



Ho! ManaBU Project Newsletter

Project on Improving Access to Quality Primary Education by Community Participation

No.6 <March 2011>

Akkan Jirtu! Hello, everyone! We hope everyone is fine and doing well during the longest fasting and rainy season. Ho! ManaBU Newsletter No. 6 brings you the latest news on our activities in November 2010 to March 2011.

The attendance rate was 98.9% - the second Ho! ManaBU Workshop -

Following a big success in 2009, Ho! ManaBU (HM) organised the second Ho! ManaBU Workshop (the WS) at the 10 venues in collaboration with the 13 target Zonal Education Office (ZEO) from November to December 2010. A total of 391 participants who are the focal persons of 54 Woreda and Special Town Education Offices (WEO/STEOs), the supervisors of the 104 pilot Cluster Resource Centres (CRC), school directors and key teachers of the 104 pilot centre schools took part in Training of Trainers (TOT) of Ho! ManaBU Training (the Training) and learned the essences of information-sharing and data management.

At TOT, the participants learned how to facilitate 'Discover our school (DOS)' as well as how to report and monitor the Training. At information-sharing session, they shared the strategies for promoting information-sharing, the factors which hampered it, and a way of how to improve it. At data management session, the participants were first shown enrolment from 2005 to 2009 of one of the HM pilot centre schools as a sample, and examined the logic of the change in number of pupils as well as problems of data recording. The participants then looked at their own school educational data which they had brought with them and examined it. Through this session, the participants got more aware that the data could be less reliable as a result of the lack of clear definition of drop-out

or the difference of registration period according to zone and so on. At the end of the session, the participants were encouraged to use the enrolment data format which the Project developed so that they could keep the record more correctly.



The attendance rate of the WS was 98.9% - even higher than 94.8% of last year. On the other hand, the percentage of those who had attended the WS in 2009 and 2010 successively was only 52% out of the participants and others were all new to HM. This suggested how to institutionalise the information is very critical. The Project team would like to thank Oromia Education Bureau (OEB), ZEO, WEO/STEO, CRC and schools for their collaboration for the WS. *Galatoomaa!*

Congratulation on big achievements! - Achievements of the first year training -

It has been more than a year since the three Trainings - 'Raise awareness of drop-out', 'Raise awareness of girls' education' and 'Let's make our school better' started at school levels in December 2009. As we have regularly reported in this newsletter,

there have been numerous achievements of these 'Raise awareness' Training series. As of November 2010, more than 300 Trainings were conducted at not only centre schools but also satellite schools; the total number of the participants exceeds 20,000 people; more than 150 new school improvement activities were initiated after the Training (the figures are based on the Training reports submitted by CRCs. The actual numbers are estimated to be far greater). Decreases in absenteeism and drop-out rate are among the biggest achievements. It is reported that a number of parents, who had experienced sorrow and despair of drop-out themselves through the Training, decided to re-send their once-drop-out children. Increase in attendees at supplementary classes for underachievers and girls, building new school facilities, and realisation of the long-delayed plan for constructing secondary school in the school site are among other achievements.

There are of course challenges too - the gap in facilitation skills among facilitators, community members' reluctance to take part without any incentives, incorrect use of the Training report and feedback sheets, delay of submission of quality Training reports, the lack of coordination at ZEO and WEO/STEO levels and so on. Nevertheless, it must be noted that the Trainings and all the actions taken are initiated by school and community without any financial support from HM. This is a real challenge for Training organisers, yet many schools keep implementing the Training.

'Because Ho! ManaBU Training has a real impact on the mindset of community', said one of the directors. This is the clear sign that school and community members gradually get motivated internally to develop a sense of mutual responsibility for collaborative school management.

'Discover our school' Training started

DOS Training started at many schools from January. The Training consists of Part 1 and 2 - 'School's research and analysis of 10 items related to school environment' (Part 1) and 'Sharing of the analysis with community members and discussion of how to work them out with them' (Part 2). The Training has been randomly monitored in several zones and it indicates that some CRCs already have done Part 1 and 2 while others are planning to implement the latter soon. Let us report some of our findings.

All the CRCs that have implemented Part 1 comment that this exercise helps teachers to get aware of the state of own school environment more concretely. This also makes school more accountable for their explanation to community members. One of the pilot CRC in West Hararge organised Part 1 for centre school as well as all four satellite schools. The CRC is planning to implement Part 2 at each of the schools very soon. Another CRC in East Showa, where Part 1 and 2 had been implemented, agreed with community members to work on three issues - water, toilets and playground. They also cleaned the compound by picking up rubbish after the Training (the cleanness of school is one of the items to analyse). Our monitoring continues and we will report more about our findings in the next newsletter.



The mid-term review and the fourth Joint Steering Committee Meeting

The Mid - Term Review (MTR) of HM project was carried out in Ethiopia for three weeks from 23 January to 13 February 2011. The joint review team consisting of OEB officials and the review mission from JICA HQ observed the Training at several HM pilot CRCs and interviewed stakeholders. The review team was happy with various achievements and also provided a series of recommendations to work on such issues as developing facilitation skills, improving reporting skills and strengthening the coordination among various levels. Based on the recommendations, the current Project Design Matrix (PDM: the framework for project management and implementation) and the Plan of Operation (PO) will be revised.



During the MTR, the fourth Joint Steering Committee (JSC) was held at Ethiopia Red Cross Society, Training Institute in Addis Ababa on 10 February, and around 30 officials at federal and regional levels shared the review results as well as the update of HM progress. Obbo. Eshetu, then head of Oromia Education Bureau (OEB) and Mr. Jun Sakuma, leader of review team from JICA HQ signed the draft Minutes of Meeting which contains the review results and recommendations. Obbo. Eshetu, Mr. Yoshiaki Ito, Minister of Embassy of Japan and Mr. Koji Ota, representative of JICA Ethiopia Office who were present at JSC expressed their wish, in their speeches, to see HM expansion in Oromia region.

Ho! ManaBU in the Ethiopian press

The three day press tour was organised by Embassy of Japan between 9 and 11 March, and around 15 national and regional media paid a visit to HM pilot CRC in Asella Special Town. The journalists observed community members enthusiastically participating in 'Raise awareness of drop-out' facilitated by CRC supervisor and School Director. The CRC has implemented the Training so many times and even security guards are aware about the Training and its impact! The Training was broadcasted on news OTV as well as ETV. Indeed, this was a good opportunity for the Project too to promote public relations. Hope you had a chance to watch it! We thank the school and community members who cooperated with this event. Galatoomaa!

OEB Initiative for Ho! ManaBU Training

OEB has been working tirelessly to expand equal access to quality education for a long time. Yet reducing drop-out and promoting girls' education particularly in rural area are still challenging task in Oromia Region. Recognising the effectiveness of 'Raise awareness' Training series which have a big impact on the reduction of drop-out rate in particular, OEB is now developing 'the OEB Initiative' to disseminate the Training at all primary schools across Oromia region. OEB Experts are now teamed up and developing the plan. The main strategy is to facilitate WEO/STEO to function as 'HM Resource Centre'. WEO/STEO officers, who are first trained at regional level will train CRC supervisors and school directors to be a HM Training facilitator. The Training materials of 'Raise awareness of drop-out' and 'Raise awareness of girls' education' will be made available at WEO/STEO so that CRCs in turn can implement the Training at cluster level. The Project team is delighted about this wonderful news. And of course, we will continue to work with OEB!