



SEE

Save the Environment Ethiopia

Protect the Environment for Suitable Development

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Vision of SEE

To become one of the outstanding environmental protections, rehabilitation and research organization/institution in Ethiopia.

Mission Statement

SEE purpose is to ensure that: desertification is combated and degraded land is managed in the refugee and other impacted areas of Ethiopia by encouraging partnership in caring for the environmental protection works by inspiring, informing the refugee and host community to improve their quality of life without jeopardizing that of the future generation; and more importantly integrating Environmental protection work with livelihood enhancement.

Introduction

Save the Environment Ethiopia is a local NGO founded by a group of Ethiopian professionals; it is a non-profit making, non-religious and non-political organization operating in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia in the field of environmental protection and rehabilitation with view to combat desertification by conserving and managing degraded natural resources. Save the Environment Ethiopia-SEE was established and registered 21/08/2007 under certificate of registration No. 246/2007 by the Somali national regional State Justice Bureau in accordance with the association registration regulation (legal notice No. 321 07 1966) at the same time it has been registered and have work agreement with SRS DPPB. It is also registered at Federal Charities and Societies Agency as an Ethiopian Residents Charity in accordance with the charities and societies proclamation No .621/2009, bearing in number 3031 has been issued on May6, 2016.

Currently SEE is implementing an environmental protection, education and rehabilitation (EPRER) in Kebribeyah, Awbere, Shedder,Bokolmayo,Melkadida and Kobe refugee camps of Somali Region in collaboration with UNHCR/ARRA. It has also projects on Integrated Environmental rehabilitation and livelihood Enhancement funded by WFP, Promotion of Alternative Energy project funded by British Council and Community Based Environmental Management, Livelihood Improvement and Solar Electrification of Deneba Kebele funded by small grant programme of UNDP/GEF. The organization has also partnership with ZOA Refugee Care, Addis Ababa University HOA/REC.N.

SEE Objectives

The organization works to develop the capacity of the local community on environmental protection, education and rehabilitation management related issues by practical and community mobilization approaches with a comprehensive perception of the root cause and consequences of the environmental degradation.

- ☞ Rehabilitation of environment through reforestation and soil conservation in devastated and impacted area
- ☞ Promotion of environmentally friendly utilization techniques of natural resources
- ☞ Enabling the disadvantaged and marginalized community members for access to basic social services (water, health, education etc)
- ☞ To improve awareness level of the community towards development
- ☞ Municipal waste management system
- ☞ Create opportunities for reduction workload on women and children
- ☞ Enable the community establish effective and efficient disaster management system and enhance minimize or prevention of displacement

Beneficiaries

The Ultimate beneficiaries of Save the Environment Ethiopia is the entire community in the intervention areas. More importantly we have been targeting more than 85,701 individuals living in the refugee settlement areas like Kebribeyah, Shedder, Awbere, Melkadida, Bekolmayo and, Kobe Refugee camps. Environmental protection work will not let only to refugee settlement areas rather it goes to a global phenomenon that is why Save the Environment Ethiopia is working with local community.

There are program in which Save the Environment Ethiopia implementing in Deneba Kebel, Which is integrated Environmental protection works with livelihood improvement and use solar panel as alternative energy sources for rural community. The livelihood enhancement program includes Cattle fattening, bee keeping, and Shoat production.

SEE Working Approach

Save the Environment Ethiopia is committed to encourage active participation of refugee and host communities in environmental protection works through their involvement in decision making, planning and implementations of activities.

On international base we are working with UNHCR, WFP and UNDP (GEF). Regional bureaus and woredas are actively involved in Environmental protection works and livelihood enhancement program. The conservation site we have developed in the camp that we are working as UNHCR-implementing partners have been carried out by through active participation of the communities. Active Community participation approaches can guarantee the sustainability of Save the Environment Ethiopia projects.

