Wolaitta Development Association

Website: www.wolaitta-da.org.et
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Special Edition 2000
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Wolaitta Gutaara Development Center

Wolaitta Gutaara Development Center is a newly established and well equipped training center located in Wolaitta Sodo town. It provides different services such as:

- Suitable rooms for workshops and trainings
- Spacious hall for national and international meetings, conference and weeding and
- Cafeteria services

These services are offered in affordable and reasonable prices with good hospitality. To see current hall rent and services browse our website:

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Wolaitta Development Association

WODA

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INTRODUCTION

Wolaitta is an area endowed with natural resources and climate. Its 438,370 hectare land has numerous rivers, lake, mountains, plains and lowlands. Majority of Wolaitta has a mid highland climate that is favorable for human as well as animal habitation. In this zone more than 2million people claim their home.

92% of the population makes living from subsistence agriculture in which the average farmland holding is not more than 0.41 hectare according to Central Statistical Authority. A lot of crops grow in Wolaitta that include cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables and so on. Though there is land shortage in highlands, in lowlands there is arable that can be used for cultivation. There are also untapped irrigable rivers that can be used for agriculture. In addition to this, raw materials such as coffee, hides, skins, livestock and spices are available that can be input for agro- industries.

The most bountiful resource of Wolaitta is its human resource. If this is appropriately used and mobilized the available manpower can be foremost agent in changing the picture of Wolaitta. Historical sites and scenic resources, among others, residences of kings, caves, ancient graves, stalae, falls, monasteries and hot springs are found in several locations making the area ideal for tourist attraction and recreation.

Soddo, the capital of Wolaitta, is a strategic town located in the hub of southern regional state. It is a junction point of five major roads that network the area with different parts of the country thus making it one of the most prominent business centers in the region.

Quite opposite to the above potentials Wolaitta has become an area with a lot of development problems. Shortage of land, unreliable rainfall, and scarcity of improved agricultural inputs, environmental degradation and the resulting decrease in agricultural production are the impediments in agricultural sector. Except agriculture there are inadequate employment opportunities. In social sector there is shortage of education, health and potable water services. Human diseases such as malaria and others and livestock diseases such as trypanosomiasis are rampant in lowlands while HIV/AIDS has already become socio-economic burden among the society. Last but not least, harmful traditional practices such as overspending and wastage of time, money and other resources during festivals and occasions are becoming an aggravating force to poverty and destitution.

Several actors of development have been engaged to overturn the hitherto mentioned challenges and Wolaitta Development Association is one of them. The association has carried out several activities under different components and it has more or less achieved these activities thanks to collaboration from stakeholders such as the community, government and partners (donors). The association has carried out these activities under five major components such as education and human capital development, economic development, human rights protection, research, advocacy and action and mobilization and promotion. These activities have benefited larger number of community.
THE ORGANIZATION

Wolaitta Development Association (WODA) is one of the indigenous, non-governmental, non-religious and non-profit making developmental organizations in South Ethiopia. The association has legal license, operational and project agreement documents with concerned bodies. The association was established in organized form in Dec. 2000 G.C.

GOAL

Improving the living standard of Wolaitta people

VISION

To see the creation of people, environment and institutions that no longer tolerate poverty, ignorance, oppression and injustice

MISSION

To mobilize and work with people of Wolaitta and others, as time and capacities permit to promote human transformation, seek justice and eliminate poverty and ignorance.

VALUES

1. Inclusiveness
2. Focusing on poor and vulnerable
3. Transparency
4. Community Participation
5. Gender Sensitiveness
6. Cost Effectiveness

Focus Areas

1. Education & Human Capital Development
2. Economic Diversification
3. Advocacy, Research and Action
4. Human Right Protection
5. Mobilization and Promotion

Major Achievements from 2002 to 2007

1. Education and Human Capital Development

1.1. Education

- 1 public library was constructed in Soddo town
- 2 schools were maintained
- 12 schools were expanded
- 6 new schools were constructed
- 7 schools were provided with furniture
- 3 teachers residence were constructed
- 1213 students were supported from non-formal level to university level
- 371 outstanding students were awarded
- 30 primary school teachers were trained on modern teaching methodology
- 62 school management committee were trained on school administration
- 222 community members, teachers and students participated in workshop on gender, education and HIV/AIDS
- 18 girls clubs formed in 18 schools
- 48 TOT teachers were trained on girls club management
- 1 panel discussion on girls education was launched
- 40 radio programs on gender, education and HIV/AIDS were broadcasted in local language
182 girls were awarded for better educational achievement
Discussion was made with 996 high school, college and university students
5 academic competitions were made from primary to high schools
1 learning review meeting was made with stakeholders on education
62 primary school teachers were trained on gender, reproductive health, environment and community mobilization
52 peoples participated on annual review meeting on education projects
4000 copies of posters were printed on girl education
Teaching learning process was launched in Wolaitta Public School
Summer supplementary education launched in 12 high schools

