

Major Projects implemented by Walal with sample photos

Introduction:-

Walal development Association (WALDA) was established in year 2003 and has been active in implementation of various projects particularly since 2005. Since this time, the organization has given attention to the following thematic areas of intervention through several project phases and has invested more than 15 million birr to date. The greater share of this budget (about 40%) has been used for water and sanitation project and here below you find more insights of the major works undertaken.

1. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Development Project (WATSAN):

The project was implemented in two rounds in six Woredas of the Kellem Wollega Zone, and was funded by the JANIVO Foundation. The first phase of the project was from 2003 and 2005 and benefited about 22,000 beneficiaries. The second phase of the project was started in April 2006 and has benefited more than 41,101. In general, during its active operational years, more than 105 water schemes have been developed that benefited a total of 63,101 people residing in 9,732 households. The water and sanitation projects have been undertaken in 9 of the 11 districts of the Zone.

The majority of schemes types developed are spring on spot with and without reservoirs, but several gravity schemes, and many hand pump fitted hand dug wells have also been constructed based on the potential water sources, available budget and number of expected beneficiaries. Apart from water scheme development, tremendous sanitation and hygiene works had also been integrated including the facilitation of the constructions of more than 1000 private and communal pit latrines, many training sessions have been organized on sanitation and hygiene, care and maintenance skills of the water schemes for scheme care taker committees. In addition, several water and sanitation clubs have been established at schools and within the communities for ensuring proper utilizations of the resources for longer services or sustainability. For more details of the schemes constructed, please refer annex number 1.

2. HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support Project:

HIV/AIDS, like any other parts of Ethiopia, has spread to towns and the countrysides of Kellem Wollega Zone. In fact, Kellem is one of the zones that have suffered more from HIV due to a number of reasons. Despite the poverty of much of its population, it is rich in natural resources and particularly known for its coffee productions, which is the main export article of Ethiopia. During the coffee harvest season which lasts for several months, very large numbers of daily workers from other regions, truck drivers and their assistants flood both urban centres and the countryside. Coffee is a source of income available for some months of the year for the farmers, labourers, merchants, brokers and others. Following the arrival of such coffee harvesting season, commercial sex workers mainly from bigger towns and cities also saturate the towns to take their share. Traditionally, coffee harvest season is a time of plenty and merrymaking. The family man who sells his coffee and does not stay in town for at least few days a year to enjoy the company of friends and ladies would become the laughing stock of his peers.

Initially, people of the whole area were completely oblivious to the presence of the disease. Those who had heard about it did not fully understand how it spread which holds true even today for some remote districts in the zone. When Walal started its activities on HIV Prevention, Care and Support in July 2005, the HIV stigma was so strong that despite the common cases that there were many bed-ridden people everywhere, not a single one was found interested or confidential to undergo blood test and disclose his/her status. The fear of being found to have the virus was strongly correlated with being isolated from the community, denial of being offered with even a menial job, hence, the confidentiality status was so intense that no any level of effort could be effective. Much work had to be done and although, at first, it looked like it was wasted effort, it ultimately brought the desired effects. People started discussing it, learning about it, de-demonizing it and being sympathetic of the HIV carriers as patients of just any other disease. Today, in a few of the zone's districts, a moderate understanding of the disease has been reached. This is not so for most of the districts where, except sporadically, very little work has been done.

AIDS is bound to poverty very tightly. Despite the awareness, poverty and the low awareness of the community in general on women's rights, play a decisive role in keeping the disease going. Walal intends to continue working on awareness creation on school children (43% of the population are below 13) and vulnerable groups like adolescents, commercial and casual sex workers and unemployed youth. Income generation activities are a main component of its work. It might be the best tool for keeping all these away from liquor and drugs whose abuse is skyrocketing. Walal had been implementing a project on the prevention, care and control of AIDS in three districts from July 2005 to June 2009. The HIV/AIDS project had been funded by the Dutch Oak Tree Foundation. One hundred and thirteen bed-ridden people due to the pandemic had been getting an a cash assistance 150 birr a month with technical facilitation of their access to ART drugs, provision of relevant skill trainings with the objective of ultimately engaging them into income generation activities as their health restores with the objective of gradually making them self-sustainable.

