

**PROJECT COMPLETION  
REPORT**



## **Project Completion Report**

Project Title: Strengthening Women and Girls' Political Engagement and Mobilization

Project Number: CFLI-2019-ADDIS-ET-0001

Implemented By: Center for Development and Capacity Building (CDCB)

Financed By: Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)

Project Budget: 1,104,900 (CAD 49,995.47)

Project Period: 2019-08-14—2021-02-28

Feb, 2021

Finfinnee (Addis Ababa)

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This Project is made possible by the support of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). The contents of this project completion report are the sole responsibility of Center for Development and Capacity Building (CDCB) and do not necessarily reflect the views of Canada Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI) or the Government of Canada.

## **Acknowledgement**

The implementation of this project is made possible with the Financial Support from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) for which we are profoundly grateful. We are glad that you have chosen to help our organization with this project, and we are very thankful to you and our other partners who have directly and indirectly helped us.

Above all, we would love to pass our gratitude and appreciations for Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada (“Her Majesty”), represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (“the Minister”) formally known as the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (“DFATD”) With your help, we have managed to be able to accomplish more great things throughout the implementation of each project activities.

Again, we sincerely thank you for the donation which you have made to our cause.

I would like to take this opportunity to kindly request you watch our project Review Video that captured some of the testimonies from the people we served.

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## I. Introduction

Centre for Development and Capacity Building (CDCB) is a civil society think-tank established in May 2012 by a group of practitioners, leaders of Civil Society Organizations and academia with the objective of working in partnership with Regional States and local governments. The prime objective of CDCB is to support regional states and their respective local governments through independent external professional inputs in research; expertise advisory services and tailor-made capacity building trainings. CDCB organizes forums (for the Government, private sector, academia, civil society). It implements innovative projects worth to scale up by the government and development partners mainly focusing on Oromia Regional State.

Since its establishment CDCB has been implementing various innovative projects; document and promote them for scaling up. The project intended to empower women and girls in political and inclusive governance titled “Enhancing women and girls in political engagement and Inclusive governance through conducting dialogues, awareness raising events in Sendafa Barek district of Oromia State, Ethiopia” is financially supported by the Canadian Found for Local Initiative (CFLI).

The major objectives of the project were to contribute to national efforts undergoing to bringing about gender equality and women

empowerment through enhancing their participation and engagement in economy, women's rights and social aspects. Pursuant to this goal various key activities were conducted in the past one year and 7 months of the project period.

Following the project launching that brought together various project stakeholders from local, Regional and federal levels, we trained 100 leading women and girls from the entire kebeles of district on Human and Women's rights and democratic rights. From the 100 trainees 30 Women and Girls were selected for intensive training and to further cascade to the local community levels. Accordingly, TOT training was provided to 30 young women and girls on: Gender Policy, Human and women's Rights and other related topics those TOT trainers went back to their constituencies and oriented 2000 women, men and youth on this issue at community. The third major activity was providing training for 40 young women on election facilitation skills in democratic election processes that enable them to have meaningful participation in the upcoming national election as observer, candidate or facilitators.

With this project reached more than 50,000 women, girls, men and boys through awareness rising on Human rights, women rights and election related issues. The feedback from local authorities shows that women engagement and participation in all local activities and demand for social and justice services has drastically increased. Beneficiary's testimonies collected

at the end of the project also affirm the opinion of the local authorities.

This project completion report is documented in a manner it could be used by interested groups including government agencies. The project review produced at the end of this report is drawn from the lessons and experiences we gained in the due course of implementing this project that we found helpful to infer for regional and national policy issues.

This document is divided into four parts the first part deals with the introduction of the project, the second part deals with the project performance or the status of the implemented project activities and the third part is about the result of the project while the final part (part four) is a recommendation drawn from the due course of implementing the project or issues or policy input.

## **II. Implemented project activities**

### **1. CONTACT ESTABLISHED**

As per the plan to implement the project we have contacted different concerned government offices and managed to get into an agreement with Oromia Regional Government relevant offices as the project is implemented in Berek district of central

Oromia. After a series of consultative meetings with Oromia finance and economic cooperation bureau, Oromia woman and children affairs bureau, federal charity and society agency, Oromia special zone surrounding Finfinnee offices. Then we entered into agreement and proceeded to the implementation phase.

## 2. PROJECT LAUNCHED

Launching the project was the key component of the project. It was planned to engage 50 participants from key stakeholders: community representatives, government bodies some beneficiary representatives.

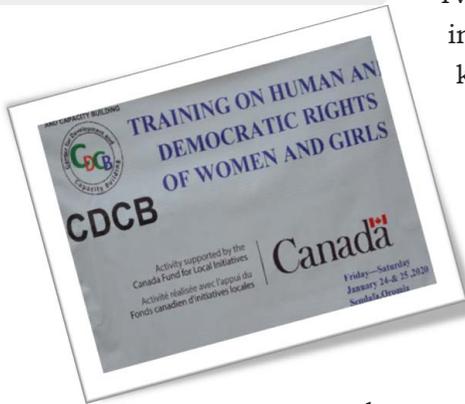


so that they can develop a sense of ownership, belongingness and commitment on the project implementation.

