ICDP Project

Fulfilled Dream/ Biftu Bari School Constructions (LPS)

Sakata Kebele is one of the isolated pocket areas of Oda Bultum Woreda some 25 km West of **Badessa town, West Hararge** which is the main administrative town of the district. But, access road to the site remains hard-hitting as the residing community has been restricted by chaotic hilly landscape. Before, the project intervention, there was no access road to this village except pedestrian crocked paves. The road was accessible during dry season for assessment and construction of this project. Moreover, there was no single infrastructure constructed in the project locality by the government or other institution.

The population of residents of the area is approximately 3,994 people surviving mainly on farming and rearing animals, traveling on foot, and pack animals. The community have been thriving to cope with all the challenges establishing their own shanty schools and health facilities from local materials for centuries thus they have been deprived from basic social services. The educational facility was a run-down shack that had been made of wood and mud without door and window. The existing school had only four classrooms with dusty floor serving for long years and on the verge of collapsing. Students use broken wooden benches and stones and only able to receive an education up to fourth grade/level. Both teachers and students have been experiencing open defecation as there was no toilet for the school.





Before ***After***

Parents send their children to Suri and Mudhi Iresa if they want them to continue their education. But according to School Administrator Adam, many parents were not able to afford the tuition, house rent and food that the children needed to survive in Suri and Mudhi Iresa. Thus, most of the children were vulnerable for being attacked by gangs thus leaving the village may not be safe and they drop their education and go for causal labor, instead of continuing their education.

ODA has consequently set a priority to enter the kebele but there was no access road to intervene. Quite a number of bids floated since the beginning of 2023 to construct the school. After series of meetings with woreda steering committee, ODA decided to intervene by

contractor implementation modality urging the Woreda administration and local community for the land and road access.

With such pessimistic situation, ODA dared to overtake the site and began the process of constructing one academic block with all furnishing and One Dry Pit Latrine by mobilizing all materials sacrificing all things and able to complete all the structures within one year, with funding from A Glimmer of Hope.

Following this construction, the school has already seen a significant increase in enrollment and become friendly for girls and children. At the end of 2023 and 2024 school year, the school had 477 children attending on a daily basis, of which 217 were girls. The improved facility now also offers classes up to 4th grade.





As per Jemal a 4th grade student from the project area (As seen on the picture above) said that the community never thought that something like this would be constructed for them here. This building has changed the lives of people living in Sakata Kebele and its catchment area. He also mentioned that "Now children enjoy coming to school and this created a great learning environment. He said I am also inspired and motivated to learn here in newly constructed school. On behalf of the community, I thank ODA from the bottom of my heart. Because i dropped out of school and went back to farming for a long time but after the school is constructed I am encouraged to get my education.

- **Rasa Janata Complete Primary School Constructions (CPS)**

Baha Kosum Kebele where Rasa Janata Complete Primary School is located in remote area of **Kersa** Woreda/district some 40km South West of Kersa town, which is the administrative capital town of the district. The access road to the site is gravel road which is relatively good and the existing community has been restricted by the rugged topographic landscape. Before, the intervention of this project, the available infrastructure was only access road to the village that links to other woreda by passing **Kersa** Woreda. Consequently, the residents of the project area didn't believe while ODA and A Glimmer of Hope /AGoH have first arrived for the assessment of intervention areas.

There was no single infrastructure constructed in the locality by the government or any other partner institution. The population of residents of the area was approximately 4,040 people surviving on the farming and rearing of animals by traveling on-foot and pack animals. The community had been thriving to cope with all the challenges establishing their own shanty schools and health facilities from local materials for centuries being deprived from basic social services. The educational facility was a run-down shack that was made of wood covered with mud without door and window. The school had only four classrooms with dusty floor serving for long years and on the verge of collapsing. Students use broken wooden benches and mound stones and only able to receive education up to the eighth grade. Both teachers and students had been experiencing open defecation as there was no toilet for the school.

Consequently, ODA set a priority to construct at the kebele but there was no water for the construction to take place. Quite a number of bids floated since 2022 for the school and vet post construction. After series of meeting with woreda steering committee, ODA decided to intervene by its own force implementation modality because many contractors were not interested due to the remoteness of the area & not easily accessing construction materials.

With such pessimistic situation, ODA dare to overtake the site and began the process of constructing one academic block with all furnishing and two Dry Pit Latrines mobilizing all materials sacrificing all things and able to complete all the structures within four months, with a fund from A Glimmer of Hope. ODA has also built a vet post with all structures next to the school. These two facilities were, therefore, the first solid construction projects that the local communities have ever seen in such standard.





The new school was inaugurated in 2023 in a colorful celebration manner in the presence of donor including representative from Glimmer and key stakeholders with sincere recognition to ODA as dependable partner.

Following the construction of the project, the school has already seen a significant increase on student enrollment and become friendly for girls and children. At the end of 2023 school year, the school had 450 children attending on a daily basis, of which 205 were girls. The improved facility now also offered classes up to 8th grade.

❖ One of the Dreams Fulfilled in Drilling of Borehole for Water Town

Despite relatively adequate availability of potential water resources in the program area, lack of clean and safe water supply has been the most critical problem as identified during the program initiation in the operation areas. Almost all the communities of the operation districts have been using water from unprotected sources like Rainwater, rivers, traditional ponds, reservoirs, open wells and/or streams. The same sources of water were investigated to be used by both human and livestock. Conflict of interest in using water for water supply and irrigation were also observed. Rural people in Hararghe says, they have feet with which they can walk and search for water wherever it is, but their Green-Khat can't move thus need to get priority for the supply of water. They even were seen piercing the DCI water supply pipe line by a nail and the like to steal water for irrigation and livestock. This has been indicating that water is really beyond life for Hararghe people.

To address these and other related problems, ODA has launched four well drilling for groundwater harvesting, capping and developing of the harvested water, carryout pumping test, study its quality for checking its portability for drinking water with hygiene and sanitation and planned to construct the supply, storage and distribution system as well.

Although all the drilled groundwater boreholes have been completed and found productive, they all have not yet started giving service since the construction is planned to be implemented in 2024. However, one of the drilled boreholes is found artesian thus virtually the surrounding communities have started using the water for irrigation as well as drinking water by fetching it using buckets and surface pump. One of the beneficiaries of this well, called Nuriya (who is 50 years old and a farmer has eight families, 3 male & 5 female, resident of Water Town, when asked, she said ODA-Glimmer has presented them not only a gift of God alone, which is water but also the invaluable fuel which would change their life for sure. She also mentioned that, value of water in Hararghe is beyond once expectation of its use but also it is life.



Picture showing Artesian GW & One of the beneficiaries, Nuriya



Contacted Beneficiary's Potato Farm (L) and Maize Crop under Harvest (R)