



**SPIRITAN
INTERNATIONAL**
Together, for an integral development

Newsletter

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Editorial

“Action for development stems from a calling from the Church (Evangelii gaudium, 186). This calling has been fully recognised and undertaken by the Congregation (Bagamoyo I, 5.10). Our commitment in favour of development embraces the more general objectives for sustainable development as set forth by the UN in order to respond to the needs of the people.” This is what was emphasized at the general chapter of Bagamoyo 2 and it is also the aim of the Central Development Office since its foundation in February of 2019.

We are reminded today of our commitment by Father Jude Nnorom, second general assistant, when he says: «As we are confronted to our actual social and economic difficulties, Spiritans and their stakeholders must understand the need to address everyday issues in a way to continually assess the impact of potential negative realities on future generations.” Being true to our evangelization mission, we must reinvent ways and means to face our challenges in today’s world. Because love is creative and vested in people, it shall find ways to seek solutions to problems, even those that may seem unsurmountable. The reality of the matter remains in our hands while listening to the signs of the Spirit.

With its team of 80 salaried employees, this is precisely what SCORE (Spiritan Community Outreach Ethiopia) - the local Development Office in the southern part of Ethiopia - is aiming for. Its commitment towards food security, water and hygiene, education, training and health is an example for us all. This newsletter, almost entirely dedicated to SCORE, manifests that with substantial projects but also through small actions it is feasible focus our efforts towards the well-being of our brothers and sisters seeking our support and assistance.

During the past months, a number of our readers have approached me saying: “you talk about development offices, projects, etc ... but we would really appreciate if you

were to give examples of what is possible to do..." I believe that the content of the article written by the entire SCORE team, led by Mr. Mamo Beriso, fully answers their queries. Within the existing context in Ethiopia, the team has succeeded in answering the needs of the people they serve. I believe their strong point comes from the fact that they are able to assess situations and people with the same outlook of Christ, an outlook of empathy and love. With a view such as theirs, one can therefore determine the necessities of its neighbor. There is no need for long speeches or great declarations! Simple closeness and a lot of love are sufficient to throw oneself into the action with ensuing solutions exceeding expectations!

You will also discover a new editor in the name of Father Kenneth Okoli who is introducing himself to you today. He is the new director of the Central Development Office replacing me in the coming weeks. I wish to welcome him in this mission, not be easy every day but which is passionate and an essentially central point for the Congregation.

As for me, I wish to thank you for everything we have lived together ! I am turning a page but you will forever remain in my heart, Remember that each one of you is a treasure and that you are all precious in the eyes of God. All the best for your future.



Word from the Second Assistant General



Jude Nnorom, 2nd General Assistant

DOING SOMETHING NEW - REINVENTING THE FUTURE

Spiritan missionaries are present in almost 60 countries of the world. In each country, Spiritans engage in development work through an integral human development framework and a focus on intergenerational equity. Drawing inspiration from the lived experiences of our founders, Claude Poullart Des Places (1679 -1703) and Francois Mary Paul Libermann (1802 - 1852) Spiritans make a deliberate option for the total liberation of the human person particularly the poor and abandoned. Spiritan development ministry makes visible the inequities of our world and intentionally advances the transformation of these inequities through engaged human agency in the light of the Christian faith. In her 2021 General Chapter held off the coast of Bagamoyo in Tanzania, Spiritan confreres and Lay Associates reflected on their approach to mission and drew from Isaiah 43:19 to “do something new” in our missionary and apostolic works. One approach to doing something new could be paying attention to the socio-economic challenges faced by the people among whom we work, and together with them develop new ways of doing things, new ways of transforming challenges into opportunities. Confronted by present day social and economic challenges, Spiritans and our collaborators understand the need to address contemporary issues with a lens that continuously seeks to question the impact of present day negative realities on future generations. While understanding the need for social infrastructures in uplifting the human person, Spiritans integrate a synodal approach in their development work. Walking alongside the most abandoned and moved by their cries for inclusion and equity, we avail of ourselves to journey with the poor and most abandoned in the identification of priority issues that will bring transformation to their lives and the environment in which they live. Spiritan development ministry is rooted in Catholic understanding of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God, and in his/her search for a holistic emancipation.

