



A newsletter established to facilitate community action for advancing girls' equal right to education, in education and through education. This ICEDA's monthly newsletter attempts to promote networking & information exchange among CSOs, CBOs and local government bodies on children's rights.

Education is a precious gift for children

Waadaaa Barkumee

**Issue No. 02
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- Dialogue with local authorities
- Strengthening collaboration
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Feature of local leaders

I. Field visit of Mr Henk Van Zuidane and Kinderpostzegels partners meeting

The Project Secretary of Africa at Kinderpostzegel, **Mr. Henk Van Zuidane** has visited the **Dimtu and Yerer Abayi ABE centers** and discussed with the parents, school teachers and the children on the contribution of the basic education program and the construction of latrines in reducing the drop out rate of girls.

During the meeting 20 girls club leaders, 10 mothers forum leaders, 20 community leaders and village cabinet members and 2 teachers, 2 Agricultural development agents were present. The community leaders from the D'E center welcomed Mr. Henk and appeal for a solar energy to attend the evening classes and desks for children.

After the field visits a one day experience sharing meeting of the 8 **Kinderpostzegels'** partners was conducted at Basic Education Association of Ethiopia led by Mr. Henk Van Zuidane.

The meeting was educative and ICEDA has started working with FSCE and ADAA on how to scale up the collaboration at regional level and prepared a project and submitted to Oromia Education Office and National Committee on Traditional Practices of Ethiopia and is negotiating for funding on fighting harmful traditions and values affecting the education of girls in Oromia region.

II. Dialogue with Local Authorities and traditional leaders

ICEDA has conducted quarterly meetings with the local and traditional leaders as well as the East Shoa zone administration. During the meeting, ICEDA requested for more non salary budget for education sector and bringing more female teachers to leadership position.

As a result of the dialogue, 2 teachers have been appointed as house speaker and deputy women affairs head at the woreda administration. In addition to this, local government have assigned teachers for the 12 ABE centers and will promote them to formal schools.



Aba Gedas attending AU summit on Peace in Addis Ababa

III. Strengthening Collaboration & Networking

3.1 FGM Network

One member of ICEDA has participated on the International Zero Tolerance Day on FGM organized by national network of FGM (February 06) and presented an experience sharing paper on combating HTPs through working the girls clubs and traditional leaders.

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ICEDA participated on the annual International day on zero tolerance to FGM, February 06, 2008 in Addis Ababa and presented its best practices for the participants of the events. As a founding member of the network, ICEDA presented a regional anti-HTP program where the networking, the media and traditional leaders are made more active.

3.2. Oromia girls' education forum

ICEDA participated in the 3rd Oromia Girls Education day celebrated in Moyale town of Borena zone. On the occasion, ICEDA awarded bags for 100 most outstanding female students selected from all Oromia zones. In line with the celebration, 3 days conference and visit of 2 rural schools in the Moyale woreda bordering Kenya was conducted.

In this opportunity ICEDA and UNICEF were invited by the Oromia region Education Bureau to present their experience on working against old traditions and values affecting the participation of girls.

3.3 Annual Review meeting of Ministry of Education

ICEDA was invited by Basic Education Association of Ethiopia to participate the 10th annual review meeting of the Ministry of Education conducted in Awasa town and contribute its experience in female education thematic group of the ARM meeting.

3.4. Global week of Action on Education to promote quality education.

ICEDA was one of the organizing committees of the global campaign on Education in the Oromia region on May 16, 2008 at Adama town. The theme of the year was “**Quality Education to end exclusion**”. ICEDA contributed in preparing flyers and banners on how to improve quality education. Three papers were presented on the event girls' Education, Education for persons with disabilities and education for street children.

3.5. Networking with Right to Play (RTP)

ICEDA contacted the Canada-based NGO called **Right to Play (RTP)** to come to the Akaki district to promote the right of vulnerable children to play and learn. After negotiating with the organization, ICEDA signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). As a result RTP trained 25 coaches for 5 days. Also the RTP supported ICEDA with 25 kits for the

coaches to enable them education the children on HTP, gender, HIV/AIDS and inclusion.

IV. Capacity Building Trainings

4.1 Training of teachers and supervisors on mainstreaming child rights & reproductive issues



58 supervisors and teachers were trained for 4 days on harmful traditional practices and values affecting the education of girls and on how to mainstream the issues of child rights and reproductive health in the basic education programs being provided in the woreda.

Prior to the training, the participants were oriented about the joint 2008 Annual plan of operation and how they can participate in the implementation process.

The trainees were grouped into 7 cluster resource centres (CRC) and discussed on how to strengthen their collaboration and how to experience sharing among schools. Insilale primary school was selected to host the girls' education day in June.

. The following topics were presented on the training

- the importance of mainstreaming child rights issues into basic education program in building a democratic society
- Importance of Participating children, parents and community in the planning, implantation, monitoring and evaluation of the project by district education office head
- Facilitating community discussions on harmful traditional practices by an education expert and

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- The importance of mainstreaming reproductive issues into basic education program by experienced nurse from Marie Stopes International and an expert from Oromia Development Association.

4.2 Conducting tutorial service and mainstreaming child rights, HTPs and HIV/AIDS in school programs



This year, as a pilot project, **3852 female students** in the 30 rural schools from grade 1 to 8 have got the tutorial program conducted for 2 hours per week, 4 days per month and 32 contact hours in the 4 months (March-June, 2008) on the subjects' selected by the female students which are found to be difficult to understand. In average, 8 tests were given for the girls to assess their improvement. The 30 schools were selected by the district education office.

Each of the 30 schools have sensitized the girls to establish their own clubs and elect their own leaders to meet weekly and discuss what they have faced within the week and what measure to take whenever they face any attempt of violence in the school or at home.

Some the clubs have even started voluntary monthly contribution of 0.50 cents up to 2 birr to support orphan and vulnerable girls with educational materials.

The topics covered were mainstreaming HTP, HIV/AIDS, and protection of unwanted pregnancies as well as how to counsel girls who come with rape and other harmful traditional cases and how to influence mothers to support the efforts of their daughters by experienced nurse. Also Communication skills and facilitation skills of mothers' forums and girls clubs were other topics covered during the trainings.

Reference materials and reporting monthly formats were translated into Afan Oromo and distributed to the tutors.

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4.3 Training of Centre management committees

42 centre management committee members composed of the 12 villages where the ABE was being conducted were trained for 5 days on participatory school governance by an experience consultant in the field. The reference material was translated into Afan Oromo language and distributed to all the participants. The participants practiced on how to prepare teaching aids and how to assist the facilitator when ever he is absent.

Finally the participants together with the ABE facilitators prepared their plan of action on how to strengthen basic education program in the next year.



4.4 Training of ABE facilitators

12 facilitators (4 female) were trained for 5 days on teaching methodologies, continuous assessment, and teaching aids preparation.

This year, **1081 (36% female)** out of school working children have got access to ABE program in 12 villages with high number of out of school children selected by the district education office. Classes were delivered in a flexible way where the time and days are suitable for the community. In this regard, the students attended 3 days in a week for 3 hours per day.

The following table shows the number of children currently attending the alternative basic education program in 12 centres. Last year the children who were attending our non-formal education program were 762 (273 girls and 489 boys). Out of this, in 2007, 202 children (69 girls and 133 boys) almost 27 percent of them joined regular (formal) schools. Because, the ABE centres were promoted to formal schools and teachers were assigned by the government.