

## Support for Sustainable Development Projects

Support for Sustainable Development (SSD) is an Ethiopia Charity legally established in 2003 under the Ethiopia law. SSD's vision is seeing the rural poor farming and pastoral communities of Ethiopia self-sustained and independent of others' support. Its organizational mission is supporting the development initiatives of the poor and the neglected communities of Ethiopia its approach is characterized by linking relief with development through the implementation of irrigation based integrated development projects.

The Organization, in the past eight year, has shown a steady growth both in terms of geographical coverage and in number and quality of its human resources. Currently, there are over 68 SSD employees out of whom 15 are senior program staff with university degrees (master and bachelor degree) holders, 26 are project staff whose Academic qualifications are diploma or advanced diploma and possessing commendable work experience in implementing and managing integrated development projects. The rest are support staff members at the head office and the project areas.

Currently, SSD operates in eight districts of Afar and one district of Oromia National Regional States. SSD has got an established and well-functioning organizational systems and procedures that facilitate the smooth implementation of its activities. The organization assigns knowledgeable and experienced project staff for a specific irrigation development projects. The various areas of specialty include construction, agricultural extension, community capacity building and project resources management.

At field level, a qualified project coordinator will take the responsibility of facilitating the overall management and coordination of field activities and liaising with the local administration, development partners and beneficiary communities. The field teams comprise 6-7 people who have acquired different skills and experiences in delivering irrigation-based development projects.

Support for Sustainable Development, apart from endeavoring to address the ever-growing and multifaceted problems of pastoral communities, is engaged in the provision of clean and safe potable water, combating longstanding harmful traditional practices, support local initiatives for the provision of accessing quality formal education and local government's capacity development and women empowerment in both the pastoral and sedentary communities.

**Since 2003, SSD has made over 16,340 households or 81, 700 people draw benefits out of the already completed small-scale irrigation projects.** The beneficiaries are now able to produce food and cash crops, vegetables and fruits at least twice a year and maintain household food security. The physical constructions have also been accompanied by local capacity development which in turn made it possible to increase people's resilience towards natural hazards. Beneficiaries have development their own capacity to proactively prepare themselves on how to with stand threats in the event of serious drought and flood. There are over five ongoing irrigation-based integrated development programs in Afar region and by the time these projects get completed and go operational over 1,840 household or over 9,200 people will have a possibility to become food self-sufficient by way of producing various cereals and crops and also generate disposable cash income.

Furthermore, SSD has established good working relationship and demonstrated credibility and respect with its local partners and donors especially with its Canadian donor such as CLWR, CFGB and RFTF as it employs credible financial system. There is a well-organized financial management and auditing system commensurate with the requirements of the responsible federal government regulation body called Charities and Societies Agency and also the partner communities and regional government.

SSD's irrigation schemes are known for their simple but efficient and durable designs ease of maintenance and operations and also for minimal disturbance to ecology SSD's willingness to take on the harshest physical challenges in penetrating the most neglected and remotes region, afar has

paved ways for gradual transformation of the pastoralist communities into agro-pastoralism and maintaining household food security.

### **1996:**

Westlock Growing Project 1st year  
Proceeds to Berkeley Springs Water Development Project  
Gebreyes Haile in Ethiopia

### **1998**

World Record Harvest- Westlock, Alberta  
Proceeds in support of Gebreyes project- Mille River Diversion  
food for work



## **“Mille Irrigation Project Completion”**

### **Contributing partners**

RFTF

WGP

Support for Sustainable Development(SSD)

### **Project description:**

Mille project begun by LWR some years ago, funds ran out, project dropped unfinished. In order to protect the investment, SSD (Gebreyes Haile) requested funds to complete the project.

Main canal completed to bring water to farmland.

**Completed Feb. 2010**



### **Update:**

#### **Agriculture development and capacity building**

250ha distributed among 750households and large part of it was under cultivation before the food incidence  
67 ha currently covered with crops (after the flood incidence )



## 2003

Gebreyes resigns from LWR and establishes his own NGO-Support for Sustainable Development. 1<sup>st</sup> project is the **Aura Irrigation Development Project**.

990 households benefited and 400 pastoralist families have permanently settled around the irrigation scheme. 200 hectares of land is developed for farming. Food for work during construction, introduction of different crops for cultivation. Community targeted for further capacity building, awareness training, women's empowerment etc.

