



Sustainable Environment and Development Action (SEDA) Brief Organizational & Program Profile

1. General Background

1.1 Organization & Establishment

Sustainable Environment and Development Action (SEDA), formerly known as Selam Environmental Development Association, is an Ethiopian Resident Charity, secular developmental non-governmental organization operating since 1995.

1.2. Legality

SEDA is currently legally re-registered with Charities and Societies Agency of the Federal Ministry of Justice (Reg. No. 0160) and signs operational agreements with Oromia Regional Bureaus of Finance and Economic Development, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness, Agriculture and Rural Development, Women and Children Affairs, Education and their zonal structures.

1.3. Vision

- to see its target area with well protected environment inhabited by dignified people having sustainable livelihoods

1.4. Mission

- Designing and implementing life changing development programs and livelihood schemes that alleviate environmental degradation, climatic change risks and deepening poverty in collaboration with relevant stakeholders so as to ensure holistic sustainable development

1.5. Objectives

- Designing and implementing appropriate strategies and program activities addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Promoting environmentally sustainable, modern and highly productive agricultural activities (agro-forestry, backyard development, improved animal husbandry, apiculture), eco-friendly businesses (like ecotourism) and better product marketing schemes
- Undertaking natural resource conservation activities (re-forestation, area closure and woodlot) and introducing appropriate technologies for generating household energy sources
- Establishing and supporting basic social services (like basic and primary education, health care, water supply, eradication of harmful traditional practices) mainly for children and women
- Introducing and supporting feasible income generation schemes for women and other vulnerable community members to ensure economic empowerment
- Participating in disaster early warning, relief and rehabilitation activities

1.6. Values

- Solidarity with the poor
- Transparency
- Participation
- Gender sensitivity
- Equity
- Learning

1.7. Organizational Structure and Capacity:

Governing Structure

SEDA has a three-layered hierarchical structure:

- **General Assembly** – responsible for overall policy decisions,
- **Board of Directors** – responsible for guiding and overseeing SEDA's program implementation, and
- **Secretariat** – responsible for program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Personnel:

Currently, SEDA has over 51 full time employees (30 Male and 21 Female); 22 are first-degree and above holders, 20 diploma holders and 9 secondary school complete. Additionally, over 25 community agents are serving SEDA on voluntary bases.

Logistics:

Currently SEDA has Head Office in the Capital Addis Ababa and three project offices (in Batu/Ziway, Meki and Ogolcho towns). All the offices have good workplace facilities including IT and transportation means. Furthermore, the organization has practical training demonstration center for its community based programs and projects.

2. Program Interventions

2.1 Location and Context

Program Location:

- SEDA operates in the Ethiopian Central Rift Valley Oromia National Regional State in East Shoa Zone (Adamitullu Jido-Kombolcha, Dugda and Bora districts) and Ziway Dugda districts of Arsi Zone.

Outreach:

- The four operational districts have a total population of about half million (with almost 50:50 male-female ratio) residing in 110 rural and over 10 urban centers. Other neighboring districts are found in the same subsystem and are eligible for program intervention.

Resources and potentials:

- Agro-ecologically, the districts are found in Central Rift Valley Lowlands. The area has development potentials like: availability of fresh-water lakes suitable for fishing, irrigation, tourism development and livestock production and easy access to central market.

Development Challenges of the area:

- Due to recurrent shortage of rainfall, and hence crop failure, the area is mostly characterized by chronic food insecurity.
- High prevalence of socio- economic marginalization, harmful traditional practices and gender based violence affecting the life women and children
- Unpredicted climatic elements variability and change has made the livelihood means of the people so insecure that leads to poor resilience to any further change. Climatic hazards are becoming so frequent in the area
- Natural environment has also been alarmingly degraded due to excessive human actions for earning livelihood.
- Despite its proximity to the center of the country, the area is also characterized by underdeveloped social services like clean drinking water, health and educational provisions.