In *Populorum Progressio*, Pope Paul VI proposed an understanding of the true meaning of ‘authentic development’. According to the Pope, “development cannot be restricted to economic growth alone. To be authentic, it must be well rounded; it must foster the development of each man and of the whole man. As an eminent specialist on this question has rightly said: We cannot allow economics to be separated from human realities, nor development from the civilization in which it takes place”. This call has recently been repeated by Pope Francis who reminds us of the interconnectedness of living organisms, and the need for us to protect not only the human species but also the ecosystems which provide us with food and vegetation. In *Laudato Si*, the Pope invited us to the urgent task of protecting the earth our common home by an intentional “concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development...The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home”. The magisterium of the Church through these and other encyclicals remind us of the need to understand Development in its proper context as an act of seeking the restoration of the dignity of the human person through just and peaceful socio-economic acts. Pope Francis further reminds us in *Fratelli Tutti* that Development is about fraternity and social friendships. We cannot be satisfied when only a tiny part of our common home is comfortable, while the majority still lack basic social infrastructures. As the Pope

clearly stated, the recent Covid -19 pandemic has exposed the interconnectedness of our universe.

Yet, our ministry as Spiritans, challenges us to intentionally help those on the margins of society by re-imagining sustainable alternative to the status quo. An alternative that allows them to reinvent the future not only for present generations but also for those who will come after us. All are invited to be part of this journey by lending support to the Spiritan Development office. As Spiritans, Lay Spiritan Associates, Friends of Spiritans or whatever form we experience in sharing the global Spiritan charism of seeking to transform the lives of those who live on the margins, let us know that we are all invited to be part of Spiritan Development, which in a way is a synodal journey, seeking to do new things through upliftment and empowerment.



Maison générale des Spiritains —Rome



Kenneth Okoli
The new Director of the Central Development Office

I arrive in Rome at this very moment...

My name is Kenneth Ifeanyi Okoli, born in July 1971 from Nigeria North West Province of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. I had all my priestly formation in Nigeria and was ordained a priest in July 1999. After my ordination, I served as an assistant Parish Priest for two years in Nigeria at our Lady of Fatima Parish Onitsha.

I then went to Ethiopia on mission appointment for seven years and was involved in Spiritan pastoral/education ministry and development projects. While working in Ethiopia, I completed a bachelor's degree program in Development studies which was run and awarded by the Spiritan development study centre, Kimmage, Dublin in Ireland.

In 2008, I studied for a master's degree in international Development studies at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom and was awarded the MA degree in 2009. At the end of my studies, I was appointed manager of the Spiritan Refugee and Asylum project (REVIVE) in Manchester, a role I held for six years.

In 2015 I was elected as the Provincial Superior of the Spiritans British province. I held this office until August 2021 and then took a one-year sabbatical leave, visiting many countries, learning the French language, and supporting some Spiritan provinces as a consultant as well as catching up with friends and family.

Presently, I have moved to the Generalate community in Rome to start my new role as the Director of the Spiritan Central Development office and am working alongside my predecessor (Fr Philippe Engel) while becoming immersed in the beautiful Italian culture and language.

My interest in the Development sector sprang up from my days in the seminary and my ministry in Ethiopia which solidified my quest to create sustainable changes in human society. It is therefore a privilege for me to serve our dear congregation in this capacity and at this right moment when many nations where we work as missionaries are ravaged by poverty, war, insecurity, poor governance, and poor care of our ecosystem. I look forward with great enthusiasm to facilitate, coordinate, form and help our congregation in the field of development.



