



Project Activity Report

Project Title: Restocking Looted Schools and a Health Station in Shewarobit Town, North Shoa Zone of Amhara Regional State

Implementing Organization: ADEHNO Integrated Rural Development Association

Funding Organization: Dir Biyabir

Project beneficiary: Four Elementary Schools, One Secondary School and a Health Station

Project Period: One year



May 2023

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Executive Summary

ADHENO Integrate Rural Development Association implemented a project on **Restocking Looted and Demolished Schools and Health Facilities in Shewarobit Town** due to the Northern Ethiopia armed conflict. Dir Biyabir exclusively funded the project and ADHENO managed all assessment processes, logistics of purchasing, transporting and delivering items to selected schools and the health station.

Prior to implementing the project, ADHENO conducted a needs assessment on 18 schools and one health station. The assessment was conducted in collaboration with the office of education and other relevant sectors of Shewarobit town. Based on the assessment results, four elementary schools and one secondary school were found highly affected by the war. The lists of schools consist of Shewarobit Secondary School, Wurba, Robi-Zuti, Hedase and Chare Primary Schools. Shewarobit Health Station was also identified by the health secretariat office to be supported by chemistry machine as it was the most pressing need of the health station.

The items were delivered in two phases. During the delivery of items in the first phase, the deputy Mayor of Shewarobit town Ato Alemayehu Teshome & other officials were present. In his speech Ato Alemayehu appreciated Dir Biyabir & members for such treasured support by coordinating the diaspora community which clearly shows how unity matters. He further conveyed that as an organization, Dir Biyabir proved itself from a proverb into practice by funding such an extraordinary project to replace looted & damaged school inputs. Items delivered in Phase one (1) consists of desktop computers, a generator, printers, chemistry machine, and laboratory equipment.

Items distributed in the second phase were more of school furniture which includes desks, laboratory tables, chairs, lockers, benches, laboratory stools, tables for preschool students among others.

1. Background of ADHENO

[ADHENO Integrated Rural Development Association](#) (ADHENO) was established in 2002 G.C. and re-registered as “Local Organization” (Reg.No.0353) based on proclamation № 1113/2019 of Civil Society Organizations. ADHENO aspires to see healthy, socially and economically empowered, and self-sufficient rural people with sustained livelihoods. ADHENO has been actively working in the North Shewa Zone of Amhara region providing development services on the thematic areas of sustainable environmental rehabilitation, food security and livelihood improvements with a focus on agriculture, gender, health and basic education for more than 20 years and has brought tremendous impacts.

ADHENO has also been actively engaging in humanitarian and emergency relief activities. For instance, it has delivered lifesaving Food and Non-Food Items (NFIs) supports such as mattress, essential clothes, sanitary materials, schooling materials to Ataye communities, Shewarobit Communities, and IDPs sheltered in Debre-Birhan Town with financial supports from Dir Biyabir and the diaspora community.

2. Background Information of the Project

ADHENO has conducted needs assessments on selected looted primary and secondary schools in Shewarobit town. The assessment was conducted in collaboration with relevant government sectors such as the office of education of Shewarobit town to identify needs and type of support for each school and one health station.

During the armed conflict in Northern Ethiopia specifically when TPLF fighters invaded the Shewarobit town, medical equipment and medicine were looted; computers, printers, tables and chairs, library & laboratory inputs were taken away; and windows and doors were broken.

Accordingly, four primary schools and one secondary school were found highly looted and damaged when Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) fighters entered into Shewarobit town in November 2021. Also, the results of the assessment indicated that a chemistry machine was looted from Shewarobit Health Station – the only health station in Shewarobit town and surrounding which was also robbed during the conflict.

The overall objective of the project was to restock and re-equip looted and vandalized schools and the health station. The project was also aimed at equipping schools with essential inputs; reducing school dropouts and enabling students to regularly attend classes by fulfilling essential inputs for the teaching learning processes; and improving access to health services.

