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| <b>COWASH EVENT REPORT</b> (workshops, meetings, conferences, trainings, seminars, study tours, etc)  |   |   |
| <b>NAME(S):</b><br>Aino Himanen<br>Melaku Tekola<br>Wubetu Abebaw   | <b>POSITION(S) AND ORGANIZATION(S):</b><br>JPO, COWASH FTAT<br>CKMA, COWASH FTAT<br>CMP supervisor, Central Gondar Zone |   |
| <b>EVENT NAME:</b><br>Field visit to Debark and Dembia woredas  | <b>DATES:</b><br>2-4.7.2018   | <b>PLACE:</b><br>Central Gondar zone /<br>Debark and Dembia woredas |
| <b>ORGANIZED BY:</b><br>FTAT/ CMP supervisors at zone and woreda levels   | <b>NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (Male/Female):</b><br>-   |   |
| <b><u>Objectives of the event:</u></b><br>To visit Debark and Dembia woredas to observe, document and support the disability inclusion activities started on the ground   | <b><u>Reference of the objectives:</u></b>  |   |
| <b><u>Evaluation of the event:</u></b><br><p>FTAT supported the disability inclusion awareness raising event to Central Gondar zone and woredas office heads and stakeholders on June 24-25 2018. One of the main trainers in the event was Ato Guade Demeke, (a visually impaired person trained earlier by COWASH FTAT) and it was during an interview and discussions with him that the team learnt the zone and some of the woredas had already started implementing the disability inclusion activities on the ground. This was despite the fact that the training cascading was still ongoing. In order to find out what kind of activities had been implemented already, it was decided that the FTAT JPO and CKMA will return the following week for a field visit to document the activities together with the zone CMP supervisor Ato Wubetu.</p> <p>During the visit two sites in Debark and Dembia woredas were visited by the team. There was a plan to see more sites, but due to the rains and long distances it was not possible. Both sites were hand dug wells and construction had been completed in April 2018. It was very inspiring and positive to see some actions starting to happen on the ground to improve the practical inclusion of persons with disabilities, although the sites visited were not 100% completed yet and requires some improvements.</p> <p>The team also visited Dembia woreda water office to see the WASHCO files and how the woreda has started to use the updated application and appraisal formats. It was a positive surprise again that the files were found in very good order, and with the new formats in use. Again they had started using the formats before receiving the disability inclusion training, so the numbers of persons with disabilities found in the communities were low (1-5 on average), and the implication of how the access to water will be guaranteed for these people was not filled due to lack of knowledge. The team assured that now since they have received the disability training they will know how to use the formats better and will ensure that disability issues are also included into the promotion activities next year.</p> |   |   |
| <b><u>Major outcomes from the event:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was very encouraging to see the efforts put in by the zone and woreda CMP supervisors to start implementation of the inclusion of persons with disabilities without prior training and lack of access to the COWASH disability inclusion guideline or other materials. The drive came from personal dedication and firm belief of the CMP supervisors on the importance of inclusion. In this sense it can be concluded that the training given to the regions, zones and woredas has been successful and inspiring for the participants.</li> </ul>   |   |   |

- The two water points visited were slightly different design. Both were the result of piloting and experimenting since the FTAT inclusive water point design was not yet made at the time of construction. Positive points in both cases were that the site location was relatively near to the households and on a flat area, and the apron of the water point had enough space to move around. In Dembia the ramp was a little too steep at the beginning of it and had a small step, which the woreda said they will fix. In both cases the handrails on the side of the ramp was missing and the path to the water point was not marked and would benefit from adding e.g. gravel to avoid the path getting muddy during rains. Overall the water points (especially in Debark) were the best examples of accessible sites that the team had previously seen in the project. The fence was also missing in both sites, but the woreda experts assured they will be built and care will be given so that the fence will not block the access to the ramp.



Debark site on the left and Dembia site on the right.

- In both woredas the experts confirmed that the construction cost of the water points had been only very slightly (about 2%) higher than in a typical HDW construction.
- In both sites the team met with users with disabilities, both with visual and physical impairments. All users were very happy with the water supply. Although most of them were not able to transport the water from the water point to their homes and still required the help of neighbours and family members for that, they very much appreciated the fact that now they can access the clean water source whenever they wanted for drinking and washing. This has made a big difference for them personally. One person at the Debark site commented that previously he had to beg for water from different neighbours everyday as he was not able to get support from family nor access the previous site. Now he is able to get water whenever he wants on his own.
- Both the zone and woredas appreciated the visit and the suggestions of improvements given by the team. It was important to motivate them to continue the efforts towards greater inclusion. It is also important to continue giving them support and encouragement to keep the momentum going and also extend this kind of supportive supervision to other regions and woredas.
- Communication to and from woredas and zones should be improved. It was only through a coincidence that it was learnt that they had already started this kind of activities. There should be better and more systematic sharing of information all the way up to FTAT and ensure we know the progress of the implementation and can also support them better.

#### **FOLLOW UP ACTIONS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES**

Melaku Tekola has taken interviews and will produce short video of the visit. Aino to maintain contact with the zone to continue the support to the woredas and follow up on the progress of the disability inclusion activities. Similar supportive supervision should be extended to other woredas and regions as well, especially when the new accessible HDW design is piloted in the project.

**DATE OF EVENT REPORT: 18.7.2018**