In Ethiopia with the Superior General



With the SCORE team



SCORE is the community development programme set up by the Spiritans in 1972.

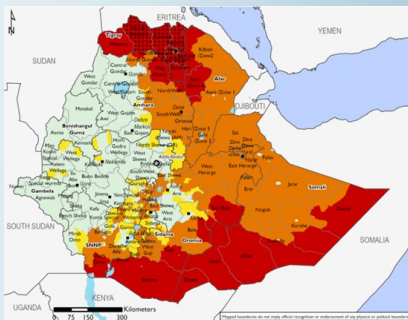
SCORE

Spiritan Community Outreach Ethiopia

Spiritan Ethiopian Group – Development Program

50 years of LOVE in action

“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full” John 10:10



Earlier attempts notwithstanding, the structured presence of Spiritans in Ethiopia began in 1972. This year marks the 50th year.

Since its inception, the group worked in remote and hard to reach areas of Southern Ethiopia (marked in red-for current high food insecurity situation - on the map of South Ethiopia).

There were two groups of Spiritans in Ethiopia in the beginning.

One of the groups went to Borana and developed an approach – evangelization through education. Education was the entry point for evangelization. Schools were opened in rural areas of Borana and later hostels were added.

The other group went to Gamo Gofa and South Omo and developed a complementary approach – integrated community-based development program (ICDP). To this effect, an integrated approach to address community needs in water, health, agriculture etc was adopted.

In 2012 the two groups came together to develop a strategic plan (2013-2017). This has resulted in the merging of the two groups’ approach into one program and under one office called SCORE – Spiritan Community Outreach Ethiopia. An administrative structure comprising an advisory board, senior executive team, program management and area teams, were put in place.

Now, SCORE runs seven major community development and humanitarian projects based in its offices in Addis Ababa, Arba Minch, Dimeka, Woito and Yabello. It has 80 staff doing the works of love in action guided by a vision of ensuring that everyone, especially the disadvantaged, have life and to the fullest.

Over its 50 years’ presence in Ethiopia, Spiritan’s love in action works have given hope to most vulnerable people in education, health, water & sanitation, agriculture, livelihoods and emergency response. A few testimonies are handy.



The SCORE management team

TESTIMONIES

In Borana, Spiritans are seen by the community as trailblazers in education. Many of the government and NGO workers from Borana are products of Spiritan schools. Recently, the education program is working assiduously in the area of disability inclusion. The following story is about a young man who benefited from the disability inclusion project.

The photograph below is that of a young man Barako Dida Babo; a 17 year old ele-



Photo 1: Barako before SCORE accompaniment, with a CBR crutch

mentary school student from Dhoqolle area in Borana. He used to live in a small village called Maddoo Ruphoo. Coming from a pastoralist community, Barako used to look after cattle ever since he was young. At the age of 10, he was bitten by a venomous desert snake (Puff-Adder) while looking after his family's herd. Sadly, that resulted in amputation of his right leg above thigh due to complications from the infected wound. The local missionaries tried their best to help him get medical support but it was too late; the referral chains were not easily accessible due to distance of locations. By then, his village was 100 plus km away from primary health care facility. On account of this and to save his life,

he was amputated at knee level. That meant, from that time, he could only walk

using crutches for at least seven years before receiving help. That was very challenging for a young boy like him, being disabled and yet walking a great distance to school.

With support from the SCORE Borana project, he was referred from Yabello General Hospital to Arba Minch CBR (Community Based Rehabilitation) centre. SCORE facilitated the referrals for his full physical and medical examinations. The CBR Centre provided him a prosthetic limb and gave trainings and indoor exercises for walking. Happily, he was able to walk again to school and normal daily rounds without crutches and with minimal difficulty.

