

EECMY-DASSC

Western Wollega Bethel Synod Development and Social Services Commission



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2010

January 2011, Dembi Dollo

LIST OF ACRONYMS

EECMY	The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
DASSC	Development and Social Services Commission
EED	Church Development Service of the Protestant Churches in Germany
KNH	Kinder Not Hilfe
LAFIM	Landesausschuss für Innere Mission
OVC	Orphaned and Vulnerable Children
PC-USA	Presbyterian Church USA
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PSV	Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley
WWBS	Western Wollega Bethel Synod

1. INTRODUCTION

1-1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

Western Wollega Bethel Synod Development and Social Services Commission (WWBS-DASSC) is one of the 22 official units of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY-DASSC) registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ethiopia. While EECMY-DASSC is active throughout Ethiopia, WWBS-DASSC operates mainly in the recently established Qellem Wollega Zone of Oromia comprising about one million people. Staffed by more than 50 secular professionals, WWBS-DASSC is wholly committed to development and social services targeting the whole community irrespective of religion, race, ethnicity and sex.

EECMY-DASSC annually spends about Birr two hundred fifty million. Likewise, WWBS-DASSC annually mobilizes more than Birr six million for various development activities including:

- A multi-grade multi-level rural literacy program in two rural schools
- An HIV/AIDS prevention and control program including care and support to 250 people (71 PLWHA and 179 children orphaned because of AIDS) and financial or material support to 434 children;

- A water development program consisting of various spring development projects—in 2010 WWBS-DASSC developed 19 springs serving 15,565 people;
- A community-based childcare program which now supports 121 orphaned and vulnerable children;
- A rural clinic serving about 15,000 people in remote countryside;
- An integrated rural development project comprising agricultural productivity, natural resources rehabilitation and development, water development, gender; and veterinary health;
- Outreach to a marginalized ethnic group called Mejengir who formerly lived on hunting; and
- Construction of a four-classroom block of an elementary school

Each of the programs and/or projects mentioned above has its own qualified human resources and facilities.

WWBS-DASSC has been engaged in development and social services since 1919 during which it was started as medical work in Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia.

1-2 HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANIZATION

WWBS-DASSC undertakes its activities by a team composed of a director, a program coordinator, a project officer, an accountant, a cleaner, a driver and a watchperson. Like last year, Dembi Dollo Home-Based Childcare Program cashier manages petty cash.

WWBS-DASSC makes day-to-day decisions by its own Management Team comprising the Director, Program Coordinator, Accountant and project/program leaders. As usual, WWBS-DASSC Development Committee makes higher level decisions.

2. MAJOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

2-1 ETHIOPIAN RURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

- A pilot multi-grade multi-level literacy program enrolling 174 (67 female) kids. Assumed to be the best approach to rural education.
- Under testing in two different villages—the progress is promising.
- The dream is to expand to all target 11 districts and beyond.
- Supported by an American lady called Dr. Mary Rhodes and the PSV (USA).
- Challenges/needs:
 - Shortage of funds—for running and fulfilling Government requirement
 - Shortage furniture and equipment
 - Lack of a resource center

2-2 HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM

2-2-1 HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Program Financed by Central DASSC Office

Table 2-1: A Summary of HIV/AIDS PCP Activities 2010

No	Activities Undertaken	Unit of Measure	Male	Female	Total
1	Community conversation	People	394	471	865
2	Teaching HIV/AIDS prevention during financial support of OVC under GF-7	People	2,568	1,734	4302
3	Counseling for AIDS-caused orphans, PLWHA & GF-7 OVC guardians	People	881	813	1694
4	Strengthening anti-AIDS clubs (AACs) & training new AACs	Clubs	34	2	36
5	Religious & community leaders training on psychosocial support	People	108	11	119
6	Awareness creation against HIV/AIDS through 1,500 (300 female) youth oriented at Dembi Dollo	People	33,026	42,646	75,672
7	Distribution of IEC materials	IEC materials	2,700	2,400	5,100
8	Training of trainers (TOT) for women leaders on harmful traditional practices (HTPs)	Women	-	51	51
	Total		39,711	48,128	87,839

