



Ho! ManaBU Project Newsletter - To meet the smile of children -

Project on Improving Access to Quality Primary Education by Community Participation

Akkan Jirtu! Hello, everyone! School is nearly coming to an end. Pupils may be relieved to finish all the exams while teachers must be busy marking exams. Ho! ManaBU Newsletter No 7. brings you the latest news on our activities in April to June 2011. We hope teachers and pupils have nice school holidays. We look forward to meeting all of you again in a new school year in September.

'Discover our school' Training

- The Training in full swing at school level-

Implementation of Ho! ManaBU Training 'Discover our school (DOS)' at school level is now in full swing. The Project team is busy visiting the pilot Cluster Resource Centre (CRC) and monitoring the Training and its outputs. We are pleased to learn that CRC takes initiative and conduct the Training at not only centre school but also satellite schools. Based on the Training reports that have been submitted to the Project office by the end of May 2011 via Woreda/Special Town Education Office (WEO/STEO), more than 100 Training have been conducted. Given that a considerable number of the reports are still at WEO/STEO, however, the Project team is confident that the actual number of Training implementation should be greater.



The participants learn the school environment at the quiz-style Training 'Discover our school'.

DOS is the Training which facilitates school staff to get more aware of the school environment by researching their school (Part 1), to share their findings and analysis with

community, and then to encourage school and community to discuss how to improve the situation (Part 2). While discussion between school and community is indeed important, how constructive the discussion is largely depends on the research and analysis by school staff. Thus, Part 1 plays a very important role in this Training. Indeed, research and analysis exercise is powerful enough to change school. Our monitoring suggests that a certain action for school improvement could be taken on school's own initiative even before school shares the research results with community.

One good practice is observed at one of the pilot centre schools in Asella. At this school, there had been only communal toilets for boys and girls. After a teacher found out this situation through the research and shared it with other school staff, a female school director suggested separate toilets should be provided for the sake of girls. The school staff supported her idea and the school now has separate toilets for boys and girls. The example of the school in Asella suggests the research activity itself can help school to develop their sense of responsibility for providing an environment conducive to learning and let them think how to deal with it. The Project continues to monitor the Training and would like to share such practice with you.

ODA magazine and Ho! ManaBU poster

- Did your school receive them? -

As we report in Newsletter No. 4, Ho! ManaBU publishes ODA magazine, aiming to promote sharing of good practice of school improvement activities as well as tips for teaching and learning and school management among stakeholders, especially at school level. The first issue of ODA was distributed to Zonal Education Office (ZEO) at the Oromia Regional Education Festival held in Adama in September 2011

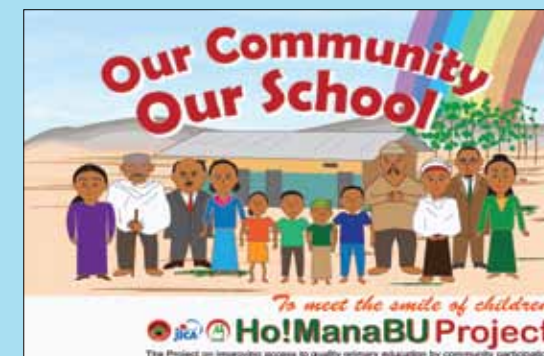
and the copies were delivered from ZEO to WEO/STEO, CRC and primary schools eventually.



The second issue of ODA magazine was published in February 2011.



The second issue of ODA was published in February 2011 and the magazines were delivered along with Ho! ManaBU poster 'Our Community Our School' to all WEO/STEO of the target ZEO in Oromia region. The attractive A1 size poster with full of Ho! ManaBU Training characters was produced for promotion of Ho! ManaBU. The delivery of ODA and the poster to the target WEO/STEO has completed by June 10 and it is expected that CRC and primary schools will receive these materials from WEO/STEO before schools are closed for long school holidays. We hope teachers will enjoy reading ODA and also are looking forward to finding the poster on the wall when we visit schools!