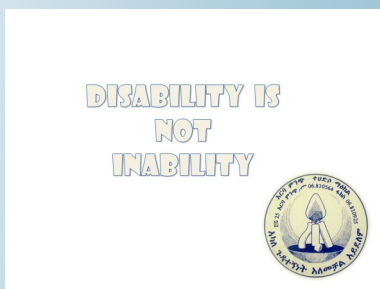
After full rehabilitation at Arba Minch, he is now back to his village. His and all neighbouring villagers were surprised and enthused to see him walk by himself without aid and physical support. He was effectively relieved



Photo 2. Barako after SCORE accompaniment in Arba Minch.

from the regular changing of crutches as a result of wear and tear. Barako himself is very happy and thankful to SCORE for their life-saving support to him. His family members are joyful seeing him walk relatively like any other abled person. He is optimistic about pursuing his education to higher levels in order to support his family in the near future.

His joyful mother expressing her gratitude enthused, "Thanks to God, now Barako has a prosthetic limb and is able to walk by himself and has dropped his crutches after full rehabilitation. We are happy to see Barako walk by himself, he is also happy too." Barako's family are genuinely grateful to the SCORE team who dug in and transformed his life.



Barare Bade (in picture below), 40, living in Gallo sub village of Genta Meyche Kebele, leads a family of 6, 4 boys and 2 girls. She has a total of 0.75 hectares of land. She is happily among the many beneficiaries of the ongoing conservation agriculture project being implemented by SCORE in collaboration with the Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB), the Canadian Catholic Church for Peace and Development working with the CST (CAFOD, SCIAF, and Trocaire) Together Initiative. Barare said that she has 0.75 hectares of land, of which about 50% was degraded and not productive. According to her, the productivity of her land decreased from time to time. She was worried about her land and how to rehabilitate it.



Then at that time SCORE came with remedies - the Conservation Agriculture (CA). She heard about the CA project during the Kebele meeting prepared by SCORE in collaboration with the Kebele administration. The aim was to create awareness among the rural dwellers about CA. Assessing the possible prospects, she eagerly joined the CA project in 2017. SCORE provided her with ongoing trainings on permanent soil cover, planting in precision, weed control, inter-cropping/cover cropping, post-harvest management. Additionally, SCORE provided some farm implements like pick axe, bush knife, sickle and shovel as well as other materials like seeds (maize and haricot bean) and fertilizers (NPS and Di-ammonium phosphate, DAP). She allocated 0.125ha of her land to the CA project and set out to work. Having observed her land degraded by overuse over the years, she was eager to see how CA could translate into increased yield. Following the steps mapped out by CA, she started her practice first by mulching and then went on to plant her maize. Her management methodology was good and she readily availed herself of the training opportunities provided. With the frequent follow-up and support of facilitators and animators from SCORE, she diligently accomplished the harvest of not less than 200kg of maize product from that degraded and under yielding land. Drawing from her experience as a test case, she went on to become an avid promoter of CA. Again in 2018, she continued with the same plot of land and this time employing 3 fellow farmers. That year there was an invasion of the stalk borer pests in her village. Many farms were attacked and devastated but her CA





plots managed to significantly survive the menace. She again got a harvest of above 200kg of maize. The harvest would have been more but for the worms that attacked the grains. However, this was for her a great success!

As a yearly routine of good agricultural practice, she would mulch her land and get it ready a month before the sowing season starts by digging the holes for sowing. Following this routine ensured that yield was maximized. With intercropping introduced into her practice, she raised a yield of 350kg of maize and 66 kg of haricot bean and with rotation farming, she has planted fava bean which is yet to be harvested. Quarterly training sessions are held on her farm plot as a pilot scheme for sharing experiences. Her neighbours who were initially ridiculing her efforts are now happy students receiving her support.

Barare is now the model farmer who can be consulted for advice on healthy agricultural practices using Conservation Agriculture method. Her plot, the degraded and barren soil, is now more fertile and productive than ever and attracts curious observers. She is able to feed her family properly as well as educate her children. She diversified the practice of CA to other areas such as vegetable production. Additionally, she is one of 6 lucky farmers selected for research on the adaptability of four varieties of the climbing bean.