Schools were identified based on the extent of the damage and number of students they have been reaching out. These schools included;

1. Wurba Primary School
2. Robi Zuti Primary school
3. Hedase Primary School
4. Chare Primary School and
5. Shewarobit General Secondary school and,
6. Shewarobit Health Station

ADHENO delivered items in two phases.

3. First Phase Donation

ADHENO Integrated Rural Development Association has been implementing a project on *Restocking Looted Schools and a Health Station in Shewarobit town*. All the financial support came from Dir Biyabir, a USA based not-for-profit organization. ADHENO managed all the logistics of purchasing items funded by Dir Biyabir and delivering them to designated schools.

On March 23, 2023, ADHENO delivered items which included desktop computers, generator, printers, chemistry machine, and laboratory equipment in the presence of the Mayor of Shewarobit town, ADEHNO's Executive Director and other officials in Shewarobit town.

4. Messages from Officials

During the provisions of items, Ato Yonathan Fikre (*ADHENO's Executive Director*) said that ADHENO has been working for more than 20 years since it was founded in North Shewa on thematic areas of environmental protection, promoting quality education, income generating activities for women and landless youths, and emergency relief assistances.

Ato Yonathan also said that ADHENO is proud to be an implementing partner of Dir Biyabir in this magnificent project which helps to replace looted items such as educational materials, laboratory equipments, microscope, chemistry machine, desktop computers, printers, projectors to five schools and one health station in the presence of the Mayor of Shewarobit town in the first phase.



Figure 1: Different electronic and other items delivered to schools & the health Station



Figure 2: Ato Yonathan (ADHENO's ED) handing over keys of the generator to Shewarobit secondary school

Moreover, Ato Yonathan mentioned that ADHENO has been implementing other projects in Shewarobit town. One of the projects is *Supporting Underprivileged Students* which supports 50 destitute female students who come from very remote rural areas by covering educational expenses such as house rents, uniform, sanitary and educational material costs. This project is being funded by **Kedmia Lewegen Fundraising Committee of Medhanealem Church** in New York, USA. ADHENO has also been implementing a project on *Economic Empowerment of Sexually Assaulted Women in Shewarobit* funded by **Asrat Foundation** during the northern Ethiopia war where they were given intensive training and startup capital for their respective businesses to help them become economically independent.

During handing over of the items, Deputy Mayor of the Shewarobit town Ato Alemayehu Teshome was present. He gave a [speech and forwarded his great gratitude and appreciation](#) for such priceless material support to schools and a health facility in replacing looted and destroyed materials during the northern Ethiopia armed conflict. In his speech, Ato Alemayehu said that he was surprised by the amount and types of support. He appreciated Dir Biyabir & members for such treasured support by coordinating the diaspora community which clearly shows how unity matters. He added that as an organization, *Dir Biyabir* proved itself from a proverb into practice by funding such a superb project to address pressing social problems through coordinating the diaspora community.

Furthermore, he said that Shewarobit town has been repeatedly attacked by militants which resulted in looting of social services. The support from ADHENO & Dir Biyabir will move the town one step forward. Finally, he truly appreciated the provision of the [generator](#) by stating that the government would not afford it.

In the meantime, Ato Zelalem Mekonen (Head of Shewarobit town Education Office), said that his office has been involved since the needs assessment of schools and the health station. He made sure that all the processes of the project implementation were found unbiased and transparent. In this regard, the office of education in collaboration with the Mayor’s office presented a letter of recognition to ADHENO.



Figure 3: The Mayor of Shewarobit town Ato Alemayehu (Middle) presenting a recognition letter to ADHENO

5. Second Phase Delivery

On May 24, 2023, ADHENO has delivered school furniture which includes desks, laboratory tables, chairs, lockers, benches, laboratory stools, tables for preschool students among others.



