

Disability inclusion training conducted for COWASH regional stakeholders



Trainees and trainers interact during the training

from the regions to the COWASH zones, woredas, kebeles and communities.

The 38 participants included COWASH focal persons from its five regions of operation, namely Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz and SNNPR. From each region representatives from the Bureaus of Water, Health, Education, Finance, Women and Children Affairs, Social Affairs, TVET and MSE Agency were invited. In addition some new COWASH Regional Support Unit staff were also present. For the majority of the participants this was the first training of its kind focusing on disability and inclusive WASH.

COWASH Federal team led by the Junior Professional Officer organised a three-day disability inclusion training for its regional stakeholders in Bishoftu on the 4th – 6th October 2017. COWASH Phase III aims to include persons with disabilities in all its activities and training and raising awareness of stakeholders on disability issues at all levels is a key part of this process. After the completion of this training, the COWASH disability inclusion guideline and related training materials are to be translated to regional languages and the training will be cascaded down



Dr Abebe Yehualawork worked as quality controller in the training



Melkamu Gemeda from BG RSU and Birhan Weldegebrealu from Tigray RSU prepare themselves for the coming action as trainers

The training was given by staff from COWASH regional support units (one person from each region) and from Disabled People's Organisations: Ethiopian Centre for Disability and Development ECDD and Ethiopian National Disability Action Network ENDAN. These trainers received a similar training of trainers in July 2017 and now got the chance to practice their skills for the first time. The training content included the following topics: understanding disability and barriers to inclusion; disability policy in the global

context and in Ethiopia; inclusion of persons with disabilities in all COWASH activities; the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders at different levels; and inclusive solutions for WASH. The training modalities included group discussions and works, role plays and exercises, as well as presentations on the above topics.

As part of the training pre and post-tests were given to the participants to determine their starting level of understanding on the topic and subsequent change. There was a clear improvement in the results following the training given. Prior to the training about one third of the participants had no understanding or knowledge about disability, but the post-test showed that two thirds of the participants had acquired a very good understanding of basic issues related to disability and accessibility.



Feedback was collected from the participants after the training and the vast majority responded that the training was of high relevance to their work, contained a lot of new information, was highly useful and fulfilled their expectations. The majority also commented that the quality of the presentations and facilitation of the training were very good.

Mastawesha Shegu from ECDD acted as facilitator in the training



Mulatu Ferede from Amhara RSU was one of the trainers and Desalegne Kirose from Tigray RSU is listening attentively