Recalling how she overcame her predicament, Barare recounted: “Now my useless land has started to produce maize, haricot bean and Fava bean in numbers, I want to really thank SCORE and its staffs for providing this technology. CA preserved my plot, CA fed my family, CA is educating my children, and I will work with the remaining plot planting other vegetables. Now I feel nothing can stop me from doing CA”.



Portable Water Provision - Dorze Doshke Kebele Community

For the past 50 years, SCORE has been implementing various development programs in various parts of Ethiopia, mostly in Southern Ethiopian and especially in Gamo, south Omo and Oromia region Borana zones. One of the trademark areas of SCORE in development programs is portable water provision through digging of boreholes and construction of water provision facilities in rural areas where clean



drinking water is not available.

Absence of clean drinking water is a major problem in most rural areas of Ethiopia especially around districts in Gamo zone; Dita, Chenchacha and Mirab Abaya Woredas along with other Woredas in Gamo and Gofa zones. In these districts, access to clean drinking water is not only a problem of

development, but also an issue of survival and non-survival especially for children and women in these areas.

SCORE contributed immensely towards solving water problems in these areas through the construction of different water schemes in four Kebeles of Dita, Chenchacha and Mirab Abaya Woredas of Gamo zone in the last six years. In two kebeles of Dita woreda, 4 water reservoirs, 22 water points and 8 onsite springs were constructed. Also, in two Kebeles of Chenchacha Woreda, 2 water reservoirs, 10 water points and 5 onsite springs were constructed. Similarly, in three Kebeles in Mirab Abaya Woreda, 2 water reservoirs and 6 water points were constructed.

In Chenchacha Woreda, Dorze Doshike is among one of SCORE's intervention Kebeles that were affected by the shortage of portable drinking water. The integrated developmental dimensions of the project implemented in this Kebele are livelihood enhancement, water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion.

Before SCORE's intervention, the Kebele did not have any clean drinking water supply structure. The Kebele households used to utilize water fetched from existing unprotected springs and rivers in their locality. It took an average of more than 40 minutes to fetch water from these rivers and springs. At that time, the community serially suffered from waterborne diseases, especially diarrhoea. Giardia, Typhoid, Typhus, Trachoma and different fungal infections were the main diseases that affected the community before the SCORE intervention. According to reports from the water, mines and energy office, the portable water availability around the area before





Water development works in Chench district, Doshke commune, before and after SCORE's intervention.



SCORE support was 0%. The area was neglected and can be classified as a high deprivation area. There was basically no government or non-governmental organization assisted project for safe drinking water scheme in the Kebele. As a group committed to reaching the marginalised communities, Dorze Doshike Kebele was selected by SCORE for its portable water provision project based on community needs analysis report and recommendation of Woreda stakeholders.

Mr. Abite Alemu, a 59-year-old father with a family of 5 members is one of the residents of Dorze Doshike Kebele who has been affected by the lack of clean drinking water in the Kebele.

He revealed that prior to SCORE intervention, lack of clean drinking water was a serious problem in the area. "Due to the prevalence of water-borne diseases, especially diarrhea, giardia, typhoid and typhus we were affected and frequently went to health centers", he said. He went further to complain, "This situation has threatened not only my family's economy, but also prevented us from ensuring food security. I was forced to send children to fetch water instead of sending them to school and they trekked 30-40 minutes to fetch water. Also, my wife was forced to spend most of her time going down the river to collect water and wash clothes.". Today, with an air of fulfilment and sustained optimism, he recalls: "It was at the height of this problem that SCORE met us with the good news in 2016. We are blessed to have SCORE come here and support us"

SCORE first conducted a water survey using the existing spring sources and constructed one reservoir with five water points and four onsite springs. According to Mr. Abite, one of the water points built at that time was near his house, so he considers it a rare privilege to access clean drinking water for daily use without any challenge. "Now my family and I are free from any disease related to unprotected water. Today I send my children to school and my wife's burden and workload has been reduced, and I have minimised unnecessary expenditure on medication on water borne diseases" he emoted.