In addition, ninety five HIV-orphaned children had also been getting an assistance of 90 birr a month, along with foodstuff, educational materials and counseling services. The total estimated beneficiaries of the HIV/AIDS prevention care and support project implemented by WALDA were about 72,000 individuals majority of whom were reached through the vast awareness creation activities conducted at schools and using any other social gathering events.

3. Old People Assistance Project:

Food, shelter and clothes are necessary for the survival of human beings. Old aged people, especially those who do not have relief from immediate relatives and are childless suffer from lack of these indispensable resources. Old people are an asset of the country and play a decisive role in upgrading the socio-cultural development of the society. Contrary to the Oromo traditional respect for elders, these days, poor elderly people are considered worthless and insignificant. The potential of old aged people is overlooked and they are separated from social life. Due to this negative attitude towards them their medical and others needs are very often neglected.

In Kellem Wollega Zone, there are more than 4 000 old aged people who are more than 60 years. Of these, a large proportion needs assistance. Some of these elders have lost their children to HIV and other diseases and hence have to take care of their grand children. Others are childless, handicapped

or of poor health. Those assisted by Walal are homeless who can move around to earn a living by doing poorly paid labours or mostly begging. Walal had built 14 low cost-houses (5 in Muggi, 8 around Dembi-Dollo and 1 in Abba Jarra) which are being used by about 20 elders some of whom were old married couples for whom begging was the only livelihood option.

Although the initial objectives of this project, apart from providing a shelter, to enable these people to lead a decent living, this could not be realized due to the old age and poor health of the beneficiaries that generally hindered them from working and earning income. For future, to continue this noble endeavour, Walal has planned to prepare a project proposal to build 20 additional affordable new houses that will liberate about 40 homeless dying destitute from leading highly risky inhumane life on the streets, verandas or sometimes under shelters constructed on tombs. In order to realize the ideal situation for empowering these parents to lead a fully decent life, the project is also thought to be integrated with provisions of food staffs and some basic clothing.

4. Rural schools capacity building support project

The rural school capacity building project had been implemented in various intervention strategies. These included construction of additional class rooms, availing of water schemes and toilet facilities for the school community accompanied by hygiene and sanitation trainings and establishment of a club on the same agendas, and provision of reference books. Accordingly, with regard to additional class room construction, a block of 4 room buildings have been constructed for Mechara elementary school in Hawa Galan and another at Alchaya school in Gidami district.

To enable the students to access potable water and toilets near their school, many rural schools have got the access especially through constructing hand dug wells with pumps and pit latrines for which we could not know the exact number for now. In similar manner, several separate pit latrines have also been constructed for rural schools for both girls and boys. Somehow, with regard to the school toilet construction, the work done for the urban schools in Dembi Dollo, Olike Dingle junior secondary school, Dembi Dollo 03, and 7th day Adventist schools were exceptional, i.e. here, the toilet constructed were not only for they are constructed from concrete blocks but also in size. With the consideration of the ever increasing number of the students, two separate blocks with more than 10 rooms each were constructed for boy and girls.

The other school based capacity support was the provision of reference books. With this regard, in year 2009/2010 an extra ordinary work has been done to capacitate the school libraries located in Dalle Wabara district through availing thousands of reference books worth of more than 650,000 Birr. The books were donated from Swan City Club, Canada and 25,000 students and 500 teachers have been benefitted.

5. Partial Scholarship for outstanding but needy students

Walal believes that education is the sole means of bringing about a positive change in any society. An educated youth are the building blocks of an improved family and improved families make a changed community. The partial scholarship program was started with the objective of assisting bright minded but very poor students who have been in preparatory schools (grades 11 and 12) and colleges and universities but lacked the financial means to pay for transport and to cover small but essential expenses. Due to lack of any likeminded organization in the area, it was found out that there had been significant number of students that forgo their education opportunities due to lack of money for transport and other small expenses.

The first students who accessed the support were seven in number. This was back in 2003. After that the numbers increased from year to year ultimately reaching more than 80. The students were screened by a committee made up of Walal staff, community elders and representatives from schools and the zonal education bureau. The criteria include academic performance, character and severity of economic status. For those in higher learning institutions, the assistances given included the coverage of a two way bus ticket from home to their respective institution annually and a stipend support of one hundred birr per month. This money was intended to cover small expenses such as local transport, stationeries, photocopies, soup, etc. Although it was far from enough to cover all the needs of the students, it could make life just a little bit easier and gave the students the feeling that somebody cares. So, in this manner, with that amount, i.e. with about ETB 2,000.00 (US\$ 83) per student annually, more than 80 students had pursued and succeeded to complete their education at various universities such as Bahr Dar, Gonder, Mekele, Haromaya, Hawassa, Robe (Madda Walabu), Jimma and Nekemt in various departments such as law, medicine, engineering etc, most of whom are by now serving in various key positions at different parts of country.