Ho! ManaBU poster 'Our Community Our School' has been delivered with ODA magazine to all the primary schools in the target ZEO.

Relay, Tug-of-War and Big smile

- Sports Day for Ethiopian and Japanese pupils -

'Sports Day' is a popular school event in Ethiopia. In Japan too, Sports Day or 'Undokai' in Japanese is a well-established school event. While Sports Day in Ethiopia often refers to the event where the limited number of pupils participated in one or two sports, 'Undokai' in Japan is a big annual event where not only all pupils but also teachers, parents and community take part in various group and individual performances and competitive events.

This 'Undokai' was held in collaboration with one of the Ho! ManaBU pilot schools in Bishoftu at the weekend in May. Pupils, teachers, community, Japanese children and adults living in Ethiopia enjoyed the half day school event. The Ethiopian and Japanese participants were mixed and divided into white and red teams, and the two teams competed in relays, ball-toss-game or 'tama-ire' (to toss a ball into the basket) and tug-of-war. These are very common Undokai programmes and familiar to Japanese children while it was very new to most of Ethiopian children. Yet, Ethiopian children quickly learned the rules and played very well. The finale of the day was the tug-of-war and it was full of excitement. Following the three matches played by girls, small and young boys, Ethiopian and Japanese adults competed for national pride. Being trained at school for many years, Japanese were experienced players of the tug-of-war. Yet, Ethiopian team consisting of full of young men was very strong and scored a upset victory!

All the programmes were successfully completed and the red team beat the white team in the total score. Pupils, teachers and community had a good time together and everyone went home with a big smile on his/her face.



The tug-of-war (left) and 'Tama-ire' (right). Children and adults truly enjoyed the weekend Undokai.

Undokai is the school event that not only pupils but also parents and community can enjoy thoroughly. It is also the fascinating school activity that plays a catalytic role as the whole process of Undokai - from planning, preparation to implementation includes all the essences of school improvement. It will help school director to strengthen his/her planning and management capacity: teachers will develop good teamwork and communication: pupils not only have fun but also learn how to act and cooperate in a group activity: community gets to know more about what school is doing and of course it really helps to develop partnership between school and community. If your school is interested to organise Undokai, please contact Ho! ManaBU. We are very happy to cooperate with your school and community. Let's enjoy Undokai!



The tug-of-war between Ethiopian vs. Japanese teams for national pride!

Accelerating towards the big achievement

- The revised PDM is finalised -

As reported in Newsletter No. 6, the Mid-term review (MTR) of Ho! ManaBU project was conducted between January and February 2011. The Project Design Matrix (PDM) was revised accordingly and the final version was agreed and signed between Oromia Education Bureau (OEB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in April.

Aiming at 'participatory school-based management', the new PDM sets clearer targets and various activities are arranged. The output 3 which aims to develop the base for utilisation and dissemination of Ho! ManaBU Trainings and its approaches by OEB is among the key revised items. The Project is now working based on the new PDM version 3 shown in the right column. We will continue to work together with OEB and other stakeholders and achieve success.

Project Title

Project on Improving Access to Quality Primary Education by Community Participation

Project period

20 September 2008 ~ 19 September 2012

Project purpose

Participatory school-based management is promoted in the target area through collaboration between school and community with support of educational administrative organisations.

Project Outputs

1. Planning and implementation process of school improvement activities is improved.
2. Monitoring of school improvement activities by educational administrative organisations is enhanced.
3. Foundation for utilisation and dissemination of the trainings and approaches of the Project by OEB is strengthened.

Target Groups

WEO/STEO officers, CRC supervisors, school staff members, and community members

Target Area

13 Zones of Oromia region

West Showa, North Showa, South West Showa, Jimma, Illubabor, Horo Guduru Wellega, East Wellega, West Wellega, Kellem Wellega, East Showa, Arsi, West Arsi and West Hararge

43 WEO and 11 STEO

104 CRC and centre schools

