

Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY-DASSC) Action Plan for Seven Years (2012-2016)

1. Background Information

At the turn of 19th century, Ethiopian Christians began proclaiming the Gospel with the help of Lutheran and Presbyterian Missions in Ethiopia. As the result of these joint efforts congregations, parishes and four synods were established this brought about instituting the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) as a national church on January 21, 1959. The EECMY was growing fast during the past 20 years and today she is one of the biggest Lutheran church organizations in Africa. Currently, the church has more than 5.8 million members and structured in to 22 synods and one work area. Her concerns is not only for the spiritual needs, but as well for the physical social and economic needs of human beings to maintain sound human relation to one another, with nature and God. Accordingly, EECMY started rendering social services, education and health, mainly for the community in the west part of the country and gradually diversified her intervention to other development work. The church embraced the evangelism and development work as major components of her ministry which were already progressing hand- in -hand from her inception. In 1972, the EECMY developed the theme, "Serving the Whole Person", later on often quoted and referred to as Holistic Ministry. Throughout the years, this has been a guiding principle for the entire church work, be it evangelism or development. The holistic ministry implied that the church is out to address the spiritual as well as the physical and psycho-social needs of a person. The development and social services of the church were led by her development department, which was established from her institutionalization as a national church. In the year 2000, the EECMY development department was organized into Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY-DASSC) and registered as a legal church based development agency in line with the government policy.

Over the years, the development work of EECMY-DASSC has gained long-experiences and good reputations as a result of successful implementation of different development and social services activities including the Natural Resources Rehabilitation and Environmental Conservation programs.

2. EECMY-DASSC Experiences on Environmental Conservation

The EECMY was growing fast during the past 20 years and today she is one of the biggest Lutheran church organizations in Africa. Currently, the church has more than 5.8 million members and structured in to 22 synods and one work area. Her concerns is not only for the spiritual needs, but as well for the physical social and economic needs of human beings to maintain sound human relation to one another, with nature and God. Accordingly, EECMY started rendering social services, education and health, mainly for the community in the west part of the country and gradually diversified her intervention to other development work.

Its development works and social services had been implemented through one of her departments; the EECMY Development department, until the year 2000. In 2000, the Church officially established a separate non-profit-making organization "Development and Social Service Commission which now called "(EECMY-DASSC)" in line with the policy of the Ethiopian Federal Government to meet its demand and the dynamics of contemporary global development agenda. It is therefore, now a legal entity registered to organize the development and social works of EECMY. Currently the development ministry of the church is undertaking diversified development works and social service with its extended structure up to the Church Units and further to her congregation at the grass root level and this has created opportunity for effective execution of various interventions. In general, the EECMY-DASSC has a long-standing experience in diaconal and development works. Various assessments and evaluations of EECMY-DASSC's projects and programs have proven that EECMY-DASSC has an overall successful accomplishment of development interventions, which again gives EECMY-DASSC a good reputation in Ethiopia. According to the strategic plan document developed for the year 2012-2016, the EECMY-DASSC has five major program priority areas. This includes:

- ❖ Livelihood Development program comprising of (Food Security, Natural Resources Management and Conservation, Relief and Rehabilitation, Nutrition and Water Sanitation and Hygiene)
- ❖ Health and HIV/AIDS
- ❖ Education comprising of (Formal and Non-formal, Special need education and disabilities, and child and youth care)

- ❖ Gender and Development and,
- ❖ Special programs, reaching out to Indigenous and Vulnerable Groups such as Pastoralists and other traditional socio-economic and cultural groups.

3. Projects toward Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources Management

EECMY-DASSC implements projects geared towards the environmental conservation and natural resources management. The following are few of the projects implemented by the EECMY-DASSC.

Micro Hydro Power: EECMY was one of the pioneers in introducing Micro Hydro power as a means to solve the deforestation process in Ethiopia. Currently EECMY-DASSC is implementing Renewable Energy Community Based Development project with the overall goal of contributing to the reduction of poverty in rural community by reducing natural resources depletion through building competence on environmentally sound renewable energy systems that will have positive impact to the people of God and consequently increase income of his people and improve services for the humanity. Projects such as

Mejinger Integrated Rural Development project: EECMY-DASSC changed the project targeted group from hunting/gathering society to shifting cultivation without destroying ecosystem. Among others the Mejinger Integrated Rural Development project taught them know-how in forest management and protection of natural resources.