Here, it is worth mentioning that some of these formerly supported intellectuals are already pledging some fund to sustain the initiative despite the absence of any written confirmation of commitment between the beneficiary and WALDA that would have highly attributed to the strength and sustenance of the good work. Somehow, except very little number of students we are planning to support in the coming academic year, this generation-shaping project can simply be said to have been paused because of financial shortage since recent years. Obviously, in particular to this project, while the needs are enormous and the impacts it brought on former beneficiaries are tangible, the funds coming in had been stopped that left the project as only past history.

6. Women's Self-Help groups and Empowerment Project:

In rural Kellem the day's chores for women involve in fetching water, collecting fire wood, preparing food for the family and working on the farmlands. In general, rural women work 16-18 hours a day. Despite their greater role in outsourcing the family's income, women do not usually decide on how the family's income is to be used. Traditionally, without the goodwill of the husband, the wife cannot control and manage the income of the family. Due to the traditional outlook of the community on gender issues, many women have been denied the opportunity to equally participate with men in decision-making concerning their lives and the community in general. This has negative implications on women's perception of their abilities, it has made them underestimate their potential for attaining self-reliance and contributing towards the development of their community.

Walal has been implementing a project that targeted to empower women through a strategy known as women self help groups. At the beginning, it established four women's groups consisting of 114 members in Anfillo and Sayo districts from 2009-2011. In addition to facilitating their group formation and initiative them to start saving, it also capacitated them by organizing relevant trainings and providing them with seed capital on a loan basis (with no interest) was also undertaken. Using the relatively small start up capital provided to them, the women were able to engage in different income generation activities such as small ruminant rearing, vegetable production, grain production, grain trading, sewing and embroidery, etc. Furthermore, provisions of vegetable seeds, construction of communal stores and shops from mud blocks had also been included which helped them access improved inputs favoring the business.

Gradually, they learnt to organize, plan and take their own independent decisions. The lack of such opportunities in the past has kept them in the house, in the process, making them totally dependent on their husband for accessing basic household needs. The benefits the women gain from self-help-group-approach for their families have both social and economic value. It contributes positively for the creation of legal and structural environment that enables and encourages the women to play active role in the economics and social life of their communities.

The direct and indirect beneficiaries of the first project phase were 798 people. The project has been restarted and expanded to six women groups from 2012 up to 2015 by expanding its intervention area to Hawa Galan district. Its major purpose was again to economically capacitate the poor women organized under self-help groups in the districts (two groups in each).who were provided with training in business and management skills and then provided with revolving fund as working capital.

This phase of the project had also phased out by March 2015 but despite the unavailability of further external fund to sustain the initiative, with the small fund on hand by the time; it was decided that only the two women self help groups operating in Dembi Dollo town would continue their vegetable and grain trading business using the revolving fund that is currently under execution. But general, despite the fact that the Women Self-Help Group Approach was proved by the community to be the best strategy for bringing a tangible transformation in the life of the poor women and their family, the project has again suffered lack of budget that bottlenecked its sustainability and expansion.

7. Enhancing Local Citizens Engagement in Basic Services Improvement (Ethiopian Social Accountability program II, ESAP 2)

This is another project under execution and had become operational since October 2013. The actual phase had been terminated by September 30, 2015 but the management agency (MA) has extended the implementation of some key activities for 18 months as a bridging phase pending the possible launch of the next phase (ESAP 3). The fundamental purpose of this project is to contribute to improvement the qualities of basic service delivery in five sectors, i.e. in education, health and potable water supply, agriculture and rural road using social accountability tools, approaches and mechanisms by citizens, citizens groups, civil society organizations, local government officials and service providers. The project is being financed by several back donors through the world bank and is being implemented all over Ethiopia by hundreds of NGOs who are categorized as lead applicants and co-implementers.