1.2. Health

5 health posts were constructed and furnished
1 health post was maintained and furnished
40 home based care givers were trained
25 Anti –AIDS clubs were established
20 community based HIV/AIDS education programs were launched on market places, schools, etc
135 PLWHAs were supported in home based care, food and medical support
44 PLWHAs are engaged in income generating activities

133 Orphans and Vulnerable Children were supported
639 youth, religious, civil organizations, kebele and local leaders participated in 3 awareness raising workshop on HIV/AIDS
153 peer educators were trained
47 commercial sex workers were trained in peer education
60 community conversation facilitators were trained
41 Community conversations were conducted in 13 kebeles
51 Anti-AIDS club leaders were trained on club management
1 mini media and HIV/AIDS resource center were established at Wolaitta Soddo town
62 poor mothers were provided with reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention and control education
50 radio programs were launched on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS
1 spring was capped and 11km pipeline extension carried out
1 Bore hole was constructed at Bilate Eta

2. Economic/ livelihood/ diversification

13,725 ha of settlement areas was assessed
878 poor farmers were provided with draught oxen
60 youngsters who are organized in fishery association were offered credit
45 poor children were trained in different skills
1. veterinary post was constructed
2. 183 youngsters were engaged in small enterprise development through credit provision
3. 135 mothers were provided with credit
4. 49 cooperatives were supported
5. 87,125 seedlings were planted by voluntary youth at different places of Wolaitta Zone
6. 1 environmental rehabilitation project was carried out
7. 1 environmental conservation center is under construction

3. Research, Advocacy and action

✓ 845 persons with disability were economically empowered and reintegrated to their family
✓ 138 houses were constructed for displaced people
✓ 28 houses were constructed or maintained for poor mothers
✓ 24 workshops were conducted on disability for woreda and kebele administrative bodies in 12 woredas
✓ 1200 agricultural implements were provided to persons with disability
✓ 12 associations of persons with disability were established in all woredas
✓ 12 school clubs of persons with disability were established in 12 high schools
✓ One research on ginger production was supported
✓ Two researches on Wolaitta history were supported

4. Human Rights protection

✓ 14 youngsters were trained on good governance and anti-corruption
✓ 165 legal bodies took part in a workshop on women and children rights
✓ 1 women empowerment project is under implementation
✓ 1,800 youth took part on good governance, democratic culture and youth contribution to development workshop
✓ 5 community HIV/AIDS education programs were launched voluntarily by youth
✓ 50 PLWHAs and OVCs were supported through voluntary youth mobilization
✓ Full Musical instrument and sporting materials were provided to two youth associations

5. Mobilization and promotion

Ω 42 WODA staffs were trained on advocacy
Ω 17 WODA staffs were trained on community participation
✓ Discussions with all government staff and community in all 15 woredas and town administrations on WODA achievements and resource mobilization were conducted
✓ 2 visits to East Ethiopia for cultural show & income generation took place
✓ WODA was advertised in the zone of Wolaitta through music band on two occasions
92 local radio programs were launched on different development issues
2 bazaars and 1 trade fair were launched
Community mobilization was carried out in 295 kebeles on two occasions by university students
32,000 publications were printed on promotion of Wolaitta Development Association
Over 290,000 members were organized under WODA
1 Website was created for Wolaitta Development Association
279 board members, branch office committee and kebele representatives were trained on community mobilization and membership building
10 board members took part in experience sharing visit
12 school development clubs were trained and strengthened

Total of more than 23 Million Birr is expended to carry out the above activities. This budget is obtained from donors & the community.

2006 ACHIEVEMENTS OF WODA

1) EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

1.1. Education

The overall objective of education projects is to improve the access of community to quality education and build the capacity of community.

a) Construction of Wolaitta Public School- this school is constructed in Soddo town with objective of enhancing the quality of education in the area in addition to coverage. Coverage of education in Wolaitta has significantly risen recently owing to efforts by government and others. However, the quality aspect is very poor. This can be observed from number of students taking national exam and succeed in passing it. For example, in the years between 1991 and 2000 the highest number of students who passed national exam was 13.18% in 1998 while the lowest was 1.9% in 1993. The major reasons for this are lack of quality in education. Quality constraint is attributed to shortage of book, library, laboratory, classrooms, and qualified teachers and so on. Wolaitta Public School is constructed in response to the above problems. The school's construction is expected to be completed in four years while in 2006 85% of the first phase construction is completed.

b) Mure Primary School construction – Mure Primary School is found in Offa woreda. Major problems of the school were depletion of the buildings, shortage of classrooms, shortage of school furniture, lack of doors and windows for existing classes, etc. These deficiencies coupled with large number of beneficiaries have resulted in incapability of the school to provide service to the community. Majority of the children had no chance of going to school while others dropped out due to overcrowding in the classrooms. In the past average number of students in each class was from 90 to 100. The
problems mentioned above have compelled WODA to construct additional classrooms in the kebele /locality/ in response to community request. Using fund obtained from Concern Ethiopia the association has constructed two blocks of 8 classrooms. Besides, it has provided furniture consisting of 224 combined desks. Due to this several new students are enrolled to the school where as the existing ones are now learning in relaxed manner with out overcrowding.