Today, a total of 178 households comprising 155 male households and 23 female households with further addition of 132 male and 128 female students in Doshike Primary School are accessing clean drinking water from the water facility built in Dorze Doshike Kebele by SCORE. This is just one of the development works that SCORE has done in the Kebele.



Mr Abite fetches drinking water from the water point in his community.

Sanitation and Hygiene - Gana Kare Kebele Community

Gana Kare Kebele of Dita Woreda is among one of SCORE's intervention rural Kebeles for the last 6 years. The activities implemented in the Kebele include food security and livelihood, and the WASH project (Water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion). The Kebele has a total of 5765 people in 1153 households (1133 male and 20 female-headed households).

Here, SCORE has implemented a variety of activities like provision of improved seed varieties, improved dairy breed heifers, provision of portable drinking water (reservoir construction, onsite spring water provisioning and construction of water points), and WASH promotion activities.

Before SCORE's intervention, the Kebele were not used to pit latrines. The households used to defecate wherever they felt convenient. The Kebele was under open defecation. Communities in the Kebele simply dug a small hole by stick and defecate, then covered it with soil and job done. They were frequently affected by diseases like typhus, trachoma, amoebic diseases and diarrhoea because of a lack of improved sanitation made worse by lack of access to clean water. According to information from the Woreda health office, the sanitation status of the communities before SCORE's intervention was way below average. As earlier stated, the area was largely excluded from many developmental initiatives due to a variety of reasons ranging from scarcity of resources to inaccessibility of some terrain, environmental conditions, lack of technical manpower etc. Apart from limited attempts by the government to support, SCORE is the first and the only non-governmental organisation till date to pay serious attention to rural sanitation and hygiene.



SCORE targeted Gana Kare Kebele for developmental attention after conducting a situation analysis to determine whether it falls within its developmental eligibility criteria. Based on its findings and the recommendation of Woreda health office, the project

was inaugurated in 2016. It started the sanitation and hygiene project by raising awareness among communities through mass mobilization activities in markets, festival places and other areas of public gathering. These activities were performed frequently to drive the message home. In addition to the sensitization activities, SCORE built capacities around health development armies, health extension workers, Kebele leaders and community representatives on WASH related activities.

SCORE also constructed 2 blocks of improved and ventilated pit latrines with 8 sections (4 for girls and 4 for boys) in the school compound, in addition to the 1 block (with 4 sections) of VIP latrine at the health centre.



2 photos showing the state of latrines in schools in the commune of Gana Kare in the Dita district before and after the SCORE intervention.



Today, the communities bask in the assurance of every household having their own improved pit latrines in their homes which cannot be shared with neighbours. Through communal mobilization promoted by WASH, the rural environment is clean and tidy. As a result, diseases which were a nightmare in the past have drastically reduced. The latrines constructed in the school compound help the students in maintaining proper sanitation. Prior to SCORE stepping in, the communities tried to construct latrines with local materials which were sub-standard and not sustainable. The construction of VIP latrines in the Kebele was a big relief to the communities, both economically and health-wise.

This project has benefitted the girls in many ways than one. SCORE provides reusable sanitary towels for the girls. This has improved confidence during their menstrual cycle while at the same time reducing absenteeism from school among girls as reports from the Woreda education office shows. The construction of the VIP latrines as well as the provision of the reusable sanitary pads were significant breakthroughs in the lives of the rural girls .

On the whole, SCORE has solved the problem of lack of clean water in the Kebele. Added to that, the sanitation project and its concrete implementation now cover 90% of the Kebele communities with the community now officially registered as open defecation free Kebele.

