



Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development
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*Amharic for 'listen to me'

April - June 2018

Message from the Directress



Dear friends of AWSAD, it is my pleasure to update you on all that has been happening at AWSAD in this quarter.

As you all know AWSAD is always making a difference, the past months were productive and efficient. Different capacity building training including High Ranking Officials meeting was held. All survivors who were taking skill training completed the training and graduated. They took COC exams and got a job opportunity.

Hawassa and Adama safe house staffs have been supporting our displaced community due to several reasons. I would like to thank our donors, members and individuals who have contributed to our success.

Please feel free to share the newsletter with friends and colleagues, and do let us know what you think.

With warm greetings from all of us,

Maria Munir

Executive Director,

Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD)

www.awsad.org

You can find the newsletter in **PDF** here.

WE ARE Happy! Women's Night Event

"We are Happy! Women's night" event was organized by AWSAD with an objective of appreciating the newly appointed women Ministers and outstanding Ethiopian women. The message of the day was quotations of PM Dr. Abiy Ahmed.

The former first lady Her Excellency Roman Tesfaye, parliamentarians including Her Excellency Shitaye Minale, Deputy Speaker of the Ethiopian Parliament, UN representatives from UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, Embassies including, Denmark, Netherland, Ireland, UK, USA and Canada, International NGOs, local NGOs and influential women attended the event.

The former first lady Her Excellency Roman Tesfaye was acknowledged and appreciated for all the good deeds including the school feeding program.

Women from different bodies came together for the event





Mother's International Day Celebration

Mother's Day was celebrated at Addis Ababa, Adama and Oromia Safehouses. AWSAD staff and safe house survivors attended the ceremony. It was a unique ceremony with a purpose of honoring mothers as well as motherhood and the influence of mothers in their children lives. On the event, AWSAD gave each mother a present as an appreciation for their astonishing maternal bond. A special art and dance shows and poems were presented by the survivors. All mothers had a good time.





Staff Recreation

After months of stressful safehouse activities, AWSAD staffs (Addis Ababa, Adama, Oromia and Hawassa) had a recreational time at Sodere for three days. It was a wonderful time because all safehouse staffs came together from the different branches to relax and get to know each other better



Hawassa safe house's 1-year anniversary was also celebrated at Sodere with all staffs. This picture shows the staffs from Addis Ababa, Oromia and Adama who took the leading role to establish the Hawassa safe house branch.



Hawassa safe house 1-year Anniversary



Burn out session

Income Generating (IGA) News

20 safehouse residents graduated from hand weaving skill training. After the completion of the skill training, they had been provided business skill training. Some of the trainees that graduated from Addis Ababa safehouse secured jobs.

25 safehouse residents completed food preparation skill training and passed their COC exam. Out of the trainees, some secured a job opportunity and the others are in the process of establishing their own business.



Graduates of Food Preparation Skill Training

22 safe house residents graduated in sewing skill and took their COC exam. Among the graduates, 10 secured jobs. One of the graduates expressed her feeling *"I never thought of a better tomorrow. All those counseling and training I received in the safe house, made my dreams come true."*

Another graduate said *"I am very happy to have this chance. I feel like I can do anything. With the skill I acquired, I have great hope for me and my daughter."*



Graduates of Sewing Skill Training

The training center for bamboo skill training based at AWSAD Head Quarter started providing to train 11 trainees. These trainees who were unskilled will acquire this skill which will support them to get their own income and be economically empowered. When the trainees produced their first product they felt encouraged and developed the "I can do it" attitude.

Bamboo Skill Training



Look what our girls can do in just a month!



A Visit to Adama and Oromia Safehouse

Ambassador of Denmark Embassy and UN Women representative visited Adama and Oromia safehouse and its daycare with the intent of making an agreement to renew the project period of the Oromia project and saying farewell for the Ambassador. As a farewell, the Ambassador brought her personal contribution of materials and toys to the safehouse residents. She admired the job done and promised to always remember the safe house. The survivors welcomed the visitors by presenting poems, different traditional dances and taekwondo activities.