c) Furniture provision to schools - in the year furniture was provided to Markato Primary School which was constructed by community but had no furniture. Caused by this the students used to sit on woods and stones. Seriousness of the problem has won sympathy from WODA to provide the school with 110 combined desks which have finally improved the teaching learning environment in the classes of the school.

d) Support student conversation – student conversation is aimed at improving quality of education in Wolaitta zone. Total of 498 students from colleges, universities and high schools attended the meeting and conversed on how to improve the situation of teaching learning process. In the end the participants have formed Wolaitta Students Union and shared responsibilities which are to be realized.

e) Conducting academic competition among students- The major aim of the competition was to encourage students to develop sense of contest and work hard to achieve better results. There were three types of competition done. At first, competition was conducted among grade 8 female students in the all 12 woredas and 3 city administrations. Second, those female students who stood first in each woredas’ grade 8 competitions made zonal competition. The third one is among high school students. The winners of all of these competitions were awarded.

f) Encouraging and awarding outstanding students- Here two kinds of students were awarded. The first ones were all students in the primary schools of Wolaitta whose rank is first in their respective grades while the second ones were 92 high school students who achieved best results in high school and national exams. This was aimed at supporting those students to work better in the future and initiate other students to follow their suits.

g) Supporting poor and orphan students- there are different types of poor and orphan supports provided by WODA. These are:

1. Non – formal education – this is conducted in Soddo town with support from UNICEF for 100 children from three sub cities of Soddo town. The children were poor ones and had no access to formal education. Supports include provision of stationary materials, uniforms and employment of facilitators.

2. Tutorial education-Tutorial classes were provided to 100 poor and orphan children in Soddo town who are following their education in formal schools. The education was given at Soddo tutorial center. Supports provided
include stationary materials provisions and employment of 4 facilitators.

3. **Supporting poor students from grade 1 to grade 12** - these students are those who are learning in government schools but unable to continue their education due to poverty. Support provided to them includes stationary, clothes & basic necessities. In 2006 total of 77 students were supported. Out of these 54 poorest ones were provided 100 birr every month, medical support and accommodations during national festivals.

4. **College and university students support** - this support includes those students who have passed to universities and colleges but have faced financial shortage to continue their education. Total of 94 students have been selected from Wolaitta and are given Eth birr 200 to 500 (according to distance of their universities) so as to cover transport, stationary and other expenses.

5. **Student scholarship in government universities** - WODA has provided student scholarship to poor students in Awassa Teachers’ Education College, Arbaminch College of Teachers Education and Arbaminch University. The scholarship support encompasses covering of educational fees. Besides, they are given at average 400 Birr every year. Total students under this program were 19.

6. **Student scholarship in private colleges and universities** - This scholarship was obtained from different private colleges and universities as pledge during resource mobilization programs in Addis Ababa and Wolaitta.

The first support is full sponsorship where educational fees are covered by the colleges themselves while living expense is covered by WODA. Total of 79 students are beneficiaries. The institutions who offered scholarships are:

- Central Health Science College - 10 students in diploma and degree program
- Bethlehem Health Science College - 7 students in diploma program
- Wolaitta Teachers’ Education College - 5 students in diploma program
- Arba Minch University – 5 students in diploma program
- Aleph Health Science College - 5 students in diploma program
- Siloam Health Science College - 4 students in diploma Program
- Info link college - 4 students in diploma program
- Queens College - 3 students in degree program
- Alkan Health Science College – 2 students in degree program
- New Generation University College - 2 students in diploma & degree program, and
- Royal college - 2 students in degree program

The second scholarship was contributed by Atlas University College where it provided half scholarship for 26 students where as half of the school fee is covered by WODA.

Except Atlas University College students the rest all are provided with monthly living
expense of 250 Birr per month by WODA where as Arba Minch University students get 1200 Birr per annum which depicts that WODA expends a lot of money in student support because it sees educating poor students as a way out of the prevailing poverty in Wolaitta.

h) **Capacity building activities in education projects** - there are several capacity building activities carried out by the fund obtained from Concern Ethiopia. These include:-

- Training 30 primary school teachers in student centered teaching methodology
- Training 45 school management and board committee in school administration
- Awareness raising for 118 teachers, community and students on gender, education and HIV/AIDS prevention through workshop
- Launching 14 radio education programs on gender, education and HIV/AIDS prevention for community
- Supporting 10 girls school clubs in Offa woreda after raising the awareness of teachers and students on girls’ education & HIV/AIDS prevention