The communities are thankful to SCORE for having contributed significantly towards an improved community living by availing them the opportunity of achieving increased production yield both in crops and livestock through provision of improved varieties (crop and livestock), improved agricultural techniques (line sowing and cluster farming), improved food security and livelihood. Added to this list is the provision of portable drinking water as well as improved sanitation and hygiene.



Photo showing female students who benefited from the school VIP and sanitary towels in the commune of Gana Kare in the Dita district.

Youth Empowerment

Mrs. Habiba Bergeneh, 25, is one of the participants for the project: Improving Food Security and Resilience to Climate Change (IFSRC 2019-2023) which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and Sigh of Hope in collaboration with Spiritan Community Outreach Ethiopia (SCORE). The project is run in four Kebeles of Mirab Abaya district of Gamo zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia.

Habiba is a resident of Yayke Kebele of Mirab Abaya district. She is one of the unemployed youths seeking employment in the Kebele. She approached and narrated to the SCORE team how she was brought up in one of the poorest households in Kebele and how she was struggling to manage her poor household due to limited income. Mrs. Habiba's household depend on crop production and animal husbandry for livelihood. However, agriculture here is from hand to mouth. Despite the availability of small size land (0.25ha) for her household, prevalence of drought and financial shortage worsened the living condition of the household. As a result, she was struggling against poverty and seeking to receive support and encouragement from the government and organisations.

Taking the situation of Habiba into account, the Kebele food security committee,



Photo showing Ms Habiba running a small business in Yayke commune, Mirab Abaya district

and SCORE animator decided to select her as a project participant and her status was approved by the Kebele community. Habiba's selection saw her actively participate in the SCORE IFSRC project that promotes youth empowerment through provi-



sion of seed money and basic business skill trainings. She attended the basic business skill training which featured contents like income generation, saving and lending, business plan preparation, income diversifications and petty trade. The training was given by SCORE in partnership with the Woreda youth enterprise and trade development office. In addition to training, the project provided seed money as revolving working capital to the target youths through the Kebele cooperative system.

After successful completion of her training, she prepared a business plan in consultation with SCORE facilitators and got a revolving fund from Kebele cooperative association and seed money from SCORE. She received 10,000.00 ETB which enabled her to run a small-scale business. She has been selling shoes in different local markets and at her shop. She sources her products from Soddo and Birbir towns which are located 50km north and 10km south respectively from her Kebele.

Today, Habiba is confidently operating her business in the Kebele. She is a member of the Kebele's RuSSaco (cooperative) and regularly saves. She is repaying her loan each month (300 ETB) and also saving 500 ETB monthly since the start of her withdrawal of revolving fund from the cooperative which was before one year. Today Mrs. Habiba has more than 10,000.00 ETB capital in hand in addition to meeting her overhead. Her average net income after expenditure amounts to 800 ETB each month.

Through the support of SCORE, she was able to improve her business skill and to make money via participating in various businesses in the area. She is proof of how SCORE has encouraged and supported sustainable youth empowerment among rural Ethiopian communities.

Regarding her plan for the future, she has this to say: "I plan to open a mega shop for shoes in the town and expand my business in near future." She is so happy and thankful to SCORE for helping her to participate in the IFSRC project.



Case Stories

Computer Training

Sajin Genet Guito Shari works with Hamer Woreda police department. Before she was involved in the project, she had been working in the record room with a small salary. She knew nothing about the use of a computer.

But after getting the free basic computer skills training course, she is now able to write, save, and retrieve documents using all MS programs. When an internal vacancy was posted, she applied and gained promotion to the position based on her digital competence acquired through basic computer skills training and certificate she received via facilitation by SCORE. She progressively rose to become the head of her work department with improved salary. She is equally helping her co-workers by transferring the skills learnt. She is appreciative of the opportunity afforded her through the free basic computer skills training facilitated by SCORE Hamer area. She equally encouraged the project team to not relent in providing such opportunities to other government staffs in the Hamer Woreda.



