow up of the projects and program were being accomplished through the project/program quarter review meetings and annual project evaluations. Particularly in the reporting period, discussions were held with women's affairs, kebele administrators, and other local law enforcing bodies during project identification, selection and organization of women self-help groups (SHGs) and on issues concerning community at large.

While maintaining the existing good relationships with its partners, SWDA has also tried to establish new partnership with government organizations and non-government organizations like Packard foundation, Malala, and Plan International, and the Netherland Embassy through Womankind Worldwide, a UK based longtime partner.

5.2. Resource mobilization

Proposal writing is the most admired resources mobilization strategy and plead for fund in SWDA. In this reporting year, proposals were developed and submitted among potential donors. Out of these, the project proposal submitted to Amplify Change, Packard foundation, Malal, Plan international and AWESOME/ Netherland embassy through Womankind got funding awards. Agreement was signed with all donors and the project is undergoing in Arsi, Metu, Bedele and Oromia special zones in selected woredas. In addition we sign agreement with concerned government sectors in each zone and woredas.

5.3. Meetings, Workshops and Events

Due to COVID 19 few meetings and workshops organized and held in the year. Monthly meetings of the management committee and quarter meetings of the board were part of it where participants discussed and have conceded decisions on important issues. But annual meeting of the General Assembly were not conducted due to COVID 19 and restriction of government public statement. SWDA has been invited to attend a small number of workshops and meetings hosted by different government sectors and NGOs where relevant staffs from the field offices and head office were attended. The participants

brought new knowledge, information, learning and created connections with representatives of organizations that will help to establish partnership with them.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Follow up

6.1. Monitoring and follow up

Even if the constant project monitoring and follow up were broken as per the project plan at field level, by design new strategies Outcomes and performances of projects were monitored and follow up in part as per the project plan. A consistent follow up was also made through both at field and head office level.

- Field coordinators, social workers and other staffs of each project offices conducted a regular monitoring and follow up with local stakeholders,
- Field staffs were monitoring clients with different communication channels like telegram, Imo, messenger,
- The women in SHGs were followed up during their weekly saving group meetings at Jima arjo, Bokoji and Goro,
- Head office staffs made a quarterly monitoring and follow up where additional assistance is needed,
- Continuous follow ups were also made by concerned government bodies; in different structures, namely: Finance and economic development, Women and children affairs office, Education office, justice and Police, School principals from the community schools, agriculture extension workers and health extension workers.
- In addition partners and donors visited project intervention areas according to their plan.

6.2. Evaluation

Terminal evaluation of a project was conducted 'Women's Saving Group and Athletic Girls Scholarship project in Arsi one Bokoji woreda'. The result of final evaluation had valid recommendations and feedback as an outcome to continue such development interventions in the same program for new areas in the same zones.

7. Documentary film, policy and manual development

7.1. Documentary film

SWDA's prepared a documentary film on project '**Build Climate Change Resilient Economic Capacity and Environmental Protection Role of Ethiopian Women through Integrated Approaches**' at Jima Arjo to identifying the major achievements.

7.2. Policy and manual Development

GBV policy analysis manual developed and the training provided for targeted project communities at Goro and Bokoji projects.

8. Challenges Encountered and Solutions Sought

8.1. Challenges Encountered

- Pandemic of COVID 19
- Lack of suitable transportation condition to monitor each Kebeles of our project works.
- Expectancy of some sector offices to pay them per diem while working together.
- Security matters in intervention areas have been the leading challenge for the field office and head office. This affected the efficiency of the projects.
- The unremitting turnover of woreda administration and sector official. There was high turnover of stakeholder office officials and it was challenge for project implementation. But the project tried to work with delegated person and experts.
- Problems of a means of communication: the internet connection was intermittent and we could not have connection for long while, with our partners and among ourselves.
- High price Inflation: due to currency adjustment and devaluation of birr, the purchasing power of domestic currency has declined and hence it was difficult for us to cope with the ever-increasing market cost.

8.2. Solutions Sought

- Made awareness creation among community and stakeholders on prevention of COVID 19.