1.2. Health

a) **Community awareness rising** – To raise the awareness of community on HIV/AIDS & RH one day workshop was conducted at Soddo. The participants were 144 people from religious organizations, kebele administrations and community based organizations (such as “Iddir”).

b) **Conducting youth dialogue** – objective of the dialogue is to capacitate youth by equipping them with enough understanding on HIV/AIDS and related issues so that they can be foremost actors in the fight against the pandemic. Before conducting the dialogue 10 youth dialogue facilitators were trained for 10 days. Afterwards, dialogues are conducted on HIV/AIDS and reproductive health issues. Once a month youth of Soddo town come together at Wolaitta Gutara compound, discuss, argue and learn from each other. In the year total of 4 dialogues have been conducted.

c) **Home based care and support** - under this activity first home based care providers who were trained in the past by WODA were given refresher training. Then bed ridden people living with HIV/AIDS were selected and provided support. In the year medical, food and psychological supports are provided to 25 individuals.

d) **Engaging people living with HIV/AIDS in income generating activities** – WODA believes that providing hand out to people living with HIV/AIDS can not change their life in sustainable manner. For this reason they were provided skill training in different activities such as computer, secretarial service, tailoring, petty trading, livestock production and the like based on their need. Afterwards, start up capital was provided to them as revolving fund to continue their venture. In the year 44 people have benefited from these activities.

e) **Supporting anti- HIV/AIDS clubs** - to strengthen anti AIDS clubs so as to enable them actively involve in fighting the pandemic training was given for 13 club representatives on club management.

2) **ECONOMIC (LIVELIHOOD) DIVERSIFICATION**

Economic (livelihood) diversification aims to ensure food security and economic self
sufficiency by engaging the community in improved agriculture and activities outside agriculture.

a) **Skill training for unemployed youngsters** - in 2006 15 youngsters (majority of whom are girls) from poor background were trained in food preparation and hotel accommodation for six months. After training some of them are employed in different institutions while the rest are granted start up capital to run cafeteria.

b) **Provision of revolving fund** - Beneficiary of this activity are youth who were trained in different skills but not employed. The first group includes youngsters who were trained in wood work on their own but had no jobs. WODA has purchased wood work machine for them to continue their venture. Others are two girls who are engaged in petty trading and tailoring. These were also provided with start up capital and sewing machine as revolving fund. The third one comprises a group of 22 poor youngsters who were trained in Soddo Technical and Vocational Center through WODA support on construction and car wash. In 2006 they formed two associations named Eskdar and Damot and WODA has promised to offer start up capital. But they haven’t started working yet due to bureaucracy of stakeholders. All of these activities were carried out in Soddo town with support from UNICEF.

c) **Strengthening farmer cooperatives** - It is fact that cooperatives play great role in economic development of a country by serving as fair market outlets for farmers and provision of agricultural inputs. To effectively serve the community they should be capacitated. With this in mind WODA has launched an experience sharing visit for representatives of 48 cooperatives in Damota cooperative union. The visit was made to Erer and Lome Adama cooperative unions in Mojo and Debrezeit areas. Office discussions and field visits were made and the cooperatives have gained best experiences on management and problems related to the cooperatives.

d) **Running Wolaitta Gutara Development center** - currently WODA is running two major income generating institutions such as Wolaitta Gutara multipurpose cultural center and Guesthouse. These centers are serving dual purposes both as community service centers and income generating centers for WODA. The vision of the centers is to serve as best community training, conference and recreation centers in South Ethiopia and contribute to development of the area. To achieve those objectives currently 18 staffs have been employed to run the centers.

**Soddo Town Asphalt Road Project**

Soddo Asphalt Road Project is one of the activities planned for the year 2006. The major objective is to upgrade 10km roads in the town to asphalt level. It was not included in the five years program; however, continuous request of the community for this project has compelled WODA to be engaged in it. The role of WODA during the project is to mobilize financial resources necessary for the project and allocate it.

**FINANCIAL RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

**Community contribution** - To realize the plan of asphalt all sectors of the society
have contributed finance, material and skill inputs. For the project government staffs have donated 1 month salary. Every farmer in the zone contributed Birr 5 to 7 per head while merchants donated from 250 to 3000 according to their rank as assigned by the government.

Lottery Award- this is one of the sources of income employed for resource mobilization. 550,000 tickets have been printed for this purpose out of which 73% was sold. Out of the sold tickets 91 winners have been selected and awarded. The top three awards were Isuzu truck, lease free land for investment and lease free land for house construction. Others awards include motor cycles, television sets, pedal cycles, tape recorders and so on. The winners were identified in front of the public in Wolaitta Multipurpose hall.

Resource mobilization in Addis Ababa - There were two events held in Addis to mobilize resource for asphalt road. The first one was held in DPPC meeting hall. The second and big event was held in Sheraton Addis. It was opened in the presence of H.E Girma Wolde Gyorgis, the president of Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and many pledges and donations were made in the hotel. Birr 850,000 was collected from entrance ticket sale while more than 8.5 million Birr was pledged during the event. Regarding the total amount collected up to the end of 2006 it is Eth Birr 6,177,486.

3) RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND ACTION

The aim of this component is to capacitate disadvantaged sections of society and improving their living condition.

a) Reintegration of persons with disabilities- major objective of this activity is to reintegrate persons with disabilities with their families and community by empowering them economically. As all of us know there are several disabled persons in Ethiopia and Wolaitta in particular. However, they are living in desperate living condition, are economically very poor and discriminated. As a result many have been dependent and engaged in begging.

This project aims to reverse this condition. In the year 140 persons with disability were supported. First they were trained on vegetable production, livestock production, animal health, forage preparation, project sustainability and so on. After training each of the trainees were given two cattle, seed of vegetables and agricultural implements. Currently many have become self dependent and refrained from activities such as begging.

b) House construction for poor mothers- Ethiopia being one of the poor countries faces housing problems in urban areas and Wolaitta Soddo is not an exception. In the year ended WODA has constructed 4 houses for poor mothers and disabled. House construction has improved the housing condition of the beneficiaries who now have got their own houses.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

Human rights protection activities are intended to bring about good governance and create responsible and ethical citizens. Major activities carried out in 2006 were supporting women and youth associations and training legal bodies on women and children rights. Representatives of 14
women and youth associations had attended a three days workshop on good governance, anti-corruption and HIV/AIDS prevention and control. In women and children rights protection 165 legal bodies from police, courts, justice offices and women offices had been trained for two days.

5. MOBILIZATION AND PROMOTION

Mobilizing the community for the development of Wolaitta, supporting WODA and promoting the history, culture and language of Wolaitta is the objective of the component.

a) Community mobilization- the activities carried out here were advertising the vision, mission, objectives and achievements of WODA to community and calling for support. This is done at federal, regional, zonal, woreda and kebele levels where government staffs, NGO staffs, merchants, students and other community representatives at grassroots level were targets. In the mobilization programs most of the members of community have pledged to support WODA.

b) Website creation- In the year ended website has been opened for WODA. The website gives information on socio-economic profile of Wolaitta, WODA achievements, future plan and so on. For your information the website of WODA is http://www.wolaitta-da.org.et.

c) Radio program broadcasting – This is one of the promotion strategies that WODA uses. In 2006, 52 radio programs have been broadcasted to the communities, which focus on initiating the community to involve in development activities of the zone and extend support to WODA. The programs are broadcasted twice a week on Sundays and Saturdays in local language, Wolaittatuwaa, which has attracted many listeners within and outside Wolaitta.

d) Promotion of Wolaitta culture- In order to publicize the culture of Wolaitta cultural music band has launched cultural shows in different parts of Ethiopia such as Awash state farms, Shashamane, Awassa, Addis Ababa and others. In addition to promoting the culture the team has distributed more than 10,000 printed brochures that give information on WODA.

Financial Achievement

In 2006 the association obtained Eth. Birr 8,993,247 from different sources. And its expenditure in the year was Eth. Birr 2,706,955.

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT OF 2007 PROJECT

Wolaitta Development association has implemented several activities under education and human capital development, economic diversification, research, advocacy and action, human rights protection and mobilization and promotion components in 2007 that is briefly described hereunder.

1. EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

1.1. Education

a) Kodo Primary school construction - Kodo School is found in Offa woreda in Sere Esho Kebele. People in the area had no access to education for many years as a result of which they have become illiterate whereas some used to walk long distances to attend
classes. The problem has prompted WODA to construct primary school by the request of the community. Using fund obtained from concern Ethiopia WODA has constructed new school with 2 blocks that include 4 class rooms, 2 offices and 1 pedagogic center. In addition to construction WODA has provided furniture for the school comprised of 144 combined desks, 21 chairs, 9 tables and 6 shelves. Due to construction this school many children have had opportunity to education and the school has capacity of accommodating 640 students per year in two shifts.

Wolaitta public school is a special experimental school having its own distinctive futures. The unique feature is that it gives top priority to quality education in addition to coverage. In order to achieve its objective the school has been organized according to Ministry of Education standards. In the school in one classroom on average there are 35 students so as to make students follow their lesson in relaxed manner. There are qualified teachers (majority of whom are with bachelor degree) who have taken short term training on basic teaching skills. Besides, the school is equipped with library, computer laboratory and so on. On top of this at present the school teaches the whole day without shift.