Story of Sajin Genet Guito - Police officer in Hamar

Promotion of Basic Education for Functional Adult Literacy (FAL)

45 years old Garsho Sudo Wengela is a pastoralist. He has 3 boys and 3 girls and lives in Shanko Kelema village. He graduated from Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) level-3 in 2022. He reckons that he knew nothing before joining the FAL class. Now he is able to write, read, listen and even do some simple arithmetic. Currently, he is in charge of recording attendance sheet for the beneficiaries of the Productive Safety Net project especially during labour workdays. As Garsho said, previously he uses small gravels and grains like maize to count big money, but now he is able to count easily after getting basic education through the SCORE FAL program.



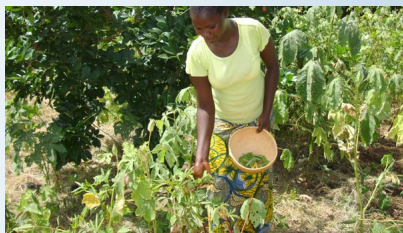
Garsho Sudo Wengela, pastoralist

Women poultry farmers

Wale Argo is a 26 year old mother of three from Luka Kebele, Luke Kutir-2 Sub-village. She is a beneficiary of the Women Poultry Production Group under the IRePeaL project. She received training on poultry production from SCORE IRePeaL project team and also was provided with 7 improved variety chickens together with a maize flour for initial feeding. After that she proceeded to apply the knowledge she received from training on how to manage poultries; constructed a poultry house and successfully kept all her chickens healthy and they soon started laying eggs. Recently she sold 10 eggs in 5 rounds and got a profit of 500 birr for the first time. She used the profit to buy maize flour for household consumption. She has uses some of the eggs for her household consumption as well. She testifies that the IRePeaL project team has conducted a follow up and monitoring of her progress in the chicken business. She is very happy that SCORE reached out to her through this project especially at a time when her income and livelihood was affected by the locust infestation in the area.



Wale Argo, poultry woman



Vegetable Producing Woman

Garide Baykeda is a 28 year old woman from the Tsema tribe Enchete Kebele, Bola Kachara sub-village. She is married and a mother of two children. She is a beneficiary of the Women Vegetable Production Group under the IRePeaL project. She had no prior knowledge of vegetable production as the livelihood of her family and the tribe in the area is much more centered on livestock production. With the technical capacity building trainings from SCORE IRePeaL project team she now has the necessary know-how. And having been provided with improved variety of onion seed and pesticides after her training, Garide has started planting onions on her small farmland with technical support from project staff. Within a few months, Garide harvested 13 quintals of onions from her farm and earned a profit of 12,000 Ethiopian birr. Ploughing back this profit, she bought two oxen which is shown on the photo above; each with 5,500 Ethiopian birr and with the remaining 1000 birr, she started petty trading on Cheka (Local drink) production. She is very happy and appreciative of the benefit and support she receives from the SCORE IRePeaL project.



Garide Baykeda, productrice de légumes avec ses deux vaches



"Listen to all voices, especially those generally excluded, those of the poor, migrants, indigenous peoples and young people... And when we talk about development, we must always ask: development of what and for whom? For too long, the conventional idea of development has been almost entirely limited to economic growth and in terms of material growth, so that we are almost forced to exploit the environment and our fellow human beings irrationally... We cannot develop as human beings by increasing inequality and environmental degradation... Religious stories, though ancient, are usually full of symbolism and contain a conviction that we share today, that everything is interconnected and that true care for our lives and our relationship with nature is inseparable from brotherhood, justice and fidelity to others... a unified approach that can help us avoid an understanding of prosperity based on the myth of unlimited growth and consumption where we are dependent only on technological progress.

Extract from the address of Pope Francis to the participants in the congress organised by the dicastery for integral human development on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the encyclical "populorum progressio" Tuesday 4 April 2017



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