2-2-2 GF-7 Project Financed by EECMY-DASSC Central Office

- Various trainings were offered at WWBS-DASSC and Central DASSC Office levels:
 - 3 community facilitators (2 male, 1 female) were trained from each of the 18 WWBS presbyteries resulting in a total of 54 trainees.
 - 2 religious leaders (1 male, 1 female) from each of the 8 congregations in relatively big towns (Dembi Dollo (two congregations), Mugi, Ashi, Chanka, Haro Sabu, Kake & Kebe) were trained.
 - 28 older OVC & OVC guardians were trained for effective income generation activities.

Table 2-2: Core Achievements: GF-7 Project

No.	Components	Number of People Benefited		
		Total	Male	Female
1	Summary			
1.1	Food, clothing and health—ETB 182.00 / month / beneficiary	116	57	59
1.2	Educational materials support—ETB 598.00 / year / beneficiary	290	157	133
1.3	Income generation activities (IGA) —ETB 3,705.00 / beneficiary	28	7	21
1.4	Psychosocial support—undertaken in collaboration with religious leaders	2,896	1,054	1,842
1.5	Community conversation (CC)	394	216	178
	Total	3,717	1,484	2,233
2	Dembi Dollo Woreda			
2.1	Food, clothing and health	67	31	36
2.2	Educational materials support.	167	83	84
2.3	Income generation activities (IGA)	16	1	15
2.4	Psychosocial support	1,671	990	681
	Total	1,921	1,105	816
3	Hawa Gelan Woreda			
3.1	Food, clothing and health	49	26	23
3.2	Educational materials support	123	74	49
3.3	Income generation activities (IGA)	12	6	6
3.4	Psychosocial support	1,225	800	425
	Total	1,409	906	503
4	Community conversation (CC): 7 Sites			
4.1	Anifillo	96	82	178
4.2	Dale Sadi	41	2	63
4.3	Daye	27	20	47
4.4	Dale Lalo	33	20	53
4.5	Biftu Sayo	19	34	53
	Total	216	178	394

- 2 people (1 male 1 female) from 15 anti HIV/AIDS clubs found in 15 different presbyteries were trained.
- TOT on harmful traditional practices was offered to 54 women leaders who came from all over WWBS target area.
- 12 community conversation facilitators, 7 community volunteers and 3 religious leaders were trained at Central DASSC Office
- Community mobilization was warmly undertaken in Dembi Dollo and Geba Robi, capital of Hawa Gelan. In Dembi Dollo a total of 500 people (300 females) were present. At Geba Robi about 400 people (incl. 230 female) were present. At both sites the community affirmed its commitment.
- Best Practices
 - All beneficiaries of the monthly support totaling 116 OVC have been saving 20.00 to 30.00 birr every month. They saved this into their own savings passbooks in the names of their own representatives. Saving passbooks are kept at WWBS-DASSC Finance Office.
 - Beneficiaries of IGA have been formed into cooperatives consisting of 4-5 people. These cooperatives have been registered with the Savings and Credit Cooperatives Development Offices. This will help them to combine their competences for synergetic effect.
 - Community volunteers regularly follow up and support OVC. Furthermore, they meet with OVC and their respective guardians every fortnight. Similarly, CC facilitators meet with target communities and regularly report results.
- Challenges
 - It has sometimes been difficult to get beneficiaries on appointed dates due to communication gaps through government offices.
 - Shortage of funds for per-diem and transportation costs

2-2-3 Care and Support Program Financed by Berliner Missionswerk

- Beneficiaries are visited at homes and provided with counseling.
- Notable achievements:
 - Awareness of ways of transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS has been widespread.
 - Lowered stigma and discrimination.
 - OVC are attending their primary, secondary and tertiary education.
 - Many former OVC have been employed following their education.
 - PLWHA have accessed food, shelter and clothing and have had healthy relationships to neighbors.

