

EOTC-DICAC

MONASTERY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

➤ Introduction

The monastery development program of The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOTC-DICAC) focuses on development activities which help to gear community empowerment and livelihood improvement through monastic community development to attain self reliance by tackling the root causes of poverty.

Monasteries can play as a pole growth of development; they play a great role in leading the spiritual, educational, cultural and moral life of the society and acted as a motive force for welfare services. As a custodian of traditional church education, history witnesses that the monasteries and churches were entrusted with leading modern education, when it was initially introduced in Ethiopia.

Over the centuries monasteries have been involved in their surrounding human activities to meet peoples need. Although monasteries seem to live separately in the monastic tradition, they are immersed within the community in all other aspects working as teachers, farmers, craftsmen for their own sustenance and support, while also ministering to the needs of the community and seeking to mobilize their community for self reliance.

Moreover, monasteries and nunneries are known to be well experienced in the sustainable management of natural resources and are exemplary for the rest of the community. They are also the places of preservation and protection of heritages like ancient relics, manuscripts and literatures. This feature has made them a model for ecotourism and tourist attractions in the country.

Taking into account the development potentials of monasteries and nunneries, EOC-DICAC is trying to help the monastic community directly which in return enables to contribute for the surrounding communities to become self-supportive and develop its resource base for future sustainable development.

➤ Objective

The Monastery Development Program of EOC-DICAC aims: -

- To train & educate the monks and nuns in achieving sustainable human development on one hand and to help them to strengthen their capacities to lead the parish church as well as to create future church servants through learning church education in traditional school operation in order to inspire and empower their congregations.

- To capacitate and support the monastic communities with development interventions so that they can play & serve as proactive development agents and sustain the parish community development initiatives.
- To improve the livelihood of the monastic communities through creating better access for self-reliance.

➤ **Major Intervention Areas**

- Monastery development projects have been implementing over the entire country where support is absolutely essential. In view of this, several monasteries and local communities have been assisted with various kinds of development projects so as to make productive man power for self development.
- Among the project components carried out in this program are small scale irrigation development projects, beekeeping, goat & sheep rearing, hand crafts, cattle fattening, flour mill and biogas installation for income generation activities and ensure food security. The beneficiaries of the above project activities are monks, nuns, church students and church servants.

Picture on Traditional Irrigation Improvement Activities

Traditional canal needs frequent maintenance. It is time & labour consuming



Lined canal for efficient water use and long lasting

Encouraging Performance of Irrigation Users



Onion and cabbage field In Tgiray Chelckot site

- To encourage the use of small scale irrigation development activities in the monastery areas, DICAC distributed 20 Irrigation Diesel Motor Pumps with the capacity of 6.5HP for selected 20 potential monasteries. This will play a significant role in supporting the monastic community development effort.
- Training is one of the components of EOC-DICAC Projects for monk and nuns in environmental protection, agricultural development, and alternate energy sources.
- Mini projects such as dairy farm, fattening, goat rearing, bee keeping, carpet making, etc. are implemented to change the livelihood of the monastic communities.

Goat Rearing Activity



Modern Beekeeping Activity



- Several monasteries and their surrounding communities had access to clean and potable water that enable them to improve their health and productivity.
- Several monasteries and their surrounding communities have attained their livelihood through implementation of micro irrigation and other income generation scheme such as live stock development, beekeeping, etc.

- Monasteries and nunneries have benefited from biogas technology by using for cooking and lighting purposes.



Lump from Biogas Technology in Mekele Elala Nunnery



Cooking Stove by Biogas Digester installation in Mekele Elala Nunnery

Major benefits obtained from biogas include:

- ✓ The nunneries got energy for cooking and lighting,
- ✓ Improve sanitation of the residence area,
- ✓ Reduce the burden of nuns to collect fuel wood,
- ✓ Reduce pressure on the natural vegetation,
- ✓ The nuns get extra time to perform other development activities and prayers and
- ✓ The monasteries have started to use bio-slurry the byproduct of bio-digester as organic fertilizer for their farmland.