November 2003 – Dec. 2005



## 2005

**Rainbow for the Future** is established as a charitable foundation. visit to Ethiopia with CFGB reps, to see the site of the next water project, **Alelesubula Small Scale Irrigation Project** in the Afar. Begun in 2006 the project included development of 160 hectares of land for farming for 600 households. 2006-2008 complete



## 2007

Heavy floods changed the course of the Aura River at the project intake site. Heavy machinery was engaged to correct the damage and bring back the river to a position to supply the irrigation canals. Gebreyes visited Westlock.



## 2008

Representatives from WGP, Rotary and RFTF visited Ethiopia and attended the **Grand Opening of the Alelesubula Project** and the **handing over to the community of the Aura** irrigation development, in which 200ha of land for 640households has played vast role in transforming the target community from pastoral way of life to sedentary agriculture on voluntary basis. Accompanied by the Canadian Ambassador to Ethiopia as well as the Regional President of the Afar and many regional ministers of agriculture and development



Agreement signed with CIDA/RFTF to fund **Aura Women's Empowerment Project** .  
New projects **Abakabera** and **Amuli projects** begun .

**AMULI & ABAKABERA:** Irrigation based integrated Pastoral development project:

This is a 4 year, \$1.7 million project that includes diversion of the Jara and Ataye Rivers in the Afar region of Ethiopia. The project will utilise 1200 metric tons of wheat as Food for Work to address the short term food needs of 11,946 people during the construction phase. The completed project will see a tremendous increase in food production for 788 families, an increase in the availability of water, establishment of a school, an increase in the capacity of the community to manage their own development as well as increased involvement of the population in not only this project but their own future. Project completed and handed to community, Feb. 2012.



### **Update:**

Project duration: January 2008 –December 2011-4 years

Project beneficiaries: 788HHs (14,255 people)

Area of land to be developed: 250 hectares

4.5km main canal, 63 secondary canal (500meters each on average), 5 culvert, 33 drop and division box structures, four River course protection gabion deflector structures

4 blocks of teachers' residence constructed (eight class rooms)

Over 10, 000 people benefited from the food received in food for work program to construct the irrigation scheme and other physical infrastructures



## **Agriculture development and capacity building**

250ha of land have been distributed and cultivated by 788HHs

Farmers managed to harvest crops three times a year since 2010 and so far 3000 tons of maize, vegetables and Mungbean harvested)

About 400 people trained on irrigation farming related topics

Biological and physical soil conservation and run off prevention structures constructed to protect the irrigation scheme from flood hazards



Completion of **Higale Water Supply Project**: purchase of a solar pump to complete the community water project.



### **2009:**

**ALELESEBULA 2:** Scheduled for completion in December 2010 this project is designed to benefit an additional 640 pastoralist households through irrigation, Food for Work and increased food security.

### **2010:**

**FRENCH FAGI:** Another irrigation based development project begun in January 2010. This is a 2 year, project designed to assist communities to become food self sufficient as well as increase the population's capacity to resist drought risks and hazards. This is a relatively small scale project providing irrigation to 160 hectares for 600 households. Combined with the nearby Alelesebula Extension project there will be a benefit overall for 1000 households. Jan 2010-Sept.2012



**Update:**

Infrastructure construction= 85 % completed

Construction of river diversion head work completed

3.36km canal constructed and completed

22 drop, division boxes and culverts constructed

56m long gabion retaining wall structure constructed ( opposite side of intake structure)



About 10,000 people have so far benefited from the food wages received in CFW and FFW program during the construction of the irrigation scheme.

Agriculture development and capacity building

Presently 70ha cultivated with maize, vegetables and fruits

300(30% Female) HHs trained on irrigation agronomy and related topics

About 100ha of land have been distributed for 400HHs

Farmers managed to harvest crops from 80ha three times since 2010 November up to 2011 November ( 330 tons of maize and vegetables harvested)

Biological and physical soil conservation and run off prevention structures constructed to protect the irrigation scheme from flood hazards



**Dewi Irrigation Project:** 60 hectares developed, 240 households benefitted. Jan 2010-Dec.2012

**Seke Town Water Project:** funded through Barrhead Rotary Club/RFTF/Alberta Communities Initiative Program International Development Fund.(CIP) Completed Dec.2010



A water pumping system has been established so as to allow easy access of individual household to safe potable water.

The old and leaking water pipelines have been replaced with new ones and the reduce risk of water contamination has been reduced.

21 watering/ distribution points have been constructed in the proximity of the households and are saving the time that children and women would spend to fetch water from distant river and springs.

A new water reservoir with a capacity of 100,000 liters has been built and is supplying water to the community.

