



# Ho! ManaBU Project Newsletter

Project on Improving Access to Quality Primary Education by Community Participation

No.4 <August 2010>

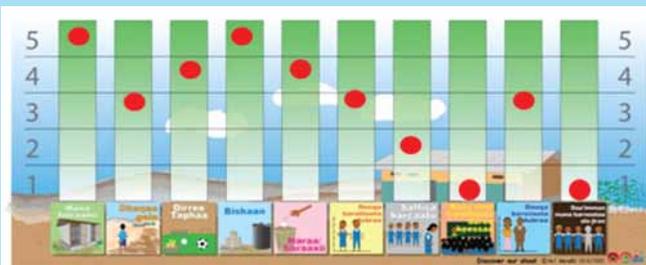
**Akkan Jirtu! Hello, everyone! It is in the middle of dark and cold rainy season in Ethiopia.**

**During this school holiday season, Ho! ManaBU project team is business as usual and busy preparing for a new school year. Ho! ManaBU Newsletter No 4 brings you the latest news on our activities in June and July.**

## Ho! ManaBU new material development

### 1. The Interactive Training Package (ITP) 4: 'Discover our school'

'Discover our school' is the fourth training package of the ITP series following the three ITPs developed last year. The main objective of this training is for school and community members to learn the environment of their school and to understand what factors create such a situation. By answering ten quizzes on school environment, school staff and community members will grasp the overall picture of their school, and identify the strength and weakness of the school. The training will lead the participants to develop their interest in their school, to raise a sense of ownership, and to participate in school management more actively. 'Discover our school' is game-style training which is interlinked with the other three ITPs. We guarantee you that participants can learn in an enjoyable and relaxed way!



What is the strength and weakness of your school?

### 2. Self-Learning Kit 'Let's Start Lesson Study'

Community participation in school management supports quality education but it is teachers who play a fundamental role in quality education. In response to the growing demand for continuous professional development (CPD), Ho! ManaBU developed an Afaan Oromo self-learning kit, 'Let's Start Lesson Study'. By watching the 'Let's Start Lesson Study' DVD and going through tasks, teachers will be able to learn the essence of 'Lesson Study' - a widely spread way of CPD in Japan, how to practice it, and to develop their teaching skills.



'Let's Start Lesson Study' materials

### 3. Education magazine 'ODA'

We know that thousands of schools in Oromia region cooperate with community members and work together in order to provide quality education for children. Do we really know, then, what kinds of activities or efforts are being made at school? 'ODA', is an Afaan Oromo quarterly education magazine to provide a forum for sharing good



ODA magazine

practices as well as concerns on educational issues among educators. We name it 'ODA', hoping the magazine to be a open meeting place for educators just like Oda tree where people in Oromia get together for discussion. The first edition features an interview with Obbo. Dereje Asfaw, Head of Oromia Education

Bureau (OEB). The magazine will be distributed to Ho! ManaBU partners from regional to school level. Do tell us about good practices of your community or challenges your school face. Your contribution will make ODA magazine!

## The pilot CRCs received a long-awaited Ho! ManaBU computer set...finally!

After all the arrangements were materialised, the delivery of Ho! ManaBU computer set finally came into operation. The Ho! ManaBU computer set (desktop computer, printer, generator and stabiliser) are first delivered to the Ho! ManaBU target WEO/ STEOs, and it is handed over to the Ho! ManaBU 104 pilot Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs). On 17 June, a lorry of OEB set off to deliver the first batch of the sets to South West Showa zone. As of August 3, the remaining zones are only Jimma, Illubabor and East Showa out of the 13 target zones. This is a truly long process as every single aspect of the logistics had to be worked out.



Workers unload the computer sets at woreda education office

The various unforeseen events (heavy rain, technical problems of vehicles and so on) inevitably forced us to change the schedules several times. However, the overall operation has been going well thanks to the strong initiatives of OEB, and good cooperation among local education offices and schools. Ho! ManaBU actually received an acknowledgment from some of the pilot schools, telling that they had received the computer!

A computer is nowadays a 'must' item in educational management. In order to facilitate schools to make even better use of it, Ho! ManaBU has produced various materials - Quick Learning Video Series, Self-Learning Kit 'Let's Start Lesson Study', and PC manuals. We look forward to visiting Ho! ManaBU pilot schools soon to find out how effectively the schools use the Ho! ManaBU computer and materials!

### Ho! ManaBU Facilitator Certificate System



Red Jacket and yellow umbrella for facilitators of level 1 and 2

Ho! ManaBU Training Facilitator Certificate System was introduced in November 2009. It aims to encourage CRC supervisors, school directors and key teachers of the Ho ManaBU pilot schools to develop their facilitation skills and to provide a good Ho! ManaBU Training for people in their community. So how does the system work? A facilitator will be given a certificate of Level 3 (elementary), 2 (intermediate) or 1 (advanced), according to the numbers of training implementation and reports. The actual facilitation skills will be also valued, and the Project team will come to school and to observe how the Training is facilitated. Ho! ManaBU Jacket and Umbrella will be awarded to those who get a level 1 or 2 respectively. The Project team is keen to support a hard working 'Super facilitator'. Those facilitators who are confident about their facilitation must contact us! Such a facilitator would deserve a Ho! ManaBU jacket!

### The third Joint Steering Committee held

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) is a Ho! ManaBU organ, where the selected members get together from time to time, review the progress of the project activities, discuss the key issues and approve a particular activity. The JSC is chaired by head of OEB and the members include deputy head and senior officials of OEB, representatives of the target ZEO, officials of Ministry of Education, Finance and Economic at federal and regional levels.

The third JSC was held on 19 June at Ethiopia Red Cross Society, Training Institute in Addis Ababa. Many JSC members took time out of his/her busy schedule and took part in the meeting. Obbo. Dereje Asfaw, Head of OEB, referring to Ho! ManaBU as 'our project', emphasised that Ho! ManaBU should be implemented as a part of regular activities, and requested zonal education officials to make a strong commitment. A closing speech was delivered by Mr. Koji Ota, a representative of JICA Ethiopia Office. In his speech, Mr. Ota reaffirmed JICA's support to the Project, and also stressed the importance of firm commitment and collaboration of education officials at various levels for successful implementation of Ho! ManaBU.



Obbo. Dereje (right) and Mr. Ota (centre)

### The JOCV Science Caravan

Science teachers often moan about the lack of a laboratory and science kits while many pupils are allergic to science because they often have to memorise complicated formula without understanding!

The group of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOVC) who work at primary and secondary schools in Ethiopia organised 'Science Caravan' and visited some of Ho! ManaBU pilot schools in Arsi and East Shoa zones in July.

The aim of the Caravan was to raise teachers' awareness that science could be taught without expensive tools, and also to attract pupils' interest in science through 'fun to learn' experiments. The JOCV team used such materials as plastic bottles instead of expensive kits, and demonstrated various experiments. The fascinated audience - pupils, teachers and community members - learned science in a relaxed atmosphere.

This was a good experience for the JOCV members too and they are already planning to have the second Caravan! Ho! ManaBU thanks OEB who fully supported JOCV's proposal and school members who cooperated with the Caravan. Galatooma!



Demonstrations by the JOCV team