At the beginning, WALDA has executed the project as a co-implementer under Seeqee Women Development Association in Sayo District (i.e. Anno-Mikael, Kure-Gayeb and Aleku-Bele Kebles but later on, one additional district namely Hawa Galan was also made to come under WALDA's responsibility during the the bridging phase). So, though the practical activities undertaken under this project are only limited to creating forums for service providers and service users for awareness creation trainings, discussions and joint planning and budgeting for improving the quality of services, it is another project actively going on by WALDA as a co-implementer under Nekemte Catholic Church Social Development wing since the bridging phase. *The* total number of beneficiaries is expected to be 157 282 (10,667 direct & 146,615 indirect beneficiaries. Recently, there are green lights that there is a possibility for WALDA to apply for the ESAP 3 grant by its own instead of applying as a co-implementer under others.

8. Other short term projects worth mentioning

In addition to the above listed projects, WALDA has also implemented some one-time and short duration projects. The rural electrification project implemented in year 2005 was among such a project. The project being funded by Japan embassy, has given light for the 11,455 people of Abichu Shogo Kebele and Duli town of Sayo district.

Another project launched in year 2014 that remained idle was the fuel bricks production project that aimed to contributing towards natural forest conservation by avoiding charcoal burning as alternative charcoal would be produced from waste products such as coffee husk which is abundantly and freely available around in most of the districts. The same project was also ambitiously hoped to generate a local income for WALDA. Somehow, the project being faced with some technical problems and lacking strong follow up immediately after the launch, has remained unrealistic despite the purchase and disposal of a carbonating machine and accessories worth of about 140 thousand Birr and provision of training for WALDA staff in the same year. Now, after three years, just few months ago, an interest has come from a representative of one old WALDA's donor namely SOG who provided 67,200 birr to re-start the fuel bricks production project.

Accordingly, three months back a team of five individuals from the community have been trained for three days and since then, they have produced more than 3000 charcoal bricks. On the other hand, unfortunately, again the work could not be accomplished according to the action plan mainly due to two reasons, the formerly delivered mould for producing the clay component of the stove at locality was not the right size with the delivered metallic component of the stoves and procuring the right size has taken us two months. The heavy and continuous rain of the area has also obliged us to postpone the promotion and sell of the fuel bricks which is hoped to generate income and sustain the production of the bricks. But because of the delay for the sell, the producers have been made to quite the production pending the sale of the bricks as rainy season is passed. The project will then be sustained if only it brings a significant income enough to cover the allowance of the producers.

Now as the peak rainy season is over, the promotion is planned to start by next week and the fate of the project will is expected to be known in few weeks afterwards. In connection with this, another issue that may challenge our success is that these fuel bricks need a special stove designed with the same thickness and hence convenient to burn the charcoal bricks. The stoves are produced by the Admass enterprise in Addis and the purchase price is as high as 130 birr. Transportation, loading and unloading, other costs also exist that the price per stove may go up to 150 at Dembi Dollo and hence we fear the customers may not afford or will not be willing to buy the stoves. On the other hand, regarding the supply of these stoves, WALDA has planned to supply the first one 100 of the stoves along with the fuel bricks with the objective of revolving the income and hence sustaining the stove supply on the market. In this manner, the fate of the stove supply will be similar with that of the fuel bricks both of which will be known soon.

Annexes 1:- List of Water schemes developed by WALDA in previous years with details

