



ETHIOPIA. IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS OF WOMEN FROM THE DISTRICT OF BELOJEGANFOY WOREDA, STATE OF BENISHANGUL.



Total value of the project: 1.106

Place: Belojeganfoy Woreda, State of Benishangul – region of Kamashi– Etiopia.

Title: Improvement of living conditions of women from the district of Belojeganfoy Wereda, State of Benishangul Gumuz.

Project duration:

September 28th 2007 – November 27th 2010.

Beneficiaries: 6500 direct beneficiaries, including women and children living in the 10 neighbourhoods of Kebele, forming Belojeganfoy Woreda.

More specifically, 300 women have been able to undertake small business activities thanks to the project support .

56783, that is all the inhabitants of Woreda area, are instead the indirect beneficiaries of a global improvement of the social and sanitary conditions.

The context: Ethiopia actually is in 172nd place of UNDP's Human Development Index, and it is the third most populous country in Africa, with about 70 million inhabitants (UNFPA), most of whom live in rural areas (about 85%). The breakdown into age groups shows a population pyramid typical of poorest countries, which is broad at the bottom to represent the youngest age group (0-20 years old, which is 45% of the population), and narrow at the top.

The country is characterized by overdependence on agriculture, that employs 75% of population and constitutes 80% of export sector.

Among the major problems affecting the country's economy are drought, and consequent food shortage that in some areas can be considered chronic and structural.

Belojeganfoy Woreda is one of five Woreda forming the Administrative Area of Kamashi, in the southern part of the region. Woreda sprawls over 2.930 Km square and is divided into 10 Kebele. The estimated population is 13,528 inhabitants, and 55.2% are males. Life expectancy for both sex do not reach 50 years, while the infant morbidity rate (under 5 years) is of 123 deaths out of 1000 births. Due to these data Woreda falls below the national average.

The entire population live in traditional huts, which are rarely aggregated into villages.

Economy is mainly based on agriculture. Woreda's largest harvest consists of cereals (sorghum and corn, and in lower quantities also of millet), as well as of beans, bananas, mangos, papaya and beetroot.

Besides caring for the children, women are daily engaged in water and wood harvesting, and in cooking. Women also participate in building houses and in selling products in rural markets. Children are often involved in women's activities, particularly in taking care of the youngest and in water harvesting.

The challenge: To improve living conditions of women in Belojeganfoy Woreda, State of Benishangul Gumuz.

Goals:

General goals:

- To contribute the improvement of living of Belojeganfey Woreda population, in particular that of the children.
- To contribute to creating the conditions for an institutional, social and economic development in Belojeganfey Woreda and in Kamashi Area.

Specific goal:

- To improve living conditions of all the women in the 10 Kebele of Woreda (estimated 6.000 women) through:
 - Infrastructural works.
 - Education, services, and institutional strengthening.

Concrete field interventions:

- Development of infrastructures
 - To build 18 water points in Kebele.
 - Bridges rehabilitation.
 - To build 10 model houses.
- Education (Household economy)
 - To train 450 women in "home management" and to support them with adequate infrastructures.
 - To train 300 beneficiaries and to support their micro-production activities.
 - Participation of 200 beneficiaries of the communities and their leaders to meetings and workshops in order to raise awareness on women's conditions. Institutional Development (Capacity Building).
 - Participation of 59 officers from Belojeganfoye Wareda and from Kamashi area to educational course on administration and management.

Results obtained:

During the second year of the project we recorded:

1. The rehabilitation of 6 water supply points.
2. Delivery of 6 milling machines to beneficiary women.
3. Training of 500 women ("home management") in joint cooperation with the local authorities (Wareda).
4. Expansion of Soge's water supply to be used by 1/3 of the local population.

Fund raising goal: 160.000 Euro