**Mille Irrigation Flood Repair Project:** flooding (July –Sept) damaged infrastructure making it necessary to de-silt the canals and to repair the retaining walls on the river bank opposite the intake

## 2011

### **Semera Orphan Support Project:**

SSD and RFTF provided funds for the specific purpose of providing food, clothing, medical care, and education and administrative support of the Mahi Difu Campus of the Mahi Difu Child Care and Development Organization (MDCCDO).

### **Sentema Education Support Project**

Project duration: June 2011 – December 2013

Project beneficiaries: 440 direct beneficiary students (45,424 people indirect beneficiaries)

### **Progress so far**

First class room block (four classes) 90% completed

Administration block construction foundation work completed ( 30% of the total construction)





So far 6,000 hollow blocks produced

Physics and biology laboratory block foundation work underway (25% of the total construction work)

District has assigned one education expert to facilitate and coordinate efforts of relevant government and community stakeholders.

The project committee drawn from the local community members is also established to oversee and coordinate the project.

As per the project agreement , the local community has distributed the expected amount which is 1,439,811 birr

### **Future Projects:**

There are additional long range plans for an extension to the already completed Aura irrigation project and the finalizing of the Alelesebula project with work in the Badoli 1 and Badoli 2 Kebeles. These projects would involve completion of irrigation infrastructure, capacity building among the population for management, empowerment of women, HIV/AIDs awareness education, environmental issues training, conservation, agronomic development training and community capacity building to ensure their sustainability and prosperity into the future.

### **Seka Town Solar -powered water supply Project**

Project duration: October 2011 – July 2012

Project beneficiaries: 15,000 residents of Seka town

To replace the existing, prohibitively priced, hydro electric powered pumping system with solar power generated by an array of solar panels.

Progress so far

Agreement signed between SSD and Seka Town Administration and Jimma Zone Water Resources Office  
Solar panel and pumps imported and will be received within 15 days

**Mengella Irrigation Based Development project:** July 2010-June 2013-3 years

600HHs -5960 people, 150 hectares developed

Infrastructure construction= 60 % completed, river diversion head work completed  
2.5kms long main canal constructed to convey water to farm lands (so far 20ha have access to water)  
800meters secondary canal constructed Seven drop and division box structures and three culverts constructed on main canal, three drop structures constructed on secondary canal



About 4,100 benefited from the food wages received in FFW program and 400 MT food grain is distributed since July 2010 up to November 2011.

**Agriculture development and capacity building**

Project nursery site established

Farm land preparation started and about 8hectares cultivated with maize



**Kebena Project:** This project is in the Dolecha Woreda, north of the Kasem River not far from the Kereyu lands in Fantelle. The development of 75-150 hectares will benefit 600 HH or approximately 4200 of the Argoba people. The cost of the project is 7-8million ETB, the Government will supply as much as 20% of the funds. The start date for the project is 2012.

**Amuli II Irrigation- Based Development Project:** March 2012- February 2016

To be implemented on Jara River, the source of the previous Amuli irrigation scheme constructed by SSD. Due to the high demand for additional cultivable land, some beneficiaries of the project are consistently requesting their respective kebeles for a similar intervention. 90 ha of agricultural land can be developed for 270 household beneficiaries.

**Aura II Irrigation- Based Development Project:** March, 2012- February, 2015

To be implemented on Aura River, the source of the previous irrigation project constructed by SSD. . Currently there are over 800HHs cultivating about 270ha of land which is beyond the design carrying capacity of the initial Aura irrigation scheme. Due to the high demand for additional cultivable land, some beneficiaries of the project have grabbed land from the near-by communal land. In addition, young individuals who got married in the last few years are consistently requesting their respective kebeles for a similar intervention. This project will benefit additional 480 HHs by availing 160ha of additional irrigable land.

### **Construction and Equipping of Seka Chekorsa TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) Center:**

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The Ethiopian government accords great importance to technical and vocational education and training (TVET). TVET in Ethiopia comprises both formal and informal training. Educations and trainings in TVET include agriculture, health and teacher training.

Among 206,000 populations living in seka chekorsa woreda, about 60,000 are young who are attending their education at elementary and higher secondary schools. As a result of low education quality prevailing in the region in general, only 20% of these students pass to preparatory level annually and the rest 80% of the students don't succeed to join to preparatory or other training institutions. The establishment of the **Seka Chekorsa TVET** will accommodate the school leaving students from Seka chekorsa, Shebe sombo and Mana woredas and plans to enroll and train about 1,000 students annually. The implementation of Seka TVET would not only help in reducing the level of unemployment in the area but also create conducive environment for trainers. The TVET Program will also address the training needs of post grade ten (10) school dropouts and further skills training for those who are already employed.