No	Name of the scheme	Woreda	Village/Kebele	No of HH	Total No of beneficiaries
2	Abba Birru	Gidami	Gidami 02	260	1500
3	Abba Caffè	Anfillo	Yatti Konqi	57	485
4	Abba Canalo	D/Sadi	Dalle Suchi	70	580
5	Baddesso	J/Horo	une	43	230
6	Basaro	H/Galan	Gaba Arbi	150	875
7	Buko	L/Qile	Marfo	52	234
8	Husen Digga	Sayyo	kebele 5	178	1068
9	Abba Dayyas	Sayyo	ifa Galano	306	1896
10	Abba Mako	Gidami	Girayi Sonka	67	600
11	Abbiyyu mardafo	D/Sadi	Colle	39	216
12	Burqa	Jimma-Horro	Ilu Kutaye	48	260
13	Burqa Qota	Y/Walal	Tajjo	83	415
14	Burqa Raggasa	Anfilo	Ashi	92	543
15	Canco	L/Qile	Amara Kuncho	82	480
16	Kure	Sayyo	Dembi Dollo 03	170	1058
17	Abba Hika	Sayyo	Belle Mika'el	58	392
18	Adare	Dalle-Sadi	Danmbal	250	1500
19	Dhaga Roba	Gidami	Gidami 01	220	1300
20	Dolla	Anfilo	Dolla Walali	120	350
21	Fincho	J/Horo	Warra Babbo	122	350
22	Ijo Boni	H/Galan	Machara	59	372
23	Jona	Dalle-Sadi	Hogiwo	62	375
24	Public tap	D/Dollo	Kebele 6	350	2100
25	Abba Sarba	SaYyo	Yangi	76	2108
26	Awetu	Dalle-Sadi	Awetu	102	355
27	Dulli	Anfilo	Dulli	119	1250
28	Finca'a	Gidami	Gidami 02	250	1500
29	Guma	J/Horo	Ilu Kutaye	38	111
30	Kololo	L/Qile	Bile Kella	67	492
31	Public tap	Dembi Dollo	Kebele 1	24	144
32	Qarse	H/Galan	Gaba Arbi	184	1100
33	Adami	Dembi Dollo	ifa Galano	68	408
34	Biyyonu	D/Sadi	Arrere ogiyo	60	300
35	Gara	Anfilo	Suddi	82	495
36	Godanne	Gidami	Gidami 01	209	1250

No	Name of the scheme	Woreda	Village/Kebele	No of HH	Total No of beneficiaries
37	Illu	J/Horro	Ilu Kutaye	64	384
38	kufu	L/qile	Sarba	58	348
39	Rago	H/galan	Mojo	350	3400
41	Baha	Sayo	Minko lenca	108	564
42	Gachana	D/Sadi	Camo	65	350
43	Hubbur	Anfilo	Hubbur	67	325
44	Kora	Gidami	Comman Kella	62	300
45	Mannu	Gidami	Warra Babbo	97	220
46	Qarsa Abelo	L/Qile	nanno Jenno	78	564
47	Wacho	H/Galan	Wacho	64	332
48	Bashadde	Sayyo	Alaku Gambi	55	330
49	Gandaso	D/Sadi	Lelo	67	335
50	Kalifa	Sayo	Muggi	95	475
51	Migira	Gdami	Soyi Gamice	59	350
52	Nagari	Jimma-Horro	Tibbe	82	410
53	Tumtu	L/qile	uddo	63	456
54	Bili	Sayo	ifa Galano	49	392
55	Gibe	D/sadi	Colle	55	480
56	Konqi	Anfilo	Yatti Konqi	62	360
57	Moti	Gdami	Gidami 01	286	1800
58	Qarsa	Jimma-Horro	Tibbe	72	350
59	Birbir	Sayo	Alaku Gambi	69	562
60	Guri	D/Sadi	Dalle Suchi	72	605
61	Magalle	Anfilo	Yatti Konqi	66	368
62	Sadaqa	J/Horo	Tibbe	58	275
63	Shaba	Gidami	Komi koji	63	368
64	dasale	Sayo	Maxa tabor	68	408
65	Gurre	D/sadi	Lakku	45	270
66	Shula	J/horo	Une Badeso	59	230
67	Sotallo	Gdami	Kommi kojji	80	280
68	Xebel	Anfilo	Suddi	61	331
69	Haro	D/sadi	Gandaso	54	324
70	Ittisa	Sayyo	Alaku Sanaga	73	398
71	Tibbe Tilimo	J/horo	Tibbe	56	375
72	Yabbato	Anfilo	Muggi	88	1250
73	Ittisa Wali	D/sadi	jajo Akakil	58	358
74	Kanka	Sayyo	Abbichu Shogo	77	482
75	Jona	D/sadi	Arrere Gabi	64	265
76	kotawo	Sayyo	Kella Tabor	82	492