➤ The following Monasteries and Nunneries received different kinds of support from EOTC-DICAC so far:

1. Micro Irrigation Development (Gravity/ Pump/Drip Irrigation System)

- Debre Abay Monastrey – North West Tigray Diocese
- Chehe T/Haimanot Monastery – Central Tigray Diocese
- Belbelit Eyesus Monastery – North Shewa Diocese
- Haike Yistifanos Monastery – South Wollo
- Adishadi Mariam Monastery – Central Tigray Diocese
- Debre Hamelmal Bar Kidane Mehert Monastery – Wagmira Diocese
- Abune Aregawie Monastery – Dire Dawa Diocese
- Debre Tsion Kidist Mariam monastery – North Omo Diocese
- Rama Kidane mehert Monastery – North Wollo Diocese
- Tara Gedam – North Gondar Diocese
- Kemisie Kidist Micheal – South Wollo Diocese
- Sebeta Nunnery – South West Shewa diocese

2. Water Supply and Sanitation

- Aba Gerima Monastery – Central Tigray Diocese
- Samer Lehule Monastery – West Tigray Diocese
- Debre Abay Monastrey – North West Tigray Diocese
- Chehe T/Haimanot Monastery – Central Tigray Diocese
- Rama Kidane mehert Monastery – North Wollo Diocese
- Tara Gedam – North Gondar Diocese
- Debre Tsion Kidist Mariam monastery – North Omo Diocese
- Koyetsa Samuheal Monastery – West Tigray Diocese
- Abune Tomase Monastery – West Tigray Diocese
- Mitaqe Amanuel Monastery – North Shewa Diocese
- Etisa T/Haimanote Monastery – North Shewa Diocese
- Tsadqane Mariam Monastery – North Shewa Diocese
- Debre Mogina Monastery – North Gondar Diocese
- Arsema Kidist Mariam Monastery – North Shewa Diocese
- Emamuze Fikert Kirstose Monastery – North Wollo Diocese
- Muhur Eysus Monastery – Guragie Diocese
- Mider Kebed Abune Gebre Menfes Kidus monaster – Guragie Diocese
- Matiwaru Kidist Mariam Nunnery – Mekele Diocese

3. Modern Beekeeping

- Gundagundi Kidist Mariam – East Tigray Diocese
- Waldibit Kidist Mariam monastery – North Wollo Diocese
- Lalibela Bete Amanuel monastery – North Wollo Diocese
- Dibo Kidist Mariam Monastery – East tigray Diocese
- Hurumu Debre Medanitalemon Monastery – Ilibabur Diocese

- Abune Tsehima debre Hatela Monastery – Central Tigray Diocese
- Felg Hiwot Beker Tsion Kidist Mariam Monastery – S/Gondar Diocese
- Silite Horabe Kidist Rufaheal – Guragie Diocese
- Miskabe Kidusan Jibela Monastery – East Gojam Diocese
- Amediy Debre Genet Monastery – Hawie Diocese
- Algen Abune Serek Birhan Monastery – North South Tigray Diocese
- Genetie Qidus Medanitalemon Monastery – East Gojam Diocese
- Emamuze Fikert Kirstose Monastery – North Wollo Diocese
- Enzet Kidus Gebriel Monastery – Central Tigray Diocese
- Migunda Abune LibidiYose Monastery – North West Tigray Diocese
- Debre Bekur Abune Set Monastery – Central Tigray Diocese
- Awalo Kidus Mikaheal Monastery – Central Tigray Diocese
- Debre Bisrat Atsim T/Haimanot Monastery – North Wollo Diocese

4. Goat Rearing

- Meheraf Kidusan Kidane Mehert Monastery – North Wollo Diocese
- Tsade Amba Abune Merawie Gebre Menfes Kiduse Monastery – North West Tigray

5. Weaving and Crafts

- Haik Kiduse Yistifanos Nunnery – South Wollo Diocese
- Asira Metira Mariam Monastery – East Tigray Diocese
- Debre libanos Monastery – Sellale North Shewa Diocese
- Matiwaru Kidist Mariam Nunnery – Mekele diocese
- Sebeta Bete Denagle Nunnery – South West Diocese

6. Bio-gas Digester Installation

- Sebeta Bete Denagle Nunnery - South West Shewa Diocese
- Matiwaru Kidist Mariam Nunnery – Mekele Diocese
- Dibo Kidist Mariam Monastery – East Tigay Diocese
- Waldiba Dhanshaha Kidane Mehert Nunnery – North Gondar Diocese
- Chugie Mariam Monastery – North Gondar Diocese, and

Currently the commission is on the way to start installation of three additional biogas digesters in the three selected monasteries with support from Alliance for Religion and Conservation (ARC). These are:

- Dur Anbesa Kidane Mehret Nunnery – North Gondar Diocese
- Gashola Giorgis Nunnery – West Gojjam Diocese
- Nada Mariam Monastery – West Gojjam Diocese

EOC-DICAC is demanding to address the development request of the monasteries who never received support before by soliciting fund from donor partners as much as possible.