Figure 4: Phase 2 delivery of items

Ato Kasahun, *Principal of Hedase Primary School*, said that the school was looted and damaged during the war. According to him, at the beginning of the current academic year, the school pledged to promote quality of education particularly at the pre-school level. However, [lacks of educational inputs have been hindering the full performance of the school](#). Fortunately, ADHENO with the financial support of Dir Biyabir came up with such an impactful project on restocking looted schools and replacing looted and destroyed items. He added that the supports were found tremendous in terms of quantity and quality. ADHENO delivered different items to the school. For instance, the school was provided with [75 tables](#) for the preschool students. At Hedase primary school, students came out from the school compound and have shown their extreme excitement while carrying desks and other items.





Figure 5: While delivering chairs and tables to Hedase Primary School

Ato Aregahegn, *Principal of Chare Primary School*, expressed that the school was looted and damaged when Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) fighters invaded the Shewarobit town. As a result, there were no tables, chairs and other inputs in the laboratory, library, offices and classrooms. He added that the school compound has served as a camp for security forces in different times. Due to such circumstances, the paint on the walls got damaged.

He further said that, fortunately, Dir Biyabir introduced a project on restocking looted schools. And, the school was selected as one of highly affected and demolished schools. To replace the looted items, ADHENO provided different [items which include computers, tables, chairs and paints](#). He expressed his sincere gratitude to ADHENO & Dir Biyabir for such generous support which helps to ensure quality of education. Finally, he recommended that such support may continue.

Finally, Ato Zelalem Mekonen (*Head of the Education Office of Shewarobit Town*) has given a [concluding remark](#) on Phase 2 delivery of items. In his remark, Ato Zelalem offered his sincere thanks to ADHENO & Dir Biyabir on behalf of his office & Shewarobit communities.



Figure 6: Ato Sefinew Demlie (ADHENO's Program Officer, Ato Asalf (Teacher at Robi), Ato Zelalem Mekonen (Head of the Shewarobit Education Office) & Ato Isayias Fikre (ADHENO's Project Coordinator) (Left to right) at Robi Primary School



Figure 7: Trucks on the way to Shewarobit

6. Challenges

While implementing this project, there were several challenges which include the following.

- I. **Security Challenge:** the security situation in Shewarobit area has been very terrifying and unpredictable. We were delayed and canceled several schedules in delivering items due to the continuous fighting between armed groups. Due to the existing active conflict where Wurba primary school is located, ADHENO couldn't make it to deliver items to *Wurba Primary School*. Students and teachers from Wurba have been placed into other neighboring schools such as Robi Zuti. Some items such as office tables and chairs which were supposed to be delivered to Wureba Primary School are stored at the Office of Education. Teachers' locker was provided to Hedase primary school.
- II. **Price increment on items (Inflation):** the price of items got increased. Due to such factors, we were unable to deliver the expected quantity of items. Transportation cost for the trackers was also increased because of security matters. Drivers were afraid of taking risks.
- III. **Unable to deliver reference books due to curriculum change:** the curriculum is under modification. As a result, we need to wait until the curriculum change gets finalized to buy new reference books that will be compatible with the new system.

7. Solutions

Regarding the *security situation*, ADHENO has been closely communicating with the Shewarobit town administration on the security situation. Officials used to give us information when relative peace was restored in the area. However, the peace & security situation were unpredictable and ADHENO staff have been taking risks.

Concerning inflation, we were obliged to reduce the number of items to be delivered while keeping standard of the quality of items.

8. Lessons Learnt

- **Conducting needs Assessment:** One of the key lessons we learnt was conducting a needs assessment to identify the pressing needs of schools that were looted. It assisted us to come up with a practical and real problem solving approach.
- **Good Relationship:** ADHENO was able to establish a fabulous relationship with relevant government sectors. Creating good relationships with government sectors enhanced the smooth implementation of the project. As a result, ADHENO leveraged all the available expertise and consultations from involving sectors while implementing the project.
- **Financial Transparency:** During the project appraisal, ADHENO briefed participating government sectors on the source of the fund and the amount of the project budget in a transparent manner. Due to such collaborative & transparent ways, ADHENO implemented the project successfully. As a result, the administration of Shewarobit town has presented a letter of recognition.
- **Flexibility with the Fragile Security:** ADHENO was able to manage and cope with the highly unpredictable security concerns by closely following up situations with government sectors in Shewarobit.