- Using available means of public transportation and motor bicycle to solve transportation problems that affect these works
- Contacting officials at their convenience and never procrastinating a planned issue that requires the involvement of key officials
- Effectively working with stakeholders and communities during serenity time
- The project tried to work with delegated person and experts
- The project staffs using different means like postal and phone call
- We were using local resource and increase the participation of communities and Value for money and efficient utilization of available resources;

9. Lessons Learned

The following lessons were documented as a result of our intervention while implementing the projects and programs:

- To reduce the issues of Gender Based Violence the collaboration of concerned parties like government offices, community and other partners play a major role
- The initiation of community play down, due to disapproval budget on behalf of donated parties (CSSP 2)
- Communities are initiated to solve their local issues with little support and consultation of others (partners, stake holders....)
- Local communities are pioneer to adopt modern technologies or practices.
- Premium transparency and cooperation with government line departments; the achievement would be excellent. Because the project was discussed on each project activities planned budget with concerning body.
- Community conversation/dialogue is the most important approach in development interventions; Community led initiatives are crucial catalyst for projects particularly focusing on advocacy;
- Appreciative inquiries help to easily trace the existing deep rooted social problems that are seen as a taboo for long time.
- Village credit and saving Groups, Cooperatives and Self Help Groups are the best information sources for projects that focus on women's socio economic empowerment;
- On project development, assessing the real needs and priorities of a given community would make the project implementation more successful;`

10. Conclusions & Recommendations

SWDA implemented eleven/11/ formally signed projects in eleven/11/woredas (Bokoji, Sebeta, Goro, Ameya, Nekemte, Jima Arjo, Guto Gida, Sasiga, Borecha, Metu & Debo Hana). The organization has been using self-help, Community conversation and Community participation approaches to address the varying socio economic problems of women to help them help themselves. Thousands of women were enabled to create village financing through promotion of village saving and credit and self-help approach. Most of them have become business owners. They were able to send their children to schools and feed them properly. They were also able to create resources. Many farmers were using modern technologies and protecting environmental challenges. However it is challenging to grow their income through helping them to engage in better business. The following aspects should be considered to better address women's issues: transportation fee for girls, assertive and entrepreneurship trainings, diversified business opportunities, low interest credit schemes, working places and creating value chain.

SWDA is paying attention on socio economic empowerment of women so they can grow into a self-sufficient district. This has created conditions for the communities to rely on their capacity and initiatives in defining problems, planning and designing path of action, so as to reduce dependence on external resources. SWDA's main purpose is to develop community confidence, competence, and local leadership. Continued efforts are needed to develop the capacity of the women so they can see and identify their own strengths, and identify resources within reach. To this end, SWDA is making great effort to change the living conditions of women, girls and all destitute communities by mobilizing local resources and realize their potentials. Lastly SWDA gave emphasis for the prevention of COVID 19 in all our program interventions.

11. Case story

My name is Daditu Dejene. I was born in 1993 Ethiopian Colander in one of the rural kebel of Shawa. Before I joined Siiqqee's program I followed my education staying at my parents place. I passed through hardship and many difficult situations while I attend school in the countryside. Our house is far from school, it takes one and half hour walk, which means, I traveled three hours per day to study. After I joined grad 8, a man tried to rape and abducts me. Fortunately with the help of kind people I skipped from him and ran to my grandmother's place in Sebeta. She helped me to restart my education, however she has no financial capacity to support me fully but I do want to

continue my education. While I was suffering with that the information of Siiqqee & PFC's program came to my school. My school selected me because they know my academic performance is very good, and they gave me the opportunity to join Siiqqee's program.

After that I got hope and encouraged to concentrate on my study. That is because the program covers my expenses for so many things and the training I attended helped me to understand many things. I took grad ten exams scored a very good mark and joined preparatory. During that time my grandmother told to stop school and stay at home to help her at home. I was very much disappointed and my heart was broken with the idea of stopping class, and I went to Siiqqee's office to report the situation. I discussed with the project coordinator (Hana). She advised me not to stop school but to try some income generating activities parallel to my regular class. Then I started small business on my part time. Basic business development, assertiveness and other trainings I got from Siiqqee have helped me to survive and not to be dropped out from school. This year I am getting ready to take the national exam and hopefully, I will join University by next year.

Even though I passed through many challenges while I was in the country side, and I faced again more challenges in the town. I know COVID 19 is the big challenge for the entire world including my own country. But for me it was an opportunity to some extent, because during the lockdown, I was working hard on my business and expanded it from coffee to other types of drinks such as *Shameta*, *Beso*, *Kolo* and fuel wood and charcoal selling. I also do knitting by taking order from people. When the school reopens I will have enough capital and will start my education with a better capacity.

My future plan is to join medical school that helps me to support poor people who cannot afford to get medical treatment. Helping people and leading them to a better life is what I learn from Siiqqee, I know I can do this.



Photo: Daditu Dejene Adolescent girl's member at Sebeta

Annexure 1. Financial Report