Thus, the launching workshop took place on November/23/2019 at Sendafa police collage with full participation of different stockholders as planned. On the workshop the project coordinator presented the organizational background, its presence in the district and details of the project. There was a

discussion session in which the participants raised different questions of clarity which finally the executive director of center for development and capacity building and head of woman's children's and youth's office of the district chaired and responded to the questions raised.

### 3. 100 WOMEN TRAINED



Two-day training has been organized in which 100 women from all the 23 kebeles and five of the schools in the district took part.

It was a two days training that covered two major topics of human right and democratic right. The first day training was on the basics of human right of woman and girls.

On the second day training on democratic right with emphasis on women and girls were given by two trainers who are experts on both topics and who develop the training manuals.

Also, the two-day training employed a participatory training approach where participants had a discussion and presentation sessions in which the trainees were given the chance to talk about their experience about the prevailing practice of woman's exercising their human and democratic rights which we came across huge gaps and trends of violation of human and democratic right including but not limited to abduction, rape and gender-based violations. Finally, the trainers indicated possible ways of

fighting and tackling such violations and commissioned the trainees to teach what they have they have acquired in the training and mandated them to be a change agent that they want to see in their district.

#### **4. TRAINING MANUALS PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED**



Two training manuals  
1. Women human and democratic rights  
2. Election facilitation skills) were developed to be used as a guideline for the training activities. CDCB had a leading role in organizing a specified

team of experts to produce and prepare the documents.

The 1st training manual on Women, Human and Democratic Right were collectively developed in a manner that is suited for the targeted primary beneficiaries having an objective of Communicating the basic Human rights, Democratic Rights and specifically women rights at international national and regional arenas.

On the other hand, the second training manual on Election facilitation was also developed by team of experts to train the

basics of Democratic election facilitation skills and democratic election procedures.

## **5. 30 WOMEN TRAINED TO BE A TRAINER**

Among the major activities indicated on our plan to be executed on the first fiscal year facilitation of community dialogue participating 2000-woman and girls on changing gender role for three months was the major one. Accordingly, to implement the plan and address this number of women and girls to be reached 30 active woman and girls were selected out of the 100 previously trained women and girls based on criteria set in collaboration with the district woman, youth and children office as a trainer of trainees (TOT). Therefore 30 active young woman representatives from 10 kebeles and 5 of the schools in the district were selected and provided with a trainer training for two consecutive days on gender policy, Human rights and related topics in Sendafa on March 5 and 6 2020. So that they can train and pave a way of dialogue on the specific topics of gender policy, woman's human and democratic right for at least 2000-woman and girls in the district in the coming months.

## 6. COMMUNITY DIALOGUE CONDUCTED



COVID-19 pandemic and related inconvenience related to safety and security issues then the state of emergency proclamation in the country to tackle the spread of COVID -19. Due to this CDCB was forced

to hold its engagement and executions of project activities which by their nature needs public or group gatherings. This was a time during which we were supposed to facilitate community dialogue among Woman community members of the district. CDCB after holding engagement for 4 months with the new improvement of the State of Emergency proclamation resulted from COVID-19 that has allowed a gathering for maximum number of 50 individuals in highly COVID-19 protective manner. Eventually, we revised our implementation plan to conduct the next activities of the project. In the re-planning session, we incorporated safety and security precautions specifically to prevent Covid-19 and Other mechanisms to help us keep the continuation of activities specifically the community dialogue and we included plantation / putting in place of Banner Boards.



So, basing on the revised implementation plan we organized a one-day refreshment session of the previous training for 30 facilitators of community dialogue among Woman community members in 10 Kebeles and Five Schools. Onwards the Woman community members cascaded the dialogue in 10 Kebeles and

five schools of the Berake district.

At each kebeles on the commencement sessions of Community dialogue women and school girls have took part and informed about the very need, what and how the dialogue is to be conducted. Specifically, emphases were given to changing gender roles and responsibilities, HTPs, human rights of women and girls.



They were informed to raise and discuss on some of the problems that they are actual facing in relation to violation of rights, problems resulting from human trafficking problems, gender based and domestic violence. Then a banner bored with iron standing that convey

a massage on gender equality and women right with logos of CDCB and Canadian Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI) were planted at administrative office compounds of all the 10 kebeles and 5 of the schools at the district were the Community dialogue on changing

gender roles and responsibilities, HTPs, human rights of women and girls has been conducted for more than three months and the usual women gathering places.

## 7. 40 LEADING WOMEN TRAINED

40 leading women from all the 23 kebeles of Baraak district were identified and selected in collaboration with the district woman's, youth and children office So that they can take part on the training on election facilitation skills and democratic election, meaningful participation and election observation at Sendafa.



Then the training has been given in two sessions were on the first session, all matters related to democratic election facilitation were addressed and the trainees had orientation of the

national election governing legal frameworks and the mandated organization.