Visiting the Daycare



Presentation of Taekwondo by the Survivors



Justice Never Delays

My name is *Rebeka Zelalem. I am 27 years old. I was born in Addis Ababa. I have one sister and two brothers. My father died when I was little. When I was 5 my aunt took me to Adama city to live with her promising to my mother and sisters that she would help me attend my education. After a little while, she died. Then I started to live with her son and he started to beat me very badly and lock the door on me. One day he cut my lips with scissors then he poured a hot water onto my face. My face started bleeding and I was very sick. One day, when no one was home I unlocked the door and ran away. I started to live with people I didn't know and he found me and took me back saying that he was family. My mother and my sisters at Addis Ababa heard that I was suffering. When they came to take me he lied and told them that I was a teacher and that I wasn't at home. Believing him they returned to Addis Ababa. He continued to beat me then my family called him and told him that they wanted to talk to me. Then he took me to Mojo city, rented a house and locked the door on me. He gave me one bread per day. I was afraid that I would die. One day I saw a person around the house fetching water, and then I shouted and called the man and told him everything then he called the police. I told them everything then they referred me to Addis Ababa safe house in 2008. But the perpetrator disappeared. Because of the trauma, I was sick and was treated in a hospital. After a year I got better and I was reintegrated with my family then I continued my education. At the beginning of 2018, I saw the perpetrator in a café around where I live. I went back home to look for help. I and my sister followed him and found his address then I reported to the police and he was arrested for the first time after 10 years. They took him to Adama city for the court process and until the case is

finalized the police referred me to Adama safe house for my safety. I was able to follow up my legal case and the perpetrator was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment.

After the legal case was concluded, I reintegrated with my family and asked the court for an appeal and a civil case for my moral damage and it is ongoing.

"Even if it is delayed I got justice at last and I am happy about it!"

*name has been changed.

Staff Capacity Building Training

On 15, June staff capacity building training was held at Addis Ababa and Adama. All AWSAD staff attended the training. The training highlighted topics like team building, pros & cons of a team and team formation processes. The group discussions and experience sharing sessions motivated the staff to endure the existing strong team work in AWSAD.



Survivors supported by AWSAD in this quarter

There are currently 251 women survivors and 97 of their children in ASWAD's 4 safe houses:

- Addis Ababa: 116 women and 19 children (of survivors)
- Adama: 42 women and 18 children (of survivors)
- Oromiya: 49 Women and 15 children (of survivors)
- Hawassa: 45 women and 21 children (of survivors)

All survivors benefit from services provided in the safe house, including medication, counseling, physical fitness, art and dance therapy, basic literacy and skills training.

AWSAD's Other Contributions

AWSAD's staffs in Adama and Addis Ababa provided support to citizens that were displaced and migrated into Adama city due to conflicts. This situation demands for intervention and AWSAD contributed food items, kitchen equipment, beddings, hygiene materials to pregnant women and lactating women and women with children in addition AWSAD provided shelter in the safe house for pregnant women. AWSAD members have also contributed material and financial support.



SASA! Awareness Phase Training

The Association of Women Sanctuary and Development has started a SASA Pilot Project in Adama city. SASA is a ground breaking community mobilization approach developed by Raising Voices for preventing violence against women and HIV. AWSAD staffs were trained the first phase (start phase) and have already been implementing the first phase. SASA Awareness Phase Training 2018 was organized by Raising Voices and UN Women in Uganda, Kampala from May 14 -18. Over 23 participants from different African countries attended delegating their organization. Three AWSAD staffs attended the training. The training aimed to create awareness of violence and its connection with HIV. The purpose of the event was to present and debrief the start phase and train the awareness phase of SASA. The Training included sessions like experience sharing, discussions, presentations, community observations and self-care activities.

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The Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) is a resident civil society organization that provides holistic rehabilitation and reintegration services for women and girl survivors of violence such as rape and domestic violence. AWSAD provides its clients with a transitional, women's-only shelter, psychological counseling, legal aid and other services to help clients recuperate from their trauma and be reintegrated into society. AWSAD offers various skills training to its residents and supports their initiatives to be economically self-reliant.

For their generous support, AWSAD thanks its many donors including:



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