Priority Areas of Interventions

SEE has a wide range of activities of which the priority areas are as follow:

- ♠ Environmental rehabilitation through reforestation and soil conservation in degraded and impacted areas
- ♠ Promoting sustainable utilization of natural resources
- ♠ Enabling marginalized community members for access to basic social services (water, health, education etc...)
- ♠ Creating awareness on (Natural resource management and conservation, the right of creating assets, municipal waste management system ,income generation schemes) at community level
- ♠ Reduction of workload on women and children
- ♠ Establish effective and efficient disaster management system and minimizing displacement of community

Thematic Areas

- ✓ Environmental Rehabilitation
- ✓ Environmental Protection
- ✓ Environmental Education
- ✓ Promoting alternative energy sources like solar panel and bio-gas reactor
- ✓ Livelihood enhancement
- ✓ Integrating Livelihood with environmental protection

Available Program Staff

N o	Staff Name	Post	Experience
1.	Gedi mahamud Gohe	General Manger	22 years
2.	Zerhun Tabeje Ayele	Program Officer	10 years
3.	Lemma Kiftaga Mechisa	Assistance Program officer	10 years
4.	Helen Asefa Asefa	Admin Finance officer	8 years
5.	Hashi Edan Hussen	Environmental Officer	4 years
6.	Abdifatah Abdinasir Ahmed	Ass.Environmental Officer	4 years
7.	Jamal Ahmed nur	Environmental Officer	4 years
8.	Nur Isse Hared	Ass.Environmental Officer	2 years
9.	Abdifataha mahamed Tahir	Environment Officer-Awebere	4 years
10.	Abubakar Hassan Ismail	Ass.environmental officer-awbare	2 years
11.	Shafi Omer	Liason Officer-Addis Abeba	5 years
12.	Muhumed Faraha Osman	Community mobilizer-Jigjiga	9 years
13.	Tadesse Gutu	Camp coordinator	8 years

Projects undertaken by Save the Environment Ethiopia

No	Project Title	Sector	Location	Brief Description	Donor	Progress
1.	Environmental protection Rehabilitation and Education	Environmental	Awebare Kebrebeyah Shedder	To Undertake forest protection and development work so that Natural resources and shared environment can be protected better in the refugee and host community areas	UNHCR	2009 to date
2.	Environmental protection Rehabilitation and Education	Environmental	Melkad ida		UNHCR	2015 to date
3.	Environmental protection Rehabilitation and Education	Environmental	Kobe, Bokol mayo		UNHCR	2016 to date
4.	Integrated Environmental Rehabilitation, Livelihood Enhancement and Biogas for School	Environment and livelihood	Awebare Kebrebeyah Shedder	Improve the protection of refugees through sustainable and integrated environmental rehabilitation efforts linked with livelihood enhancement of refugee and host communities.	WFP	

No	Project Title	Sector	Location	Brief Description	Donor	Progress
5	Based Environmental Management, Livelihood Improvement and Solar Electrification	Environment Livelihood Electrification	Deneba Kebele		UNDEP	2012-2015
6	Empowering socially marginalized Gobooye Somalis Through Integrated Development Support	Environmental Construction Life skill training	Jigjiga woreda	Gobooye are one of traditionally casted communities		2015-2016

SEE programs

- ☞ Environmental Protection, Rehabilitation and Education
- ☞ Durable house construction for Refugee Community
- ☞ Alternative Energy sources for rural community
- ☞ Livelihood Enhancement program

Environmental Protection, Rehabilitation and Education Program

Environment is among one of the foremost concern of the modern world of globalization. Leaders, scientists, experts and citizens from all the walks of life continuously urges about a range of environment issues like floods, fires ,droughts, dust storms and other environmental variation that led and continues to leading towards extreme environmental degradation causing major threat to earthily livings. The challenges associated with environmental protection today are multifaceted and affected by many interacting factors.

Ethiopian Somali Regional state has been hosting Somali Refugees since 1991 and the host community drives their livelihood from rearing animal and sedentary farming. The predominant environmental area is degraded woodland with serious runoff and wind erosion problem. Major causes of environmental degradation are deforestation for household energy, shelter construction, fencing and plastic pollution. The natural vegetation was found to be major source of household energy and construction material for both refugee and local community. This led to low productivity and less grazing vegetation. Among the factors that contributed to environmental degradations are high human population, high animal population, and lack of self-sufficiency, lack of supplies inability to absorb waste and poor environmental resilience.