Kodo Primary School

b) Completion of Wolaitta Public School - Nowadays, Wolaitta Public school construction is completed and the school has officially began working after officially inaugurated in September 2007 in presence of H E Ato Teshome Toga, the speaker of House of Parliament of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and HE Mr Kinochi Kamano, Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia. The school has got 8 classrooms, 1 library, 1 laboratory, 5 different offices, 1 cafeteria, 1 store & 1 guard house. Furniture is also provided to the school including 150 desks, 125 chairs, 41 tables, 27 shelves, 20 white and blackboards, 18 computers, several books and other educational materials. To facilitate effective teaching learning process in the school enough staff is employed. The staffs are 9 teachers, 1 director, 1 psychologist and 8 administration staff. Total of 163 students are now being accommodated in the school. The school has grades from 5 to 7 for the time being and every year one more upper grade will be added until it hold up to grade 12.

c) Provision of furniture to schools- In Wolaitta there are more than 12 high Schools. However, these schools have got material shortage especially furniture. In order to alleviate the problem WODA has selected 4 secondary schools such as Shanto, Badessa, Gacheno and Gununo who have serious school furniture. In the year these four schools were supplied with 400 tables and 800 chairs. As a result schools are now properly launching teaching learning process.
d) **Capacity building activities** - There are two kinds of capacity building activities carried out in education projects namely - community capacity building and WODA capacity building.

e) **Community capacity building** - the major objective of this activity is to initiate the community to support quality of education, girls’ education and handle education projects properly. Some activities carried out here are:-

   i. Training 62 primary school teachers on reproductive health, environment, gender and community mobilization for 4 days.

   ii. Training 48 primary school teachers on girls’ club management.

   iii. Training 17 schools management committee on school administration, education quality improvement, community participation, and management of school resources and improving girl’s participation in education.

   iv. Conducting learning review workshop - in this workshop 26 representatives from Ofa Woreda administration, office of education, women affairs office, concern Ethiopia head office and WODA head office have participated. The objective of workshop was to discuss on successes, weakness, lessons learned and things to be improved in WODA projects.

   v. Conduct annual review meeting - the objective of the meeting was to evaluate the achievements of WODA with stakeholders. 52 participants from different line offices have attended the meeting. In the meeting achievements, weak points and recommendations for the future were pointed out.

f) **WODA capacity building** - WODA capacity building activities are:-

   i. 17 WODA staff trained on community mobilization for one day

   ii. 42 WODA staff trained on advocacy issues such as meaning of advocacy, uses of advocacy and tools used to do effective advocacy

   iii. 2 WODA staff participated in experience sharing visit on advocacy and non formal education. The visit was made to People In Need, Action Aid and Basic Education Network in Ethiopia.

   iv. 10 board members of WODA took part in experience sharing visit to Siltie and Guraghe Development Associations and

   v. A field car, photocopy machine, LCD projector, computers, chairs and tables have been purchased and provided to WODA.

g) **Support girls’ education** - girls have right to get educated. The community should have this awareness so as to advocate for education of girls. Sub activities carried out in here are:-

   i. 182 female students in primary schools who achieved better in their education were awarded.

   ii. 8 girls clubs were supported in 8 primary schools through provision of stationary materials and sign board

   iii. Panel discussion conducted on March 8 - 100 representatives of community took part in the dialogue in which discussions on girls’ education, research report, drama and poem were presented in the day.
iv. 4000 posters have been printed on girls education and distributed
v. 104 representatives of schools and community have participated in the workshop on gender, education and HIV/AIDS that was conducted for one day.
vi. 26 radio education programs on gender, education and HIV/AIDS have been produced and transmitted in local languages.

**h) Supporting poor and Orphan students in education** - in the year ended WODA had supported students from non-formal to university level. These are:

i. 53 children supported in non-formal education
ii. 74 students taught in different Health Science Colleges and universities.
iii. 264 students taught in government schools, colleges and universities and
iv. 120 students are learning in Wolaitta Public School.
v. A summer supplementary education program launched- in the program 12 secondary schools were covered by 113 Wolaitta students in universities and colleges who served as teachers during the program. Total of 4327 students in grade 10 and 12 benefited from the program and 4000 students became WODA members.

i) **Awarding high ranking students**- in 2006 40 students who achieved best results in national exam have been warded.

**1.2. Health**

In 2007 most of the activities focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and control as shown in the section that follows.

a) **Supporting people living with HIV/AIDS** - in 2007 total of 44 persons living with HIV/AIDS have been trained in different skills. After training 34 persons are provided with start up capital of 2515 Birr per head. The areas of their venture are petty trade, livestock production & tailoring. The rest 10 are trained in secretarial service for three months. Afterwards, computer and photocopy machine were provided to them and currently they are running their business. Besides 25 persons who live with HIV/AIDS in different woredas have become beneficiaries of home based care and support.

b) **Conducting youth dialogue** - in the year 2007 22 youth dialogues have been conducted thus enabling youth to raise their understanding on HIV/AIDS and play significant role in the fighting against pandemic. Total of 533 youngsters have participated in the dialogue.