No	Name of the scheme	Woreda	Village/Kebele	No of HH	Total No of beneficiaries
77	Katta	D/sadi	Camo	83	650
78	Kunchu	Sayyo	Kella Tabor	15	65
79	Kume	Sayyo	Dange Birbir	230	1238
80	Madalle	Sayyo	Yangi	75	432
81	Lakku	D/sadi	Lakku	52	312
82	Magalle	Sayyo	Gute Soyama	22	239
83	Mida	Sayyo	Gachana	68	423
84	Moyi	Sayyo	Shogo	80	480
85	Moti	D/sadi	Arrere Gabi	250	2500
86	Mumme Buna	Sayyo	Ripha	80	592
87	Mumme Herrega	Sayyo	Addo Boro	104	517
88	Qarsa Jamalo	Sayyo	Arrere Colle	53	289
89	Mumme Magarsa	Sayyo	Abbichu Shogo	66	345
90	Nasir	Sayyo	Abba Jarra	82	605
91	Ogobo	Sayyo	ifa Galano	53	396
92	Ondoloqqe	Sayyo	Esho	20	54
93	Qaci	Sayyo	Alaku Dorgome	80	520
94	Qasari	Sayyo	Alaku kusaye	68	469
95	Sombo	Sayyo	7	120	780
96	Shambu	Sayyo	Alaku Dorgome	183	1098
97	Shani	Sayyo	Minko Saba	127	762
98	Sombo	Sayyo	Ripa	66	462
99	Tesfaye	Sayyo	Alaku Fakkan	69	478
100	Wale	Sayyo	ifa Galano	69	562
101	Waro	Sayyo	Abbichu Shogo	65	345
102	Tebel (Xabal)	Sayyo	Mata (Maaxa)	58	348
103	Abba Kille	Sayyo	Ripha	69	462
104	Jeto	L/qile	Uddo	57	258
105	Wacha	Sayyo	Alaku Gambi	90	562
Total	105	9		9732	63,101

Source: -Former WALDA's Web site

Annex 2:-Pictures depicting some of WALDA's major thematic interventions and achievements



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Improved and conducive houses constructed by WALDA for the poor old people (Dembi Dollo)





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One of the giant collection chambers
constructed at the lower level of gravity
schemes constructed by WALDA



One of the standard water points
constructed by WALDA on gravity
scheme





One of a well fenced spring on spot water points(left), Hand dug well fitted with hand pump(middle) and a washing slab (right) all constructed by WALDA



WALDA has done a tremendous achievement to create open defecation free villages in its intervention areas. Above are samples of an improved pit latrine with corrugated iron sheet roofing (left) and another with grass roofing (right) both constructed under WALDA's facilitation and support for private farm households.



Poor and AIDS-orphaned children being supported with school uniforms by WALDA



Poor and orphaned students being provided with school materials WALDA



(Above, left) One of the 4 room additional class rooms constructed for rural school by WALDA (Mechara elementary school, Hawa Galan Woreda)



Two of the modern pit latrines with many rooms constructed for urban schools by WALDA (Olika Dingle Junior Secondary school (middle) and D/D 03 school (right))



WALDA believes that trainings transforms people, above WALDA staffs conduct vast community training on social accountability issues (left) and HIV/AIDS prevention & livelihood options (right).



After being trained, the women are supported to engage in various income generation activities, for instance above are a trained woman with her tailoring business (left) and a group of women with their just purchased pregnant sheep.



A pile of Teff grown and harvested by one women group (left) and a potato plantations grown and owned by another women group (right) in Anfilo Woreda by irrigation.

