



"Gender inequality addressed through ensured economic empowerment of women in 'Akaki Kality' Sub-City"

Emmanuel Development Association (EDA) is an Ethiopian development organization committed to improve the lives of vulnerable children, youth, and women through implementing integrated community based development programs. EDA works in partnership with diverse local and international stakeholders. The projects focus on Education, Child Development, Livelihood Improvement, Environmental Development/Conservation, Community Health as well as Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) and Networking for joint implementation and Capacity Building.

With regards to WaSH, since 2009 EDA has been implementing different projects that aim to enable communities to access safe water, sanitation, and hygiene education. Moreover, the projects also helped beneficiaries to generate income from recycling wastes and produces renewable energies to address climate changes.

In the years 2009 through 2015, with the technical and financial support of Comic Relief and Water Aid UK, EDA implemented two projects in Akaki-Kality Sub-City of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Largely industrial, slum and partly semi-rural, Akaki-Kality is an area where high poverty prevails. The area's population growth has outpaced the provision of services, leading to low access and poor quality of health, Sanitation services. Many neighborhoods and homes are crowded and lack basic infrastructures including water and sanitation facilities. As a result, community members spent a lot of time, money, and energy in search of clean water and sanitation facilities to avoid open defecation.

EDA implemented the first project in the years 2009 through 2011. The project's aim was to perform action research on WaSH-related problems in the community, construct improved WaSH facilities to serve the area, and build the capacity of youth and women through their involvement in WaSH-focused business cooperatives.



Learning from the success and challenges in the last three years (2009-2011), EDA then prepared new project entitled "Poor and Waste Powered Slum Improvement" to be implemented in six weredas of Akaki Sub City in the

years 2012 through 2016, with the primary aim of improving the health and livelihoods of slum dwellers in the region.

Accordingly, during the two projects' implementation period, EDA has built six WaSH centers availing facilities such as latrines, showers, hand-washing troughs and biogas powered energy at the centers. The improved facilities have positively impacted health, environment and livelihoods of beneficiaries to promote and address the equity and inclusion of 300 marginalized women in the community.

As a result of this intervention, community members have improved their household income by engaging themselves in cooperatives which are dedicated to waste collection, composting, and management of communal WaSH center activities.

The capacity of the cooperative members has been built with the provision of:

- Sanitation management trainings
- Loans and
- Delivery of equipments
- Construction of facilities
- Creating business opportunities

Communal WaSH centers, which are managed by 300 women's cooperatives have washing rooms, shower facilities and community cafes. Customers of these centers can use freshly made food and use the services of washing room and shower with affordable payment. The waste from the washing rooms is recycled into biogas along with other waste and other organic materials. Biogas is an alternative form of energy that is safe and dependable enough to supply power for cooking in the cafeteria.



In the course of implementation of the projects, the activities accomplished so far have resulted in the following benefits particularly in the area of environmental sanitation, hygiene and economic empowerment of marginalized women.

Sanitation and Hygiene Benefits

- Improve sanitary conditions of the area;
- Improve the personal hygiene practices of the beneficiaries and communities;

- Demonstrate the integrated approach of sanitation, hygiene and income generation activities; and
- Can be a model for public washing rooms and shower management

Waste Management in an Environment Friendly Way

- Follow the natural waste treatment process;
- Require less land than aerobic composition or land- fills; and
- Reduce the volume of waste (e.g. Reducing excess sludge)

Health and Environment Benefits

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through methane recovery
- Produce liquid fertilizer – slurry;
- Eliminate pungent smell/offensive odor
- Reduce cutting of trees for fuel wood; and
- Reduce sanitation and hygiene related diseases

Improvement/ Impacts on the livelihood of marginalized women

- One cafeteria with a biogas digester can increase the household income of 25 households to Birr 2000 per month by working only 10 days per month;
- Due to improved household income, low-income mothers were able to re-enroll their children who previously dropped out back into school.
- Improved entrepreneurship skills of women and individuals as they were able to invest in small scale businesses to expand the services; and
- Gender inequality addressed through ensured economic empowerment of women.

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