c) **Establishing HIV/AIDS resource center**- major aim of the center is to provide community of the area with necessary information on HIV/AIDS. The center is found in Gutara multipurpose cultural center and is equipped with 5 computers, 5 chairs, and 5 tables, 1 shelf, different books, magazines, films, VCD and so on. In the year more than 1959 peoples have benefited from the center.

d) **Supporting orphans and vulnerable children** - Improving the living condition of those children who are orphansed by the pandemic is the objective here. WODA has provided two kinds of support. The first support involve provision of educational materials for the children. The second support involves economic support.
whereby 25 children are provided with sheep according to their interest while the rest 35 are given 200 Birr each to be engaged in micro scale petty trading.

e) **Conduct workshop on harmful traditional practices** - The objective of this workshop is to eradicate practices that aggravate HIV/AIDS by raising the awareness of community. 48 traditional birth attendants, female genital mutilators and others engaged in similar activities have participated in a one day workshop held in Gutara multipurpose cultural hall.

2. **ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION**

a) **Support micro and small scale enterprises** - In the year ended four small and micro scale enterprises were supported through training and revolving fund provision. The first one is Roda hair dressing association which was formed by 10 poor girls from Soddo town. First they were trained in hair dressing for three months and then given start up capital to purchase materials for beauty salon. The girls formed two associations and are now running their schemes in Soddo and Shanto town.

Another enterprise is Bibiso and Comitar weavers' associations which were formed in Bodditi town in 2005. Earlier they were supported by WODA but due to financial shortage they could not carry out their activities properly and requested for additional revolving funding. After their situation is being studied in collaboration with Bodditi micro and small scale enterprises development office additional fund is provided to 20 members of the association. The third association is Arada Hidota credit and saving association. Members of the association are mothers of poor children who in the past were beneficiaries of WODA's revolving fund and who finished repayment. These are given credit for second time and now are engaged in different activities. Last but not least is Ajora house and office furniture producers' association with 12 members which is found in Areka town. Working place is nowadays provided by the town while the fund will be released by WODA in near future.

b) **Strengthening Bala Koysha farmers cooperative** - Bala Koysha is a coffee saving and selling association which has a capacity problem. WODA after having identified their capacity constraints has supported the association in the year ended. 70 members of the association were trained in credit, saving, procedures of administration, book keeping and data management. Then stationary materials were provided to them. Besides, their office is maintained using 25,000 Birr grant.

c) **Natural resource conservation and forestation in Soddo Zurya Woreda** - This activity is carried out in 4 Kebeles of Soddo Zurya woreda namely, Bughe Wanche, Shela Borkoshe, Ziga Borkoshe and Gilo Bisare. Before actual work the situation of environmental degradation and deforestation was studied by WODA in collaboration with Woreda office of rural development for 15 days and proposal was designed based on the results of the study. Afterwards using fund from WODA biological and physical conservation activities were carried out. The activities include conducting discussion with kebele administrations, sharing responsibility, construction of 7.5 km soil bund, 750m²
b) Wolaitta Gutara Development center – the two major income generation schemes of WODA are Wolaitta Gutara center and Guest house. These centers are providing training, conference, cafeteria and bedroom services for the community with 22 employed staff. In 2007 total of more than 260,000 Eth Birr is collected from the centers.

**3. RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND ACTION**

Persons with disability are the major beneficiaries of this project. This is because of the fact that they are living in poor conditions, are socially discriminated and psychologically victimized.

a) **Conducting workshop with stakeholders**

- Two kinds of workshop were conducted. The first one was conducted for 35 representatives of woredas’ rural development office, administration office, cooperative office, HIV/AIDS secretariat and small and micro enterprises offices. Major issues raised are disability, stakeholders’ role in the disability activities and project sustainability. The second workshop was for 548 kebeles administration and community based organization representatives on raising their awareness on the issue of disability. After workshop the participants agreed to fight disability, to take part in rehabilitation of person with disability and fight discrimination against them.

b. **Reintegration of persons with disability** - Under this the major activities carried out are selection of persons with disability (PWDs), training them and providing start up capital. Following are major achievements:

i. 200 PWDs were trained in different woredas on agricultural activities such as livestock production, animal health, crop production, vegetable and fruit production, reproductive health,
HIV/AIDS and project sustainability for six days. After training they were provided with 400 hoes, 400 axes and 400 sickles, 205 cattles, 24 sheep and 8 goats according to their interest.

ii. 70 PWDs were trained on sheep and goat production, animal health, reproductive health and sustainability for 5 days and provided with 140 sheep and goats on their interest.

iii. 40 PWDs were trained on poultry production, feeding, animal health, reproductive health and project sustainability for 5 days and provided with 400 cockerels and pullets.

iv. 30 PWDs were trained on silkworm production, feeding, disability and project sustainability. Afterwards, materials for silkworm production were purchased and provided to them.

v. 6 PWDs were trained on micro and small scale trade for 5 days and finally provided with start up capital. Currently they are running their own business.