As a result of these factors the natural vegetation cover has already been seriously affected to the extent that some animal and plant species have disappeared from the area. The damage on the habitat has resulted in consequent disappearance of some animals. This in turn has

considerable impacts on humanitarian relief activities such as construction of shelter, sanitation, food, livestock and livelihood.

Therefore, in cognizant with the above mentioned long-lived environmental degradation, Save the Environmental Ethiopia tries to intervene to;

- Rehabilitate degraded refugee hosting areas through feasible soil and water conservation practices
- Increase forest cover of the area to acceptable rates through afforestation endeavors
- Raise awareness of refugee as well as the proximate hosting community towards the environment
- Integrate livelihood opportunities to ensure sustainability of environmental protection works

Environmental Rehabilitation Activities

After discussion with the community, degraded areas were identified for rehabilitation and demarcated to be free from human and animal interference for fast recovery. These sites have been protected by area closure system. Seedlings have been planted integrated with physical soil conservation measures (gabions, check dams, terraces and soil bunds) and biological soil conservation methods. So far 262 hectare of land heavily affected by deforestation, soil erosion and big gullies were rehabilitated /with 82km soil conservation structures and enrichment plantation.



Fig. Rehabilitated land in Kebribeyah UNHCR Conservation site 2010-2016



Fig. Some of Rehabilitation work done in degraded areas

Nursery Activities

Four nursery sites were established and 2,084,765 indigenous and exotic Seedlings of 15 tree species, 6 species of fruits and 5 species of vegetable were raised and then planted to conservation site, road side, distributed to different pro environmental institutions and used for program activities. Some of the species being produced in these nursery sites are *Perknisonia Aculeate*, *Accacia Tortolis*, *Acacia Saligna*, *Schinus Molle*, *Acacia Senegal*, *Leucaena Leucacephal*, *JunIParous Procera*, *Cassurina Equisetifolia*, *Sesbania Sesban*, *Moringa Olifera* and fruit tree such as *Papaya*, *Avocado* and *Guava*.



Fig. Nursery sites in Awebare, Shedder and Melkadida (left to right)

Distribution of Seedlings

Ornamental and fruit tree species were produced and distributed to pro environmental institution and beneficiaries. Seedling distribution done for refugees, local community, cooperatives, IPs, and interested governmental institutions) to encourage tree-planting practice. Technical assistant will be given to beneficiaries like planting techniques, watering and weeding.



Fig. Distribution of seedlings to IPs and other governmental institution, 2016

Environment Rehabilitation activities

Save the environment Ethiopia have been involved in Physical rehabilitation works. Since its establishment the organization rehabilitated 346 hectares of lands using physical soil conservation methods like gabions, check dams, terraces, soil bunds and planting trees and biological soil conservation method in the three refugee settlement areas.



Fig. Gabion Constructed in Kebribeyah Camp, 2016



Fig. Soil bunds planted in Kebribeyah, 2016



Fig. Check dam constructed in Awebare conservation site, 2016

Durable House Construction for Refugee Community

Most of the refugees if not all have tents to live in where it is difficult and a battle to adapt with the fluctuating climatic and weather conditions. Moreover tents are not strong enough to shield the refugees from unforeseen risks of attack such as rapes/animal. Living in tents has also psychological effects as it is one reminder of their status. Therefore in addition to protection and comfort, it will guarantee a dignified way of living to the refugees.

SEE have been implementing shelter house construction for selected refugee households under the UNHCR program since 2013. The project was first launched as a pilot and included only 50 selected refugee households from shedder and Awebare refugee camps. The successful implementation of the project and the life changing experience as expressed by the beneficiaries encouraged UNHCR to scale up the no of shelter houses constructed each year and reached to 100 households by 2015. For the construction of these shelter houses, all the required construction materials are distributed to the respective beneficiary households while the household contribute family labor. From 2013 up now Save the Environment Ethiopia able to construct more than 301 shelter houses and hand over to the beneficiaries in Awebare and Sheder refugee camps.