Currently it has designed two projects namely Chawaka Water shed Management, and Sha'in Forest Management projects and ready to implement them which are geared towards the natural resources management and environmental conservation. The general objective/goal of these two projects is to contribute to improved natural resources management and socio-economic development of God's people in the areas.



Some of the EECMY-DASSC Experiences on Climate Change, Mitigation and Environmental Conservation



Value addition of honey by improved packing





Some efforts EECMY-DASSC to increase energy efficiency of fuel-wood.

Fuel wood saving stove constructed from mud bricks with three fire/cooking places.
Around 40-50% fuel wood can be saved with using this Improved stove.

Other field experiences of EECMY-DASSC on CDRR

Before



After



Increased bio-mass (increased feed from livestock)

2. Workshop Report on Climate Change and Environmental Conservation

2.1. Workshop Objective:

The objective of the workshop was to have common understanding about the Climate Change and its impact and to refresh and update Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY-DASSC) and the EECMY church institutions and structures about the effect of the climate change and to actively involve themselves and integrate Climate Change and Environmental Conservation in their activities. Thereafter develop seven years Action plan. The workshop was conducted on December 25, 2011 in Gudina Tumssa-Mekane Yesus Training Centre (GT-MTC), Addis Ababa. Forty participants, representing the twenty two EECMY Synods and DASSC field offices have attended the workshop. The topic which was covered by the workshop was:

1. Overview of Climate Change Impact on International and National levels, Impact, Adaptation strategies in Ethiopia and Implication for EECMY-DASSC. This particular topic was given to the participants by the EECMY-DASSC expert who attended the Cancun, Mexico and Durban Climate Change workshops representing our organization.

2. Climate change Impacts, Mitigation and experiences of EECMY-DASSC and was given by EECMY-DASSC expert who has attended several workshops on the Climate Change and Environmental Conservation in Germany, Bone and other workshops related to climate change and environmental conservation. Discussion went on at the workshop deliberating on issues on adaptation and strategies and how to make use of the church structures and was found to be very important.

The workshop has activated and refreshed the minds and thoughts of the church leaders, school masters and development experts. At the end of the workshop all vowed that they will take climate change issue as their important part of their activities and will mainstream in their morning and evening worships as well incorporating in the school curriculums. EECMY-DASSC will continue to develop projects which will target climate change adaptation, mitigation and environmental conservation.



Partial picture of the Climate change workshop participants

3. Action Plan towards development of seven years plan

At the workshop all the Synods have come with their individual action plans. The consolidated action plans which are geared towards the climate change and environment conservation are detailed in the table below with the activities which will be undertaken during the coming seven years (2012-2018). In addition the EECMY-DASSC prepares project proposals for climate change adaptation and mitigation and sends around to many potential donors for funding.

4. Seven years Action plan

Sn.	Activities description	Units	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
1	Awareness creation on CC	Number	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	-	-
2	Promote participatory forest management	Number	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
3	Soil and water conservation	K. meter	2400 km	2,500					
4	Reforestation	Number	1.5 m. trees	2.5 m. trees	3 m. trees	5 m. trees	6 m. trees	8 m. trees	10 m
5	Improve livelihood income through fruit tree planting	Number	50,000 Apple	50,000 Apple	60,000 various	100,000 Yam	150,000 Apple	180,000 Various fruit trees	200,000 Various fruit trees
6	Promote Improved forage management system	K. meter	2500 km. of vet grass	3,000km. vet. grass	2,500km. vet. grass	3,000km. vet. grass	2,500km. vet grass	3,000 km.	5,000k
7	Mud brick making	Number	2400	2400	3000	3000	5000	5000	5000
8	Fuel wood saving stoves	Number	5,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
9	Termite control activities by mound destruction	Mound	65,000	65,000	68,000	68,000	65,000	80,000	100,000
10	Spring protection/development	Number	35	50	100	150	200	300	350