



Wabe Children's Aid and Training(WCAT)

Update on school of ANENA at South Gondar, Dera Woreda, Gelawdios Kebele

Wabe Children's Aid and Training is one of the long standing partners of Edukans Foundation in Ethiopia in the area of Access to primary education, health care services for adolescents and economic empowerment of women in hard to reach rural areas.

Edukans constructed 6 schools in two districts of South Gondar Zone(Dera and Tach Gayint) and Bahir Dar city in Amhara regional state. The five schools have created access to 2135 children who have been out of school.

From 2008 to 2015, Edukans has been operating projects on access to inclusive basic education for vulnerable children in four alternative basic education centers. In 2011, the four alternative basic education centers were transformed to formal schools and the government took over the projects in 2015.

WCAT planned to make one of the schools a standard school with the budget from a philanthropist couples; Ank and Armand; from the Netherlands. They constructed two blocks with 8 classrooms and the school was named as School of Anena.

The main components of the project on school of Anena were:

1. Construction of two blocks with 8 classrooms
2. Construction of separate toilets and a water point
3. Active learning training for teachers in the school
4. Support for 18 vulnerable children
5. Empowering Center Management Committee(Parent Teacher Student Association-PTSA)

1. The Status of two blocks with 8 classrooms

The two blocks and the former one block are functional and serving 433 (237 girls). From this, 402 children (218 girls) are attending primary education from grade 1 to 8 and 31(19 girls) in pre-school education. The teaching and learning activities are being facilitated by 17 teachers (8 males and 9 females), one principal and supported by 7 school management committee



members (2 females and 5 males). The educational level of all of the teachers is diploma in teaching graduated from College of Teachers' Education.

In addition, the number of children who will take regional exam at grade 8 in June 2021 will be 51 children (25 boys and 26 girls). In the year 2020, all children from grade 1 to 7 have been given free promotion and joined to next grade levels due to COVID-19 pandemic. The promotion rate of children to next grades was 100% because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Children after completing grade 8 are joining three high schools namely, Arb Gebeya, Sana and Licha Secondary (9-12) schools. Children in the nearby feeder schools attend grade 5 to 8 after they finish grade 4.

The school has employed its own principal and vice academic principal. All the payments for the teachers are being covered by Dera Woreda Education office with fund from government. In 2015, WCAT has previously constructed teachers' shelter in the school compound with seven rooms with the project of Edukans. However, the teachers are not using the shelters in the school compound due to absence of electricity and facilities for living. Teachers live in nearby villages renting residential rooms from the community or parents. The school has two watchmen employed by the income of the school and community contribution.



The second block



The first block



Table 2: Number of school age children from grade 1 to 8 at Anena School, May 2021

School Name	Grade level	Number of children in 2021			Remark
		M	F	T	
Number of children from grade 1 to 8 level	1	29	24	53	
	2	35	33	68	
	3	22	30	52	
	4	26	31	57	
	5	21	20	41	
	6	16	35	51	
	7	10	19	29	
	8	25	26	51	
	Sub total	184	218	402	
Number of pre-school children ("O"-level)	Sub total	12	19	31	
Total children from "O"-level to grade 8	Grand total	196	237	433	

As shown in the table, girls' participation at Anena School has been improved due to the awareness rising and attitudinal works done by the school community and also the accessibility of the school in the nearby distance from villages. Girls' participation has reached 54.73% at this time from 51% in 2017. In addition, the school is providing pre-school education for children in the age group 4 to 6 years old. These enable children to perform better at early grades. Even if the number of girls is increasing, there are observations about boys. Boys have faced problems of child labour and girls' problem of child marriage. Child labour and child marriage are the main challenges for children and ensure quality of education.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the school was not operational from 16 March 2020 to mid-of October 2020. However, the problem was common to all schools in Ethiopia. Since Mid October 2020, the school has been opened applying the COVID-19 pandemic prevention roles and taking the necessary precautions.





1. Support for sponsored children

The 18 previously sponsored children by the project are in good statuses now. Ten (10) have reached high school; grade 9 to 12. They are actively attending their education. Ten (10) children have joined to three nearby secondary high schools namely, Aferewanat, Sana and Licha. The remaining 8 children have completed grade 10 and took national exam for preparatory education. However, the 8 were not successful to join preparatory grades (11 & 12) after finishing grade 10 national exams. They need extra supports such as vocational and skills training. Currently, they are engaged in other farming activities.

The community planted seedlings in the school compound. The seedlings include acacia trees, vetiver grass, podocarpus trees and eucalyptus. At this time, the school compound is covered with trees and grasses and become an attractive school to enjoy. The school is generating additional income from the farm and the grass.



Sample of sponsored children attending at Arb Gebeya high school(9-12)

1. Worknesh Melkie Ayenew(Female, Grade 9)
2. Habtamu Setie Adugna(The Middle one; Grade 11)
3. Eshetu Sisay Alemu(Grade 11)

2. Accessing school children to potable water and toilet services

Children and the school community are getting access to clean water from the water point developed in 2015. The water point is still functional. In addition, the toilets for children are



functional and it has four rooms for children (two for girls and two for boys including teachers). However, it is not separate and not conducive for females.

3. Challenges encountered in the school of Anena

- ✓ Ensuring the quality of education is still a challenge due to lack of active learning teachers' training including the lack of educational learning media for children
- ✓ The deep-rooted traditions on practices of child marriage , child labour and less value to education of children
- ✓ The absence of safe rooms and menstrual hygiene and sanitation services and separate toilets for girls
- ✓ The lack of support for sponsored children and absence of vocational skills training for those who completed grade 10.
- ✓ The lack of awareness on COVID-19 pandemic for parents and children
- ✓ Economic problems of parents to send children to school
- ✓ The absence of electricity and solar in the school to facilitate learning and teaching

4. WCAT's future plan by 2021 and thereafter at Anena school

- Strengthen the school with active learning training in collaboration with College of teachers' education and district education office to ensure quality of education
- Continue supporting sponsored children technically and psychologically and if we get project on vocational skills training, we can engage the youth who completed grade 10.
- Facilitate the renovation of the school building and construct additional toilets and assist them whenever appropriate
- Prepare project proposals on child marriage, child labour, sponsorship and quality education to ensure the continuity of Anena School.
- Work on economic empowerment of parents to assist child education
- Updating the donor with pictures taken live from the school.

Finally, the school community and children have a deep thanks and unforgettable gratefulness to the donor Miss Ank and Mr. Armand together with Edukans especially Mrs. Hendrien Maat for their investments. Anena at this time has created wider opportunities for **pre-school children, school age children and community members.**



Children in the classroom



The back side of the school compound is covered with green plants