

Konso People

Konso is one among the eight special Woredas /districts/ in the southern nations, nationalities and peoples' regional state (SNNPRS). Its land is characterized by hilly, mountainous intersected by gullies and valleys, most of which have been under cultivation for hundreds of years. Konso population living in this geographical location at present is about 234,987(51.76% females & 48.24 males) according to current population census survey with faster annual growth rate exceeding 3%.

Konso is known for its industrious people who endowed with extraordinary skill and knowledge especially, in water and soil conservation practices. They managed to survive in the marginal environment using indigenous knowledge and skills that enabled them to make optimal use of unfavorable terrain and climatic conditions in innovative manner as a survival strategy over centuries. This creative and noble work culture qualified Konso people in 1995 for UN prize among the best fifty communities all over the globe and surprisingly, they won the award as it deserved them.

Despite this marvelous deed and achievements, the people of Konso are now suffering from chronic food insecurity and left in abject poverty, due to natural calamities and man-made factors. Erratic rain, frequent drought, rapid population growth, depletion of natural resources etc are few among the anomalies to be mentioned that compelled this prudent hard working people to live in distressed living conditions.

Since the last one decade, the government has been trying to launch food security and poverty reduction activities towards minimizing the deep rooted problems in Konso. However, government initiatives alone could not alleviate this multifaceted socioeconomic problem that is why Konso Development Association was founded.

KDA Establishment: Konso Development Association (KDA) is non-political, non-religious and non-profit making indigenous non-governmental organisation established by the keen interest of the Konso voluntary people in June 1993 to undertake different development activities in order to fill the multi-faceted livelihood gaps of the community. The activities of the Association are highly supported by the labour contribution of its members and supporters beyond membership fee.

KDA is a people centred organization. It follows participatory approach throughout the problem identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process of its projects to ensure that the needs, aspirations and resources of the community is considered in each development activity that

aimed at improving their living conditions. It believes to undertake this by implementing innovative, challenging and new ideas through trust building, facilitation and mobilization of local resources.

Organisational Governance: as a membership organisation, it is governed by Board of Directors, elected democratically by the General Assembly. The Association has got legal recognition at federal ministry of Justice and respective bureau at regional government. As a legal entity, it has developed its basic working regulations, policies and procedures such as staff charter (HR), financial manuals and a professionally designed strategic plan to implement its short and long term development projects and/or programmes. It also has well furnished head office in Karat, Konso Capital, with logistics and devoted technical and supporting staff.

Vision: to see food self sufficient Konso people with sustainable socio-economic foundation.

Mission: KDA exists to carry out integrated development activities that would gradually alleviate the prevailing development constraints and eventually bring about positive change in socio-economic condition of Konso people.

Mandate: KDA's mandate is to fill the development gaps by mobilising local resources primarily and seeks external support to fuel development process for synergy. It works with all development actors to respond to the demands of the community with particular attention to marginalised social groups as articulated in its constitution.

Values: In all activities aimed at achieving the short, medium and long term objectives of the Association, KDA is governed and guided by: *Transparency, Accountability, Integrity, Impartiality, Fairness, Respect to People, Participation.*

Roles: KDA mainly concentrates on selective activities fall within its capacity to avoid resource duplication. The aim is to bring visible impact by working on areas not given priority by other development actors. The strategic areas where KDA plays key role are: *Gap Filling, Catalysing, Advocacy, Capacity Building, Documentation and Fund Raising.*

Strategic Objectives

1. Launching visible development programmes that will eventually alleviate food insecurity.
2. Organising and mobilising Konso community for self help development endeavours.
3. Promoting social services which focus on education and health to raise the coverage of each.

4. Promotion of Family Planning and Environmental protection systems to check on population growth.
5. Assessing backward thoughts and harmful practices on gender issue, children abuse, and HIV/AIDS, and support people to fight against them.?
6. Developing socio-economic data base and creating favourable situation for holistic development through information provision.
7. Creating partnership and bilateral relations with government, donors, NGOs within and outside the country for financial, material and technical support for the intended development programmes.

