

ADHENO Integrated Rural Development Association

2022 ADHENO's General Assembly (GA) Meeting Report

On 30th March 2023, ADHENO has convened a general assembly meeting at Ethiopia Hotel.

Ato Yonathan Fikre, ADHENO's Executive Director, welcomed participants, thanked for coming and explained the purpose of the meeting. He invited ADHENO's board Chair to make an opening speech.

ADHENO's Board Chair person, Dr. Yamrot Kinfu, made an opening speech and invited guests for a minute silence to remember Dr. Fisseha Hailemeskel (ADHENO's founding member and former executive director) and Mr. Admasu Mandefro (GA member) who passed away in 2022. Agenda of the General Assembly meeting included: physical and financial performance report, audit report, plan for 2023, discussion and endorsement of the two reports and plan. *Ato Taye Belachew and Ms Beza Fisseha* were selected to chair the meeting.

Ato Sefinew Demlie, ADHENO's Program Officer, presented the 2022 annual performance report on projects which include: All We Can, Dir Biyabir, Way2help, Asrat Foundation and individual sponsors. Ato Sefinew conveyed that trainings and experience sharing events took place in Cherkos and Amangult kebeles on natural resource management initiatives. Following such events, inputs such as tree seeds and tools were provided. As a result, physical and biological structures were built through terracing and planting trees. Significant numbers of trees were planted through tree Gudifecha strategy in designated places. Four water points were also developed and more than 800 people got access to pure & potable water in Amangult Kebele.

In order to ensure food security and improve livelihoods of rural communities, training and experience sharing events were undertaken on improved potato seed production, improved poultry breeds management and improved animal breeds. Different improved potato seeds were delivered to selected community members. Moreover, improved chicken breeds were also given for 100 poor rural women to empower them economically. Additionally, selected community members were given improved heifers and cows to engage them in dairy farming.

It was also reported on different school support programs to economically disadvantaged students. Students received stationary materials, sanitary materials, paying house rents, uniforms and covering transportation costs in 2022.

Besides development related project activities, in his report, *Ato Sefinew* further stated that ADHENO has been implementing different emergency relief assistances to internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltered in Debre-Birhan, Ataye & Shewarobit. In collaboration with partners such as Dir Biyabir, ADHENO delivered lifesaving food items and non-food items to IDPs.

A representative from Abreham Berhanu Chartered Certified Audit Firm reported ADHENO's 2022 Audit report. He has given a brief explanation on the report. The Audit Firm indicated that the audit report was conducted in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting

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Standard(IPSAS) which is required to be adopted in Ethiopia for all NGOs since 2019 based on the financial of Ethiopia proclamation No 874/2014 art5(1) and art54(1). This is the first time that ADHENO has used IPSAS.

As a result, the audit firm found that the audit report was found complete where financial statements of the organization are fair and transparent based on thorough research. The report fulfills all legal and procedural requirements. Besides, the total program cost was found to be 82.78% where the Administrative Expenditure was found to be 17.22% of the total expenditure of the association. This fulfills the program and administration ratio as stipulated by the Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE).

The next agenda was introducing the 2023 annual plan. *Ato Yonathan Fikre, ADHENO's Executive Director*, presented the 2023 operational plan on different projects. The projects included: All We Can, Semain Shoa Biruh Aemiro Scholarship, Restocking Looted Schools and Health Station in Shewarobit, Renovating Cherkos Primary School, Supporting Underprivileged Students in Debre-Berhan and Shewarobit, and School Girls Support Programs.

In this regard, *Ato Yonathan* clearly stated the expected outcomes which comprises strengthen rural people to manage natural resources and water points development; enhanced livelihoods of targeted households through ensuring food and nutrition security; improved socio-economic situations women and unemployed youth; well promoted quality of education through trainings, rebuilding & renovating schools and materials provisions; supporting underprivileged students; and improved monitoring and evaluations undertakings. The total budget for 2023 is 11,953,829 ETB.

Based on the reports and plan presented, participants asked different clarification and technical questions and provided important ideas. ADHENO staff addressed the issues raised with brief answers and explanations. Finally, the GA endorsed the two reports and the plan for 2023.

The next agenda was a testimony from beneficiary farmers and school support programs. Most importantly, a farmer from Cherkos kebele was in attendance at the GA meeting to give his testimony representing the community on how ADHENO has changed the lives of rural people. He said that for the last 30 years, the communities were unable to produce sufficient products due to climate change effects. They were receiving food aids from the government and non-governmental organizations especially during the winter season (Kiremt). He expressed that ADHENO has conducted assessments on what can be done in the community. Then, AHENO came up with effective strategies aimed at improving the livelihoods of the community. In this regard, ADHENO has been providing trainings on natural resource management, potato production and livestock management initiatives.

Also, the community received improved potato seeds, improved cattle breeds, and improved chicken breeds to ensure food security and improve livelihoods. He made sure that the community ensured food security concerns in their community and improving their livelihoods. They no longer need any aid/assistances according to him.

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A beneficiary of ADHENO's School Girls Support Program was present at the GA meeting and she gave her testimony how ADHENO helped her until she completed her bachelor degree program. Currently, she is working with Dashen Bank. Another current beneficiary student, Assefa Yirgu, was also present at the GA. He is a 4th year Dental school student at Black Lion Hospital. He appreciated ADHENO for such priceless supports he is getting. Upon the completion of his studies, he pledged to be active alumni of ADHENO and service communities.

A closing remark was made by Dr. Yared Amare, ADHENO's Vice board chair person. He thanked everyone for the wonderful contributions for such a successful GA meeting.



Picture 1: A minute silence for Dr. Fisseha Hailemeskel & Ato Admasu Mandefro



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Picture 2: *Ato Sefinew, ADHENO's Program Officer*, reporting the 2022 performance report



Picture 3: *Ato Isayias, ADHENO's Projects Coordinator*, addressing questions raised

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Picture 4: Views of Participants of the GA Meeting



Picture 5: A farmer from Muti-cherkos community giving his testimony on the relevance of projects that ADHENO has been undertaking

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Picture 6: Atsede, ADHENO's former school girls support program beneficiary giving her testimony how ADHENO supported her.

Currently, she is working with Dashen Bank.