Fig. Durable houses complted and handed over to refugees to live discent life ,2016



Fig. Durable houses under construction in Shedder refugee camp, 2016

Integrated Livelihood Linked With Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation Project

Cattle, sheep Fattening and Beekeeping

This project is of community development and natural resource management, local residents collaborate with Save the Environment Ethiopia on decision to integrate forest management and participate in programs designed to improve livelihoods like cattle fattening, beekeeping and sheep rearing while sustaining natural resources. This project component has with twin purposes; improve the income of beneficiaries through use of reforestation sites as a source of fodder for cattle and to ensure sustainable protection and development of the rehabilitation site by the beneficiaries. Cattle Fattening will be an income diversification activity based on a forest resource,



yet it is not destructive to that resource. Each of the 24 households got 2 bulls aged 3-4 years for fattening. These cattle will be feed for 120-160 days and sold at profitable price. The beneficiary uses part of the profit for supplementing household consumption while the remaining money will be used to buy cattle for next round fattening. Beneficiaries have been linked with

markets so that to get better price for their products.



Fig. Cattle fattening projects

Honey bee hives were established in the rehabilitated land with twin purposes; to use the site as a foraging site for bee and to sustainable protection of the rehabilitation site by the beneficiaries. Beekeeping is an income-yielding activity based on a forest resource, yet it is not destructive to that resource. These beneficiaries who have been earning an income from beekeeping are an advocate for preserving the forest resource. The project was launched in 2012 and continued in 2013 funded by WFP and UNDP/Small Grant Programme and has benefitted 27 households in 2012 and 65 households in 2013 from the refugee and host communities with the ratio of 50:50.



Fig. Beekeeping activities

Environmental Awareness

If assisted, student environmental clubs in schools can be sensitized to transmit Environmental messages to other students, to their families and community in the camp. Similar clubs were established in the schools. Community involvement at all levels of the project phases (at planning, implementation and evaluation) is essential for sustainability of any program. Hence, meetings, briefing sessions and workshops for beneficiaries, landowners and stakeholders were prepared. Community awareness was also raised through IEC material, drama, dance and songs, tree planting campaigns, Cleaning campaigns, exhibitions, Panel discussions on environmental issues



Fig. World Environmental Day Celebration as part of community awareness scheme



Fig. Green Hero Award ceremony and acting in UNHCR WED event celebration

Introducing Environmentally Friendly Techniques

Environmental Conservation efforts will be more effective if there is active participation of the community are there and some economic benefits out of the projects. This approach will also help to develop sense of ownership and increase the participation of the communities is the efforts of conserving environment. In order to benefit the community, sustainable and environmentally friendly utilization techniques were introduced. The following are activities which are on implementation.

1. Promotion of Agro-forestry system

In Agro-forestry system, trees planted with crops or in grazing areas should have direct and indirect benefits. Depending on the species of the tree, source of food, fodder, shade for other plants and fuel wood are among the direct benefits.



Fig. Agro forestry demonstration site

2. Introducing Moringa Olifera as a Supplementary Food

A tree species called Moringa can be used as a supplement for food sold or to help the beneficiaries to get additional nutrients. Introducing the tree as a source of food will also contribute to the environment. Women headed households, which have adequate size of compound were given priority for distribution.



Fig. planted Moringa by Beneficiaries

3. Biological/Live Fencing

Most compounds in the project areas are fenced with a wood collected from the natural vegetation. Acacia species is preferred for such purpose because of its thorny stem. It is a source of income for the encroachers while a cause of environmental degradation.

Households were provided the plant and technical advice on how to plant and propagate.