2.2 Major Program Interventions of SEDA are:

- Environmental education, conservation and rehabilitation,

- Food security and Livelihood Development,
- Eradication of harmful traditional practices and gender based violence
- Capacity building and social development of community mainly women
- Rural community economic support and enterprise development

2.2.1 Environmental Education, Conservation and Rehabilitation

Environmental Education includes creating awareness through community discussion, intensive trainings and workshops about the need and ways of environmental protection for all stakeholders including community, private sector, government bodies and students

Environmental Conservation and Rehabilitation incorporates promotion of integrated environmental activities carried out through the participation of different stakeholders (i.e. SEDA, school Community, Farmers Group and Private Nurseries) like re-afforestation of degraded areas by planting trees, enabling regeneration of natural vegetation by closing degraded areas and homesteads.

Environmental advocacy includes mobilizing and networking with organization and groups with same mind to push environmental issues to better policy and decision makers focus.

2.2.2 Household Food Security and Livelihood Development

These include activities of small scale irrigation for the production of horticulture and improved livestock production. They target improved nutrition due to food production (vegetable and animal product) and improvement of household income from sale of vegetables, dairy products and smaller animals distributed by projects.

2.2.3 Eradication of harmful traditional practices and gender based violence

The major intervention in clued continuous awareness raising, supporting community based groups (like school gender club, women associations, women saving and credit groups etc), working in close collaboration with woreda women and children affairs, courts, police, justice offices, community traditional leaders/elders and institutions to eradicate harmful traditional practices and gender based violence.

2.2.4 Capacity building and social development of community mainly women

The major interventions include non-formal and basic education for adults and children, women economic empowerment schemes, community based risk management, livelihood diversifications (supporting small scale business schemes through petty trade, small ruminant development etc) and life skills trainings for the rural poor particularly women.

2.2.5 Rural community economic support and enterprise development

This includes the promotion and formation of self help groups, agricultural and credit and saving cooperatives by technical, material and financial support during their formation and continuous monitoring.

2.3. Program strategies

- Full Community involvement at all levels
- Mainstreaming gender across programs and projects
- Networking with stakeholders
- Empowering participants in decision making and management
- passing on gifts
- Building the capacity of stakeholders

2.4. Program Achievements

2.4.1 Environmental Education, Rehabilitation and Conservation Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation

- Annually, SEDA's central, seven schools and four individual nurseries produce over 300,000 multipurpose tree seedlings are produced and planted in degraded watersheds, community closure areas, individual woodlots and homesteads.
- In the spirit of integrated and sustainable agricultural development, the agro-forestry approach is promoted at different community irrigation sites. Hence, every year over 10,000 fruit tree seedlings are produced at SEDA's central nursery and distributed to organization, schools and individuals.
- Organic vegetable production (use of compost and Organic pests) system is also promoted as environmental sound agricultural practice. Currently, over half of the irrigation farmers use compost on their irrigation fields. Many non-irrigation farmers have also adopted the practice on their backyards and rain-fed farms.
- Soil and water conservation practices are being undertaken by farmers in irrigation fields in the form of planting fruits along canals, farm edges and using water with committee supervision,
- Improved stove production and utilization is also promoted to reduce pressure on natural vegetation for fuel wood. So far, over 2000 households have installed wood saving stoves for use at home after getting training on its use and installation
- Mud block production and utilization is also promoted instead of using the scarce wood for house construction in the area. As a result, numerous households have adopted the practice
- Lake shore rehabilitation (delineating, fencing and planting tree) activities that limit free access to lakeshore vegetation are undertaken by irrigation farmers.
- Watershed rehabilitation and community closure area management schemes are initiated. Accordingly, in two watersheds a total of 750 hectares previously barren land has been delineated as a community closure area and every year enrichment plantation is done.