On the second session, those 40 leading women were trained on Election procedures in general and the role of key stakeholders

in democratic election in particular. In both sessions the participants were actively engaged and motivated to actively take part in the upcoming election either as a facilitator or runner.

## 8. EXPERIENCE SHARED

An experience sharing event has been facilitated for 40 leading women in the district in which the participants shared their experiences among themselves. Specifically, those leading women from 10 kebeles who have directly participated on the community dialogue on changing gender role have shared their pre- and post-dialogue experiences.



Also, two women from their district who have been woman representative at the district legislative council with long time experience on leadership shared their life time experience including the challenges they have faced with the tactics they have used to overcome them.

### III. Project Results

Conducting the abovementioned activities, we have acquired the following results;

- Gender stereotypes and gender role challenged in 10 kebeles and 5 schools during women community dialogue on changing gender roles and responsibilities, HTPs, human rights of women and girls.
- 10 kabeles at Baraak district now have a Banner bored set at women gathering place that will remind gender equality, women democratic and human rights.
- 5 schools now have Banner board preaching gender equality and women rights.
- 40 women and girls at Berake district trained about democratic process and they are involving actively on upcoming election.
- 40 leading women were acquired election facilitation skills on democratic election and motivated to participate on the coming Election either as a facilitator, voter or runner.
- 2331 School girls and students trained about gender equality and woman rights.
- 3605 women and girls directly participated on a community dialogue on gender equality, women human and democratic rights.

- 1134 mothers have started small scale saving using the per dime they have received during the commencement of the community dialogue.

## IV. Recommendations

Ethiopia is a signatory to international conventions promoting gender equality, such as the Millennium Declaration and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Ethiopian constitution also recognizes the significance of citizens' participation in development programs (Article43), which entail inclusive development in designing and implementation of projects that affect their life. To realize this broader objective, the government has designed various policies and strategic and institutional frameworks.

In all development plans, the attention given to the importance of women participation significant, whilst government has given due attention to the establishment and strengthening of women organizations to lead the women focused development plans and strategies. The country has made encouraging progress in reversing discriminatory laws and policies in favor of women, as well as introducing new legal provisions that promote women's concerns. Accomplishments in Ethiopia

include revision of the Family Law, the Penal Code, and the Women's Development and Change package; creating a conducive legal, administrative, and policy environment in the country towards gender transformation. Some of the favorable policies and laws for girls and women are the Constitution (1994), National Population Policy (1993), the Development and Social Welfare Policy (1996), the Educational and Training Policy (1995), the Health Policy (1993), the Agricultural and Industrial Development Strategy (2001), the National Policy of Ethiopian Women (1993), the Culture Policy (1997), and Natural Resource and Environmental Policy (1997) amongst others. Many of these policies explicitly call for the elimination of discrimination against women and promote women's equal participation in decision making and leadership.

Cognizant to this fact, various institutions are established in Oromia to organize, coordinate, provide technical support and empower women and promote initiatives that empower women socially, politically and economically in the regional and beyond.

The ultimate objectives of the all-policy directions and institutional frameworks are to enable women organizations and leaderships advance the access and benefit of women in the region to the socio-economic, justice and political development.

However, there are still big gaps between the desired target and

the achievements, which call for considerable interventions to ensure equal participation of women and men in Ethiopia. The UN strategic note indicated that, gender related disparities remain prominent indicator of societal inequality in Ethiopia. Evidence shows that, the seat in the parliament, the number of women in the executive body and legislative organ and private business is still low. In particular, women leadership role is still minimal at present situation regardless of the number and position. Moreover, gender-based violence is common in most part of the country.

Despite these encouraging policy and legal frameworks and the proximity of the project area to the capital (Finfinne/Addis Ababa), women and girls in Sendafa Berek districts are facing a range of challenges due to their gender. Women and girls are not been practically exercising their constitutional rights due to the predominance of detrimental traditional cultural practices and the resistance of traditional patriarchal systems and structures. Limited capacity and low commitment of law enforcement bodies and ineffectiveness of women-based institutions are significant hindering factors to implement the existing policies and legal frameworks due to this GBV is rampant in the area. Limited awareness of the community and the women themselves on the entitlements of women and girls is another contributing factor to gender wider inequality, its regions and lower structures. This has contributed to the lack of women's engagement in key issues affecting their lives, including access to and control over productive resources, their participation in formal and informal decision-making spaces and protection from GBVs.

Despite the improvements at federal and regional levels, the situation at household and community level is still unchanged being hampered by women's multiple responsibilities at the household level, low confidence and self-esteem, and lack of recognition and support by community members as well as their male partners. All the above factors contribute towards the continued marginalization of women in the project area and their continued lack of access to representation, participation, leadership, and decision-making at all levels.

Therefore, we call upon various government and non-governmental organizations to give due attention to this critical issue without being overwhelmed by the sound policy measures at national or regional levels and to give equal attentions for women and girls in the area (near the Capital) as those geographically hard -to-reach one.

Design and print by



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