9. Appendixes

Appendix 1: Summary of Total Items Planned to be delivered to Schools and Health Stations

S/ N	Items	Unit	Total quantity	Name of School				
				Wureba	Robi Zuti	Hedase	Chare	Shewarobit S/School
1.	Library materials							
1.1	Reference books	Number	550					
1.2	Library chairs	//	70		21	14	35	
1.3	Library tables	Each	7		2	2	3	
1.4	Shelves		4		2		2	
2	Laboratory equipment							
2.1	Microscopes	Each	6					6
2.2	Science kit	Each	1	1				
2.3	Models(4 models/set)	set	3	1	1		1	
2.4	Work bench	Number	10		5		5	
2.5	Stool	Number	50		25		25	
3.	Classroom Equipment							
3.1	Teachers locker	Number	1			1		
3.2	Chairs for teachers	Each	13		6	7		
3.3	Tables for teachers	Each	13		6	7		
3.4	Tables for preschools	Number	75			75		
3.5	Paint for class rooms maintenance	Gallon	14				14	
4	ICT materials							
4.1	Desktop computer	Each	2		1		1	
4.2	Printers	Each	2		1		1	
4.3	Projectors	Each	4					4
4.4	Generator 7.5 kb diesel	Each	1					1
5.	Office furniture							
5.1	Office chairs	Each	15	5	5	5		
5.2	Office tables	Each	3	1	1	1		
5.3	Teachers' locker	Each	1			1		
6	Stationery							

S/ N	Items	Unit	Total quantity	Name of School				
				Wureba	Robi Zuti	Hedase	Chare	Shewarobit S/School
6.1	Stationery support for students	Student	-					
6.2	Stationery support to schools	Lump sum	-					
7	Health Station Equipments							
7.1	Chemistry Machine <i>(Shewarobit Health Station)</i>	Each	1					

Table 1: Lists of planned items to be delivered to schools and the health station

Appendix 2: Summary of Actual Items Delivered to Schools and Health Stations in Phase 1 and Phase 2

S/N	Items	Unit	Total quantity	Remark
1	Library materials			
1.1	Reference books	Number		3rd Phase
1.2	Library chairs	//	70	
1.3	Library tables	Each	7	
1.4	Shelves		4	
	Sub-total			
2	Laboratory equipment			
2.1	Microscopes	Each	6	
2.2	Science kit	Each	1	
2.3	Models(4 models/set)	set	3	
2.4	Work bench	Number	10	
2.5	Stool	Number	50	
	Sub-total			
3	Classroom Equipment			
3.1	Teachers locker	Number	1	
3.2	Chairs for teachers	Each	13	
3.3	Tables for teachers	Each	13	
3.4	Tables for preschools	Number	75	
3.5	Paint for classrooms maintenance	Gallon	16	
	Sub-total			
4	ICT materials			
4.1	Desktop computer	Each	2	
4.2	Printers	Each	2	
4.3	Projectors	Each	4	

4.4	Generator 7.5 kb diesel	Each	1	
	Sub-total			
5	Office furniture			
5.1	Office chairs	Each	15	
5.2	Office tables	Each	3	
5.3	Teachers' locker	Each	1	
	Sub-total			
6	Stationery			
6.1	Stationery support for students	Student	-	3rd Phase
6.2	Stationery support to schools	Lump sum	-	3rd Phase
7	Health Station Equipments			
7.1	Chemistry Machine (<i>Shewarobit Health Station</i>)	Each	1	
	Grand Total			

Table 2: Summary of actual delivered items