Environmental Education:

- various IEC materials (posters, brochures, pamphlets, videos, t-shirts, banners etc) on environmental problems of CRV and its mitigation measures have been produced and distributed in the program areas and even throughout Oromia Region
- Local Community based and district level environmental protection committees have been established and are working in monitoring and managing their environment
- 30 school-based environmental clubs (with over 3500 members) are actively contributing for the enhancement of environmental awareness, rehabilitation and management in their schools and surrounding community,
- Over 3000 selected families and traditional community leaders from the urban and rural people of the three districts attended a series of consensus building workshops regarding environmental conservation and management. The participants are composed of community elders, religious leaders, representatives of women, school directors, school club leaders, PA leaders and so on,
- SEDA stood at the forefront during the celebration of important environmental days. For instance, since 2004 the World Environmental Days were celebrated at SEDA's project area sponsored by SEDA, back donors and other stakeholders.
- SEDA organizes and actively participates in Green Award program at regional and national level since 2006. SEDA is coordinating the Program by collaborating with and mobilizing various Regional Government Bureaus of Oromia and other stakeholders. The program became exemplary even at a national level.
- SEDA actively participates in Central Rift Valley Network that has been established to bring environmental issues related to Central Rift Valley to the attention of decision makers. Moreover, it is working with many National and International Forums like Sustainable Land Use Forum, Network of Civil Society Organizations in Oromia (NeCSO), Forum for Environment, Global Water Partnership, National Climate Change Forum, Ethiopian CSOs Network on Climate Change, Consortium for the Integration

of Population, Health and Environment, Basic Education Network and Christian Relief and Development Association.

2.4.2 Household Food Security and Livelihood Development

A. Improved Livestock development through dairy development:

- Provided integrated livestock training packages and experience sharing within the program areas. Over 1000 households were addressed through training and experience sharing visits. The majority of training participants have adopted the practice of zero grazing, feed production and preparation, improving breeds by using AI and bull service
- up to date, 250 kg of forage seeds (alfa alfa, cow pea, rhodes,), over 20,000 elephant grass cuttings and over 45,000 fodder tree seedlings (lucaenia, sesbania, ..) have been distributed.
- Up to date over 500 improved Heifers (220 exotic and the remaining Borana crossbred) heifers have been distributed
- 8 Bull service stations have been established with one exotic breed bull in each of it.
- Up to date, 610 calves (that have improved blood level) have been born and survived through AI & Bull service provisions. The bull service is also given for non-project heifers as the demand for breed improvement become the concern of many farmers in the area.
- Milk & milk product processing and selling center has been established in Ziwai town. The dairy project participant and non-project dairy farmers have supplied 150,000 and 70, 000 liters of milk respectively; and, the center has earned a total of over Birr 1.4 million from sale of various dairy products (fresh milk, yoghurt and butter) and distributed for the farmers in the target, since Sept 2002 up to December 2008.

B. Farmers' Small-scale Irrigation Development

- 25 Water Pumps were distributed to 23 Irrigation groups which consist of a total of 885 Households. About 350 ha of land were put under community irrigation. Among the irrigation groups, 15 of them have secured legal certificate to form cooperatives.
- Eviction of the farmers from resourceful water areas by private investors has significantly decreased. More demand for irrigation based development is flowing into SEDA's Office to get involved into similar schemes,
- The farmers' production system has been significantly improved. One time production has evolved into two-three times production. Motorized pump changed their ways of production and contributed towards the efficient utilization of their labor and land resources. The vagaries of rain fed agriculture have reduced their toll on the livelihood of smallholders,
- Production is already diversified. Various cash crops/vegetables (onion, tomato, cabbages, green peppers etc) produced for consumption and household income generation. Farmers' income by season accounted from Birr 3000-20,000,
- Various Agro-forestry, forage development and environmental management practices were incorporated into the community production system in order to make them self sufficient. Cross-bred heifers were distributed to enhance the community income levels and transform the farm enterprises into commercialized marketing system,

2.4.3 Eradication of harmful traditional practices and gender based violence

- various trainings on gender, decision making and women empowerment issue offered to women selected from local community, local government offices and community leaders
- small business and resource management skills trainings have been offered to women groups

- established and supported for 30 school based gender clubs in four districts through training, stationery and IEC materials
- REFLECT training organized for 30 women facilitators and they are teaching at total of 1320 women. Most of them have began saving and properly planning their livelihood activities
- Awareness training on the e issues of harmful traditional practices, gender violence and HIV/AIDS prevention have been given to community representatives of all districts at different times
- Over 30,000 people have been sensitized on the eradication of harmful traditional practices and gender based violence in four districts over the last five years.