vi. Carrying out other community based rehabilitation activities – The above activities of empowering PWDs economically were carried out in collaboration with CBM Ethiopia. CBR network Ethiopia has provided additional donation to WODA to carry out community based rehabilitation activities. Initially 159 PWDs were selected from Soddo town, Soddo Zuriya Woreda and Boloso Sore woreda. Then they were divided into three groups such as small ruminant production, petty trade and cattle production. Out of 159 PWDs, 40 PWDs chose small ruminant rearing, 30 chose petty trading while 89 are interested in cattle production. Before providing start up capital five days training was given on livestock production, animal health, disability, petty trading, soap production, IGA and project sustainability. Then according to their interest start up capital, sheep, goat, ox and cow were provided to the beneficiaries. Side by side to this, workshop for stakeholders on community based rehabilitation was launched and finally a supervisory committee was established.

C. Establishing PWDs Association - Currently there are 11 PWDs association formed in 2007 in 11 woredas. Out of these 6 are given stationary materials support. One day workshop is launched for them on management of their association in collaboration with office of labor and social affairs. The objective of the association is prevention of disability, fighting discrimination and mobilizing the community to support PWDs.

D. Strengthening of disability clubs- 12 clubs were formed in high schools in Wolaitta. A one day awareness raising meeting was conducted for 74 representatives of the clubs.

E) Conducting research: - In the year three researches were supported. The first one is on ginger production in Boloso Sore Woreda where as the rest two are on the history of Wolaitta People.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

Women empowerment

Human rights protection component mainly focuses on women empowerment project.

This project is carried out in Damot Sore woreda in four kebeles of Shayamba, Qilena, Shayamba, Sunkale and Doge Hanchuchco. Under the project different women empowerment activities are carried out.
Specific activities are shown in the following sections.

a) Training community conversation facilitators- 20 community conversation facilitators were trained for three days in Gutara Hall.

b) Conduct community conversation- This was conducted in all of the four kebels in 8 groups. The issues of discussion were harmful traditional practices that affect women such as polygamy, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, early marriage, inheritance marriage and bad attitude of community towards women. Total of 62 discussions were conducted in which 535 participants took part. As a result of this nowadays there is change in the attitude of the community and some are refraining from doing practices that affect women.

c) Training the community in gender mainstreaming – this training was given to 20 community representatives for three days. The major points raised during training were gender concept, gender and development, gender labor divisions, gender mainstreaming methods, PRA, community participation and gender project preparation.

d) Conduct panel discussion- This discussion was made among 122 participants from different offices. Major issues raised were gender based violence, polygamy, rape, women rights and so on. Finally white ribbon day was celebrated in which men vowed to stop violence against women.

5) MOBILIZATION AND PROMOTION

Numerous activities are carried out under this component that aim at advertising and promoting of WODA and Wolaitta mobilizing resources and organizing members. The achievements are as follows

- 31 board members from different branch offices of WODA have been trained on vision, mission, objectives, achievements, community mobilization, board members responsibilities and relations.
- 21 branch office coordinators were trained for one day on membership building
- 174 kebele representatives participated on discussion that focus on how to build members for WODA
- Community mobilization activities were carried out in 295 kebels in which 379 college and university students involved as facilitators. Due to this mobilization 36,103 new members were added to WODA.
- 12 school development clubs established and 74 of their representatives trained in community mobilization and membership building.

2007 Financial Achievement

In 2007 WODA has collected Eth. Birr 9,410,255.55 from donors, community and other income generating activities. Total expenditure in the year was Eth.Birr 5,717,563.35.

Human Resources

In 2001 when WODA was established there were 3 staffs that include 2 guards and 1 general Manager. In 2007 there are 102 staffs for WODA out of which 22 are females while the rest are males. These staffs are committed to serve the community.
Partners

Wolaitta community, government, individuals and international donors are the major stakeholders of WODA. The donors of WODA are Concern Ethiopia, CBM, CBR Network Ethiopia, CRDA, Japan Embassy, Donbosco, European commission (through SEPDA) and Action Aid Ethiopia. On behalf of Wolaitta community we would like to give thanks to these donors for their unreserved support.

CHALLENGES FACED IN 2007

- Delay in construction works due to rainy season and problems related to contractor
- Shortage of budget
- Weak collaboration from stakeholders
- Dependency syndrome from some beneficiaries
- Lack of commitment from some branch office committee and
- Bureaucracy of some government offices
Photo Gallery

Public Library (W/Soddo)

2003

Doge Laroso Primary School

2002

Ome Boleta Primary School

2004

Suke Bakala Primary School

2003

Kindo Hatale Primary School

2002

Areka Primary School

2002

Website: www.wolaitta-da.org.et
Health
Abaya Chawukare Health Post Constructed by WODA - 2002

Mundena Health Post Funded by Glimmer of Hope Foundation & constructed by WODA - 2003

Alama Muno Health Post 2002

Badaye Animal Health Post 2003