



As Councils & Standing Committees strengthened their oversight role over the plans and performances of executives, explicability, transparency, efficiency & effectiveness improved. Communities' needs and concerns are now addressed in a responsive manner.

The CBoC project has been contributing to improved local government systems and efficient and effective service delivery in project partner areas.

PROJECT FACTS

Location: Amhara NRS (South Gondar, West Gojam and Wag Hemera) 6 Woredas and 22 Kebeles

Project duration: 2015 - 2018

Phase Budget: 18,321,219 ETB

Main partners: Amhara National Regional Council Office (ANRCO); Bureau of Finance and Economic Development; Consortium of Christian Relief and Development, Associations; Amhara Development Association; Local Civil Society Organizations at Woreda and Kebele levels

Main Donor: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

HELVETAS is a member of

Alliance 2015

towards the eradication of poverty

HELVETAS ETHIOPIA

HELVETAS is one of the committed development partners in Ethiopia since it resumed its work in 2002. It has contributed to the overall development of the country with focus on Tigray and Amhara regions. The Country Programme Strategy (2014 - 2018) provides the strategic orientation and sets the direction and scope of the programme and its development.

Mission: is to promote and support innovative and sustainable development that improves livelihoods of economically poor and socially disadvantaged women and men. HELVETAS applies people centred, multi-stakeholder approaches, thereby building partnerships and capacity through facilitation, innovation and technical assistance, as well as alliances and networking for knowledge, learning and advocacy.

Thematic areas

- Rural infrastructure
- Natural resources management
- Support to Civil Society Organisations and local government
- Skill development and education
- Emergency response



Wotet Abay Kebele councilors attending monthly regular assembly, Mecha Woreda, West Gojam Zone, Amhara National Regional State, Ethiopia

“Women representatives in the kebele (village) never dare to speak in the council assemblies; we were lethargic to participate in discussing our problems and actively forwarding ideas. After being trained on public speaking and awareness raising we are now able to represent our community’s needs and concerns and actively participate in decision making.”

W/ro Bosie Mitke from Abichikili kebele from S. Achefer

Capacity Building of Councils Project

The Capacity Building of Councils (CBoC) Project aims at a stronger involvement of local communities and their representatives in the planning and implementation of community-based matters at the grassroots. The application of Social Accountability tools has played a great role in enhancing the communities engagement in local development affairs. Councilors and Standing Committees feel confident on the systems, processes, and procedures; satisfactorily comprehending and discharging their core duties. Applying social accountability tool has supported the community to identify and prioritize their immediate needs and take a part in the process.

Provisions of basic public services such as education, health, agriculture, access to rural road and water supply points have been significantly improved. This is manifested by the active participation and engagement of the community in their local development affairs, such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), reproductive health, education through improving student class room ratio, and improved agricultural practices.



Mutansa Elementary School Compound in Dera district fenced through Application of SA Tool/ community score card

CONTEXT

Whereas the Council at regional level is well capacitated to execute its powers and duties; zone, woreda and kebele Councils often lack capacity to efficiently and effectively carry out their fundamental tasks. Although the councilors and Standing Committees at the zones, woredas and kebeles have the basic understanding of their core duties, they lack competences to execute them adequately, mainly due to limited knowledge and skills, inadequate tools and procedures and limited involvement of partners. Budget limitations and a lack of administrative/office facilities also prevent Councils from doing a good job.

Based on the achievements and lessons learnt in previous project areas, the Amhara National Regional Council (ANRC) expressed its interest in replicating and scaling up the capacity building initiatives of Councils and councilors at the Regional level. Consequently, HELVETAS Ethiopia and the ANRC Office agreed to expand the project to a regional scale and institutionalize capacity building for Councils and councilors at all levels of the region.

THE PROJECT

The overall objective of the CBoC project is capacitating elected and executive Councils and councilors, especially at woreda and kebele levels, to ensure people's needs and concerns are addressed in a responsive manner, and that communities are involved in local development affairs, thereby contribute to improved local government systems and efficient and effective service delivery. CBoC is being implemented since June 2012 in partnership with the ANRC Office in 22 kebeles of 6 woredas in 3 zones of the Amhara National Regional State.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Communities (men and women) know about the councilors system, their own role in it as well as the core duties of the Councilors. As a result, key community issues are identified and brought forward to the councils and to higher levels.
- Regional, woreda and kebele councilors (Men and women), women caucuses, Standing Committees and executives know about their core duties and how to adopt them.
- Need-based development plans are prepared and implemented by woreda and kebele administrative Councils.
- Development plans and their executions are regularly supervised and followed up by woreda and kebele Councils and Standing Committees.
- ANRCO has been institutionalising its capacity building programme for Councils at zone, woreda and kebele level.

APPROACH

Phase I (June 2012-2015)

- Participatory design
- Commencement and grounding of the basics tailored to local needs (trainings, awareness, manuals and tools, documentation and dissemination of good practices)
- Deepening the practice, and
- Setting up paths for up scaling

Phase II (July 2015-June 2018)

- Up-scaling
- Consolidation and institutionalization
- Sustainability (alignment and ownership, Community engagement, experience exchange, documentation and dissemination of best practices, systems, processes)