KDA Partners: FARM Africa, Pact Ethiopia, South Ethiopia Peoples' Development Association (SEPDA), Ethiopian Society Rehabilitation & Development Fund (ESRDF), Christian Relief & Development Association (CRDA), Save the Children Finland, Action Aid Ethiopia, CISS Ethiopia, Water Aid Ethiopia, Mercy Corps, and Konso Special Woreda

Major KDA Achievements

KDA is mainly involved in rural development projects focusing on improving livelihood base of the poorest households. These include livelihood support, natural resource management, education, health, HIV/AIDS, Family planning and gender sensitisation etc.

Livelihood Support

- 2230 goats were provided for women goat credit groups in 18 Kebeles for about 1115 poorest women.
- 40 community animal health workers were trained and equipped with drugs and appropriate veterinary materials for rural service. (For vet. Service in rural community)
- Revolving fund support is arranged for community based tsetse fly control and active CAHWs service.
- Seasonal employment for 1000 households in 5 months through EGS Programme by constructing rural road to Doha hot spring. (Rural road construction to create transportation access for the rural community)
- Establishing cereal bank in three Kebeles through cooperatives of which one cooperative (Mechalo) is regionally rewarded for its hard work. (and now it the known cooperative in the woreda in providing several market services and which might grow to high cooperative organization)
- Funding for community projects developed through good community action plan (3 grinding mills, 140 oxen fattening, and handcraft groups support).

- Supporting natural resource development programmes through community grant scheme /CDF/ by establishing public /community/ nurseries and supporting private nurseries /support in kind/material eg. Polythene bags, watering tools, seeds, etc/.

Education

- Konso high school expansion (construction and equipping of 16 classrooms)
- Dokatu Korea first cycle primary school construction
- Gelgele/Kolmale first cycle primary school construction
- Segen junior school renovation and expansion
- Award for 49 students performed good in ESLCE exam
- Facilitation of students' summer tutorial class.
- Construction of 10 Alternative Basic Education Centres with full four years education service by employing 30 facilitators for the teaching purpose.
- Procurement of reference books for Konso High school Library
- Promotion of Women Literacy Programme opening education access for 600 women
- Financial support for three higher institution students within and outside the country
- Provision of 8 computers with reasonable cost for Segen, Fasha, Karat schools and Karat Municipality.
- Provision of school meals as child emergency programme where food shortage aggravates dropouts.

Health

- Construction and equipping of 5 health posts in Lultu, Debena, Fuchucha, Jarso and Tebela-Kuchale where two of them are provided with Motor Bikes.
- Support of start up drugs for one health post.
- Conducting health profile study
- Construction of 4 public toilets in Arfaide and Sorobo Kebeles.
- Support for self initiated community women dry latrines construction in Dara.
- Creating awareness of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control through community conversations, trainings, IEC Materials distribution, organising clubs, supporting PLWHA Associations, and helping orphans.
- Promotion family planning through IEC material distribution and awareness raining trainings.
- Training mid-wives for safe rural deliveries where the chance of getting clinic is unlikely.

Water Development

- Construction of roof water collection reservoir with generator in Konso High School.
- Supporting the Arfaide Pipeline extension through community micro projects.
- Sorobo roof water harvest reservoir construction for environment and sanitation use.
- Lultu Koto spring development by maintaining water tank and preparing washing basins.

Other Activities

- Support for 3.5KM Karat Town internal road construction activity
- Financial support for Karat Town electrification from the main national power
- Support for the Woreda Sport Council to carryout inter school competition and participate on the regional inter-zonal competition
- Sponsoring the Konso Scholars' conference for peace and development in and around Konso Special Woreda.
- Preparing resource centre for scholars and researchers by organising data base cell in the office.

KDA Networking and Membership

As any other development organization, KDA does not have belief of sole efforts for sustainable development. Therefore, to share the effort of development synergy, KDA is participating in different regional networking and forums:

1. Member and partner of SEPDA
2. Member of SNNPR HIV/AIDS Forum of NGOs
3. Member of SNNPR GO-NGO Forum
4. Working with CRDA (Umbrella of NGOs)



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Development through Joint Effort

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Making Partnership with KDA Means:

- Achieving more with minimum input
- Working with hard working people
- Getting reputation with donors
- Tasting development Synergy

KDA