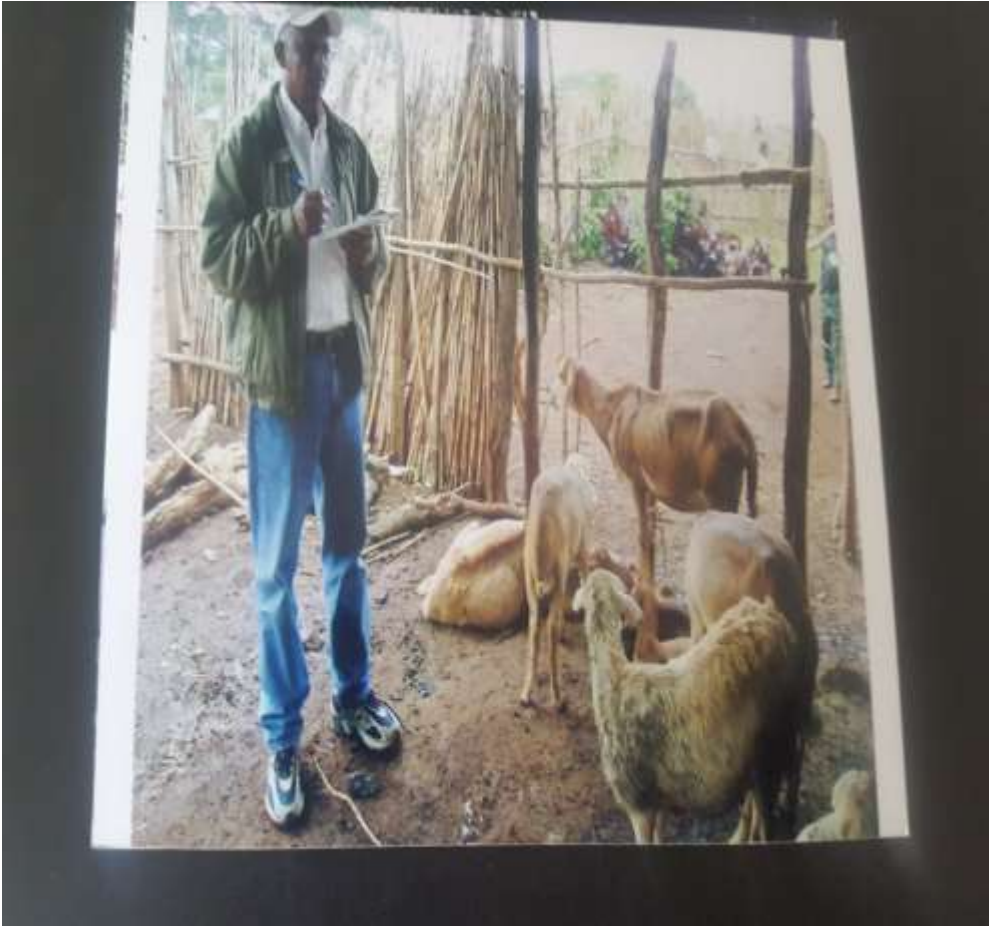
Following are also some of additional photos



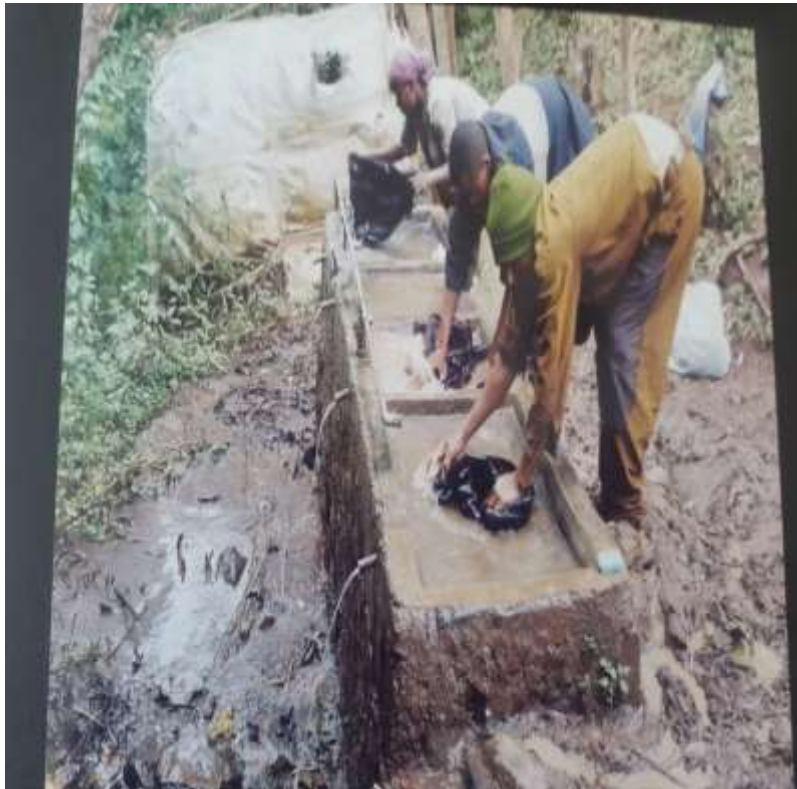
Some water collection chambers (reservoirs) are partially sub surface (left) while others are fully on surface (right) both constructed by WALDA



Children joyfully and comfortably washing clothe on slabs (left) and fetching clean water (middle) and drinking the safe water (right)



Women income generation project (sheep rearing) being monitored by WALDA's head office staff and a water scheme by donor representative



Both men and women wash their clothe comfortably which would have been done by women only



Community receives WALDA donors with bunch of flowers