Dir Biyabir Quarterly Update

3rd Quarter 2012

www.dirbiyabir.org

September 23, 2012

Landscape around Workgur in Northern Shewa after the rainy season.

Greetings

Dear Members,

Melkam Addis Amet, Happy Ethiopian New Year ! September 11, 2012 ushered in the new year of 2005 on the Ethiopian Calendar. We have high hopes for 2005 being a year of new hope and renewal for Ethiopia, and we wish the same to you and yours.

In August we submitted a new grant application to The Christensen Fund (TCF) for our largest project yet, an integrated environmental project in Northern Shewa that engages the community in re-planting indigenous trees and developing local sources of clean water, while also developing small local businesses that leverage this environmental renewal. This project will be a larger scale version of similar Dir Biyabir projects funded by TCF in this area. We hope to hear the status of our application in October, stay tuned .....

Poultry rearing project participants at Workgur Elementary School.

Dir Biyabir Continues Funding a Chicken Rearing Project in Northern Shewa

As part of Dir Biyabir's effort to encourage entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency amongst rural youth, a pilot project for poultry rearing was initiated in 2009 in one elementary school. Due to the success of the pilot project, in December 2011, Dir Biyabir provided funds to Adheno to continue expanding the chicken rearing project for young girls in Goshebado and Workgur. Eighty students received 3 young chicks each (two females and one male) in February 2012. A report Dir Biyabir received shows that by the middle of the year, Adheno had successfully implemented a monitoring program of all students who received chicks in Phase 3 of this project.

Based on the latest report we received from Adheno, all 80 students received visits at their homes and they provided an account of the status of their chicken rearing. The chickens have already started laying eggs, and the girls have started selling them, using the income mainly to buy school supplies and food for their families. Additionally, girls in Workgur reported that their families used the eggs to supplement their diet. This could indicate a changing attitude towards the use of eggs: from income generators to source of nutrition.

About 12% of the chickens died either due to disease or to predation. Adheno is addressing this issue by alerting local veterinarians. Furthermore, the current batch of chickens is of a breed (Bovans Brown) that is able to cross with the local variety, and their progeny may therefore develop better resistance to local poultry diseases. We are evaluating next steps in further supporting this project which has shown a very positive impact on these young girls.

Happy girls and their chickens at Goshebado Elementary School.

Dir Biyabir P.O Box 391566, Mountain View, CA 94039