Table 2-3: Care and Support Services

Number of Beneficiaries				Monthly Financial Support—ETB			
Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC)		People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)		Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC)		People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)	
2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
144	179	56	71	130.00	180.00	100.00	180.00

2-3 WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- Given potable water coverage of 30-35% in Qellem Wollega, Water Development Program is relevant.
- In 2010, a total of 19 spring development projects were completed in contrast to 8 in 2009. These create access to safe drinking water to 17,485 people and will increase access to safe drinking water from 34% to nearly 36%. More details are in Table 10 below.

Table 2-4: Accomplishments in Water Development

Spring Name	Village	District	No. of Direct Beneficiaries	Source of Funds	Indirect Beneficiaries
Tejo	Tejo	Yemalogi Walal	1,500	Waterlines	Students from two schools
Marii	Lomicha Chabal	Indina Chabal	200	Waterlines	A congregation
Dori	Bejo kobechea	Kobechea	315	Waterlines	A school and a congregation
Satano Dima	Satano Dima	Dale Leka	2,500	Montview Presbyterian Church	A congregation and a school
Kaku	Yemalogi	Lalo Kile	340	Waterlines	A congregation and a mosque
Sombo	Medale kalisa	Lalo Kile	250	Waterlines	A congregation
Agemsa	Soyema	Awu	400	Waterlines	-
Kedaye	Esho	Dhaye	140	Waterlines	A school
Shufe	Mejangir	Dhaye	320	Waterlines	A school, a health post and congregations
Dufo	Sas	Amare-Garee	265	Waterlines	Pupils from two schools
Leka	Ganka Ijo	Leka Dale	2,000	Waterlines	
Tullu Arba	Lelisa	Seyo Beda	335	Waterlines	A school and a congregation
Sejo	Qore	Seyo Beda	250	Waterlines	A congregation and a school
Uki	Shebel	Anfillo	1,800	Waterlines	
Dora	Shebel	Anfillo	240	Waterlines	
Ununu	Kuchaye Mora	Dale Lalo	2,700	Waterlines	
Shore	Arere Gebi	Dale Sadi	540	Waterlines	
Kofele	Zone 3	Sedi Dale Wabera	420	LAFIM	
Wotetwa	Zone 1	Sedi Dale Wabera	2,970	LAFIM	
TOTAL			17,485		

- Financed by WATERLINES (USA), Montview Presbyterian Church (USA) and LAFIM (Germany).
- Spring development projects are implemented by two very experienced and qualified water technicians.

- Community contribution is usually very high: people willingly provide local construction materials and all unskilled labor free of charge. In fact, beneficiaries and local authorities have also been providing food and shelter to field crew during their stay in remote rural areas.
- Suffers from intermittent sources of funds.
- One very important concern, like last year, is the traditional distribution of few springs over large areas. Maybe area-focused more intensive approach produces more meaningful impacts and can reduce unnecessary overhead costs.
- Opportunities:
 - very qualified, experienced and committed technicians
 - strong community participation
 - productive springs located in almost all target areas some of which can be utilized by large population using gravitational energy
 - WWBS-DASSC's uninterrupted commitment since 1981 having successfully completed 567 water development projects from 1981 to end of 2010
- One on-the-spot spring development project normally costs USD 3,000.00 and roughly 10 calendar days to complete.
- The dream is to expand and intensify the program integrating with a sustainable watershed management approach.

2-4 DEMBI DOLLO HOME-BASED CHILDCARE PROGRAM

- Currently supports 121 orphaned and vulnerable children with elementary, secondary, preparatory and tertiary education.
- Pays almost for everything a child needs for education: food, shelter, registration and/or tuition fees, transportation, graduation needs, etc.
- Whenever possible, children reside in their own communities.
- Total beneficiaries to date amount to 432 destitute children 50 of which have joined or graduated from universities with bachelors of degrees and 30 with diplomas.
- Staffed by a director, a cashier & a social worker who regularly visit children and make sure that they get their monthly allowances in person or via banks.
- Funded by KNH, Germany.