Fig. Sisal and 'Beles' Planted as a live fence

4. Pilot small Scale Bio- diesel production

The main objective of introducing this technique is to reduce vegetation removal for household energy (cooking and lighting) by promoting small-scale production of bio-diesel. Seedlings of *Jatropha* were planted on 7 hectare for the same purpose; but it takes at least two years to produce oil seeds. Hence, seed of Caster bean, which can produce oil

seeds within 7 months, were distributed to beneficiaries to be cultivated on their land. Beneficiaries will be assisted with stoves and pressing machine to enable beneficiaries use the oil. The oil can be used for lighting using glass bottles. Lessons learnt will help to scale up household level production of bio-diesel.



Fig. *Jatropha* Plantation used as bio diesel input



Fig. Castor bean used for bio-diesel production

5. Promotion and Construction of biogas plant

An experience sharing visit was arranged for staffs of SEE and ZOA to households in Sebeta who have started using the Biogas plant and Selam Vocational Training Centre who produce a number of technologies in the agricultural / energy sectors.

After the experience visit, it was decided to construct one bio-gas plant in Jijiga for demonstration and piloting purposes.

Accordingly the biogas demonstration plant was constructed in Jijiga. Moreover, a workshop was organized for 45 persons from government offices, NGOs and partners to promote biogas as an alternative energy source.

In 2013 two biogas digesters with a capacity of 20m³ capacity will be constructed in refugee schools of shedder and Kebribeyah to use the energy generated for schools feeding programme and other energy demands with fund from WFP



The First Biogas Digester in Somali Region



Zeyneb cooking using biogas

6. Solar electrification of Deneba Kebele

Funded by UNGD/GEF/Small Grant Programme solar energy was introduced for 88 HHs in 9 clusters and 3 public offices (Kebele and other public institutions) of Deneba kebele. Training on minor maintenance and operation of the system was delivered for 9 persons from the community. One solar management committee who has six members was established. Finally, the community organizes solar inauguration ceremony that includes Somali tradition food and cultural dance. During the event, environmental messages were also channeled through leaflet and inspirational speech by influential persons from the communities.

Green Award Program of Somali Region

Green award program is an environmental award program in Ethiopia introduced by Forum for Environment Ethiopia/FfE, which envisaged to serve as a tool for environmental advocacy by way of encouraging environmental awareness and practical actions of citizens. The annual award program recognizes, acknowledges and celebrates good initiatives and outstanding achievements of individuals as well as institutions in protecting and enhancing the environment. SEE is focal point for Green Award Program of Somali Region.



Fig. Green award in Ethiopian Somali Regional State

FUTURE FOCUS AREAS

- ☞ Compared to the widespread environmental degradation in the project area, the rehabilitated land is insignificant. Hence, SEE will search for more resources which will enable to **scale up rehabilitation efforts in to wider areas**. The environmental rehabilitation program will be integrated with livelihood improvement to ensure the sustainability of the project such as bee keeping, production of Gum Arabica...)
- ☞ **Alternative energy**: - the increasing population growth and high dependency on firewood for energy consumption, the impact on environment is devastating. Hence SEE is attempting to introduce eco-friendly household energy sources such as bio-gas, bio-diesel, solar energy
- ☞ **Waste management**: - the environmental, social and physical structures available to handle waste produced by the community are too weak. Hence, SEE will look at strengthening waste management of cities by assisting local administration through training waste management personnel, assisting city municipalities on safe removal of solid wastes, facilitate plastic recycling)
- ☞ **Promote rangeland management** to increase productivity of livestock and grazing lands
- ☞ **Promoting alternative shelter construction** such as mud brick to reduce environmental impact of using wood
- ☞ **Promote and demonstrate Dry- land Agro-forestry and Silvo-pastoral** systems of managing rangeland for sustainable utilization of rangeland for
- ☞ **Environmental awareness to the community and students**

Contact Details:

General Manager

Gedi Mohamud,

Address:

PO.Box 620, Jijiga, Ethiopia

Telephone:

+251-(0)257-755-343

Fax:

+251-(0)257-753-084

Email:

saveethiopia14@yahoo.com

Website

Info@saveen.org

WWW.Saveen.org