2.2.4 Capacity Building and Social Development for Rural Community mainly women

- Since 2002, seven Non-Formal Education centers have been established and enrolled 4500 school aged children to attend their primary education (grades 1-3) two are already transferred to government after some improvement
- One standardized formal primary school is constructed and handed over to the government. The school, in its regular session, can accommodate 400-500 out of school children
- up to now, over 1000 children joined grade five after completing first cycle primary education in these centers
- nine facilitators (who have completed high school education) have been recruited, trained on teaching methodology and employed from the local community to teach in the schools
- The non-formal schools have been supported by availing books, stationery and facilitators allowance in addition to technical supports in monitoring and management.
- Trainings on Community based risk management techniques were given for communities in risk prone areas to plan and realize their potential for development with their own local resources. They have already establishing early warning committee that regularly assesses risks and signal the concerned
- Relief assistance for 1925 families in 14 Rural Villages (PAs) (about 3673 quintals of cereals, 10000 different farm tools, 400 farm oxen, 199 donkeys and 655 goats) was provided during the drought emergency in 2004 in Adamitullu district. Similarly, in 2012, 400 households affected by flood disaster received livelihood asset recovery support and capacity building trainings for communities in Elellan Ababo kebele of same district.

2.4.4 Rural community economic support and enterprise development

- training on small ruminant management (health, feeding) was given for over 650 households
- 2432 shoats (34 sheep and remaining goats) have been distributed 1266 households (300 males and 966 females)
- seed capital on evolving fund basis for small scale businesses availed to women to enhance economic empowerment
- women targeted supports like donkey carts and small ruminants distribution have been made to enable them generate their own income
- group development, business skills, record keeping and management training organized for project participant groups (small scale irrigation, dairy farmers, women groups) before organizing them in to formal associations
- 22 cooperatives (15 horticulture producers, one dairy farmers and eight women Credit and Saving Cooperatives) have been organized and legally registered with a total of 2000 members. Other self-help groups with over 300 women members are under the process of legal registration to form Saving and Credit Cooperatives
- revolving fund loan, office equipment and technical advisory support have been given to cooperatives at different times

2.5. Some of the Impacts of the Interventions

Despite some recently initiated programs that would be too early to bring the intended impact, the overall programs implemented have produced the following major impacts

- local community's experience in horticulture production has been improved and hence, horticulture production has become a major focus for farmers who access water instead of the previous agro-pastoral mode of production
- The food security situation of targeted farmers has been significantly improved. Particularly, irrigation farmers have gone beyond feeding their families and many of them are getting in entrepreneurship
- Local community awareness and institutional responsiveness for eradicating harmful traditional practices and gender based violence has increased
- the livestock management practices of many farmers have been improved (even non-project) and the practice of zero grazing, animal sheltering, feeding, breeding etc are taking place,
- dairy farmers have shown better milk production and marketing skill and hence, better volume and income from dairy products are obtained
- the nutritional intake and feeding culture of the community has been improved due to better access to vegetable and animal products
- local community's capacity in handling own development and making livelihood activities has been improved
- women access and control over productive resources has been improved
- local community's access to basic social service and information on crosscutting issues has been improved
- local community's concern of the environmental degradation and climate change situation has shown improvement and at least at micro level, environmental resources have been protected and re-generated to tackle the intricate problems
- rural community's access to market information and bargaining capacity in selling their products has been improved

3. Major Development Partners

- Government
- Community (project participants and community leaders)
- Funding Agencies (Oxfam Affiliates in Ethiopia, HPI/SAC, ISEE Holland, Embassies, Ethiopian Sustainable Tourism Alliance (ESTA), divv international, Global Environmental Facility/GEF-UNDP, Greener Ethiopia, local NGOs and Networks)
- Private sector

4. Contact Address

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