2-5 TULLU GOPO CLINIC

- Located in Tullu Gopo village of Dale Wabera District of the Qellem Wollega.
- An attempt to upgrade: staff residence and guest house under construction.
- Staffed by 3 nurses (1 pursuing his Diploma), 2 watchpersons, a cleaner and a cashier-card room worker.
- Tables 2-5 to 2-11 below have details:

Major Topics	QI			QII			QIII			QIV		
	M	F	Ses-sions	M	F	Ses-sions	M	F	Ses-sions	M	F	Ses-sions
Vaccination, Prevention and Family Planning	244	1,016	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Family Planning	-	-	-	60	150	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vaccination	-	-	-	68	100	8	78	75	3	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	50	50	2	152	111	8	47	203	3
Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82	361	10
Intestinal Parasites	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	70	4	-	-	-
HIV/AIDS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	461	365	6
Intestinal Parasites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102	246	6
TOTAL	317	1,226	11	248	350	15	442	414	25	724	1,292	27

Table 2-10: In-Patient Department

Quarter	No. of Beds	No. of Patients	Lying Period: Days
QI	2	35	Half-a-day to 1
QII	2	10	1 to 2 days
QIII	2	9	Half-a-day
QIV	2	10	2 to 5 days
TOTAL	2	64	Half-a-day to 5 days

Table 2-11: Ten Top Diseases

Major Diseases	QI	QII	QIII	QIV	TOTAL
Caries and Gingivitis	67	64	116	67	314
Other Pulmonary Diseases	80	77	79	74	310
Rheumatism	80	67	71	66	284
Dysentery	36	48	48	61	193
Malaria	58	34	25	72	189
Intestinal Parasites	12	45	38	78	173
Skin Infections	48	17	36	54	155
Gastritis	53	30	41	27	151
Eye Diseases	15	13	11	16	55
Anemia	18	10	13	8	49

- 60% of construction of a guest house and staff residence complete.
- Needs: A small meeting / TV room; a small store room and fencing
- Challenges
 - Location in off-road rural area.
 - Current government policy requires that the Clinic be upgraded to the level of health station or downgraded to health post.
 - Far distance from health station or hospital
- Sources of funds: internal income, LAFIM and the International Health Ministries Office of the PC-USA.

2-6 LALO KILE DALE SEDI INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PROJECT PHASE II

- Launched in September 2003 as a one-year pilot project financed by Bread for the World, Germany, which later handed over to EED, Germany.
- Targets more than 31,000 people in 12 'villages' of Lalo Kile and Dale Sedi Districts of the Qellem Wollega Zone of Oromia.
- Project period: three years (August 2007 to July 2010) but extended to ensure smooth exit.
- Project budget: birr 5,006,320.00
- Source of funds: EED, Germany.
- Integrates agricultural advisory services; natural resources rehabilitation and development; Drinking water supply; Livestock healthcare; Gender and development; capacity building
- Endeavoring to ensure a smooth exit.

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2-6-1 Activities Planned and Undertaken

Agricultural advisory service

- 7 banana varieties are being tested
- Yam tubers were distributed to 238 households
- Improved groundnut, sorghum, triticale, finger millet and triticale varieties were distributed to 321 households
- 7,875 avocado & 827 papaya seedlings were distributed and planted.
- 221 compost pits were prepared by 349 households.
- 33 kg of carrot, cabbage, beetroot and onion seeds were purchased and supplied to the community.

Natural resources development and rehabilitation

- 8 km community terraces were made by 385 households including 54 women.
- 44 households dug their own terraces on private lands.
- 28 hectares of degraded land was closed and terraced. The community has organized itself to watch after the closed area.
- All closure areas were being watched

- 25 hectares of degraded land was afforested.
- The community campaigned against termites including destruction of 46 mounds by more than 100 people.

Reduced degradation of grazing land

- 113,048 seedlings were distributed.
- 135,000 splits were planted on communal, private and project terraced land.
- 270,000 splits of grass varieties were produced.
- Grasses planted on various closure areas.
- 47 termite mounds were destructed.

Spring development

- 5 springs were developed.
- 5 washing basins were constructed.
- 93 mud-stoves installed

Livestock health service

- Construction of one animal health post was completed. This will expand the opportunity for farmers to treat cattle.
- 11,798 cattle heads were treated.

Community Empowerment

- 689 women and 609 men were given orientations on family planning.
- 701 women and 455 men were given orientations on sanitation
- 187 women were given orientations on nutrition.
- 85 women and 85 men were given training and orientations on gender issues
- 442 women and 519 men were given trainings on harmful traditional practices
- 125 households dug their own pit latrines.
- 102 women and 280 men received awareness against HIV/AIDS.
- 65 women and 35 men got training on home economics and handicrafts.

- Challenges:
 - Relatively low and slow community participation
 - Low staff remuneration both at project and WWBS-DASSC office level
 - Inflation
 - Far distance from WWBS-DASSC coordination office
- Lessons learnt:
 - Integration of biological and physical soil and water conservation methods can heal heavily degraded land.
 - Hurrying to fulfill quantities can hinder community mobilization.
 - People do react positively once they practically see effectiveness of a strategy.
 - It is extremely important to appropriately document baseline information before any intervention.

2-7 MINI-PROJECTS

2-7-1 Outreach to the Mejengir

- The Mejengir are one of the most underprivileged minorities who lived on hunting and gathering
- Sedentary form of life being successfully introduced—currently more than 30 households exercise a form of sedentary agriculture planting diversities of crops.
- The community planted vegetables, potatoes and chick peas with its own initiation. Planting materials were provided after they prepared their land.
- Intended also to reduce burden on the few remaining natural forests
- Mejengir children are attending their education from elementary school in their village to high school level in Dembi Dollo—what a joy!! The Mejengir now have a brighter future.
- The Mejengir have regular worship programs every Sunday.
- Financed by Salem Presbytery (USA)
- Language barriers and lack of an educated Mejengir remain challenges.

2-7-2 Construction of Wotie-Gebriel Elementary School

- 60% of construction of a block of four high quality classrooms complete.
- Funded by a generous private German lady called Dr. Sigrid G6rges.
- Challenges were limited accessibility and slow community mobility

3. CONCLUSION

3-1 OVERALL CHALLENGES

- Poor access to the Internet
- Usually slow community contribution
- Lack of access to means of transportation
- Poor database: availability and reliability
- Low awareness of the revised EECMY-DASSC structure
- Low staff remuneration in terms of salary and professional development.
- Vast target area (of about 100-120 km radius) and diversities of needs
- Continued land degradation, ecological disturbances, etc. and consequent challenges.

3-2 A WORD OF PRAISE

All our successes and victories flew out of God and His merciful providence.

Furthermore, financial and technical contribution of various bodies must be acknowledged: Dr. Mary Rhodes, Berliner Missionswerk, WATERLINES and the Mont View Boulevard Presbyterian Church, KNH, LAFIM and Dr. Sigrid Görges, EED, Salem Presbytery of the PC-USA, and the International Health Ministries Office of the PC-USA are worth mentioning. We are very grateful and wish all abundant blessings also in the year 2011 and beyond.

The EECMY-DASSC Central Office not only

helped coordinate the activities but also provided funds for some programs. Commitment of the WWBS-DASSC Development Committee was appreciable.

We also praise commitment of all WWBS-DASSC staff members who are all underpaid.

Commitments of our beneficiaries at grassroots level were also very detrimental to our fulfillments. You have our utmost praise!

Local and regional government structures were also indispensable assets in all the works we were able to accomplish.