

Welcome to the July 2010 E-Newsletter of IIRR!

Thank you for being a part of the IIRR community. We strive to keep you informed of the great work happening in the field, the exciting new programs we are developing with partners worldwide, and the current challenges in rural reconstruction and international development.

Please send us your feedback so we can keep this newsletter relevant to your concerns.

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Breaking News - IIRR Uganda Staff Are Okay but Vigilant

In the wake of the bombings and discovery of unexploded bombs in Uganda beginning on July 11th, IIRR staff in Uganda report that they and their families are all okay. However, things are tense and the staff are urged to be extra careful. According to Pamela B. Nyamutoka Katooro, Uganda Program Manager and Outreach Coordinator, new emergency procedures have been implemented by the IIRR staff.

IIRR Welcomes Staff from the UN, Care International, World Wildlife Fund and Others to Its Latest Training



Photo: Philippines Staff/IIRR

Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) as a management tool for strengthening local participation and decision-making and ultimately the long-term success of a project has continued to grow in the international development community. IIRR is at the forefront of PM&E work - providing training, resources, and its vast experience in working within communities and with wide-ranging stakeholders to create effective and lasting change.

Our latest PM&E training was led by IIRR staff at the [Yen Center - the organization's conference center in the Philippines](#). Participants included staff of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor Leste, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ- the German Development Agency), Care International, World Wildlife Fund, The International Livestock Research Institute, and the United Nations Development Programme, along with government employees of Orissa, India.

IIRR is delighted to share its knowledge and best practices with other leading development organizations with the hope that local empowerment, decision-making, and leadership become key components in development projects worldwide. There will be another PM&E course held in Uganda in August. Details on this and other upcoming trainings can be found on our [International Courses Page](#).

[IIRR International Courses](#)

[Feedback from PM&E Course Participants](#)

Over 3,000 People to Benefit from New IIRR Grants in Ethiopia

IIRR awarded grants to five partners (2 federal ministries, 2 Non-Governmental Organizations and 1 Community-Based Organization) in Ethiopia through a project funded by the Embassy of Ireland. The 370,000 birr or about \$27,000 US was awarded through a competitive process for proposals aiming to improve the livelihoods of women and their families. The target areas to be served include: Modjo town in Oromia Regional State, Afar Regional State, Dandi Woreda of the West Shoa Zone, and Addis Ababa. Through this granting project, IIRR seeks to empower women economically through educational opportunities, business training, promoting group saving and credit building, providing working capital for entrepreneurship, and supporting income generation activities. An estimated 610 women and 3,050 family members are expected to benefit from the projects.



Bio-Intensive Gardening (BIG) Project Getting BIGGER!

IIRR supports the Bio-Intensive Gardening Project at the Sisters of Mary School in the Philippines (a boarding and technical training school for impoverished children) by providing agricultural curriculum, farm layout and preparation, and irrigation design along with other technical consultations and on-going support. The BIG program is designed to be a learning laboratory for students to impart the skills of cultivating using nature's own ingredients to rebuild and then maintain the soil's productivity along with health and nutrition education. The project has now expanded into a 5 hectare farm divided into 51 groups of 50 student-farmers. The expansion of the size of cultivated land will allow for new technologies and broaden the curriculum in the school to include Vermiculture and other exciting new topics! IIRR staff recently led a practicum on contour-based farming plot design and looks forward to seeing the BIG project get even BIGGER!



Photo: Philippines Staff/IIRR

Women in Disaster Risk Reduction Partners Moving Forward in Ethiopia

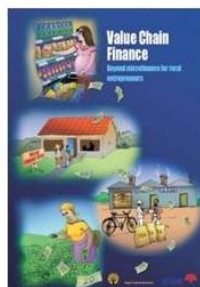
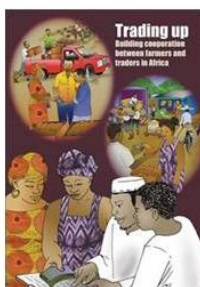
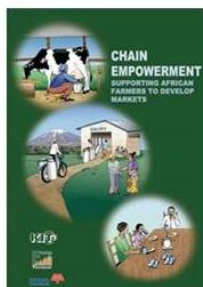
IIRR's partners in the Women in Disaster Risk Reduction Project have started implementing the training received from IIRR staff in organizing local committees in vulnerable communities to identify and address local needs. Some of the partners currently using IIRR methods are Good Shepherd Family Care Service, Tesfa Kokeb Primary School, Support for Sustainable Development, DUBAF Development Association, Rift Valley Children and Women Development, Gayo Pastoralist Development Initiative, and GIRJA Integrated Rural Development Association. Through these projects, communities in Guji, Bale, and Borena Zones of the Oromia Region and the Mille District of the Afar Region along with the school in Addis Ababa are being involved in determining their communities' risk factors, biggest threats, and how they can address those issues. Some of the action plans implemented so far include trainings on entrepreneurship and small scale business management, income generation activities, urban agriculture, hotel services, and creating clean water access points.



Meeting at Mille, Afar - Support for Sustainable Development



Women's Training Session – Family Service Association



Value Chain Finance Key to Realization of the Kenyan "2030 Vision" Growth Plan

Mr Mugo Kibati, Director General of the Kenyan "2030 Vision" Delivery Secretariat, delivered the keynote speech at the launch of IIRR's latest Value Chain publication (the third of a series in collaboration with Royal Tropical Institute - KIT). He commended IIRR for its work and said that this book and value chain finance and understanding will play a central role in the realization of Kenya's ambitious growth plan. IIRR President Isaac Bekalo also spoke, highlighting the "writeshop" process pioneered by IIRR in which varied stakeholders come together with a trained facilitator to produce a written record of their combined knowledge and experience in a short period of time.

The book launch was preceded by a workshop organized by Mrs Rahab Njoroge, Kenya Country Director for IIRR that focused on market survey results for selected commodities led by financial consultants and sponsored by Oikocredit, Agri-Profocus, Pawdep, and Profitzones.

[Click here for more on the Value Chain Series](#)

"Due to my FAL class, I have now built a pit latrine, rubbish hole, and utensils rack", reports Opony a student in the Functional Adult Literacy class in Amuru, Uganda

Recently, IIRR staff members Pamela B. Nyamutoka Katooro, Uganda Program Manager and Mengistu Koricha, African Education Advisor paid visits to schools in Northern Uganda that are part of the Pastoralist Education Project and the Farmer Field Schools in order to evaluate progress, provide technical assistance, and report back on the challenges and successes to date. Both projects serve youth and adults and have seen a growth in enrollment. In fact, a challenge in the Pastoralist Education Project is a very high student to teacher ratio. UNICEF has provided some school kits to the schools, but students are currently in need of chairs and desks and some other critical infrastructure to improve their educational environment. The Functional Adult Literacy classes have also met success in recruiting local adults not only to teach literacy but also nutrition, agriculture, health, and the problems and prevention of gender-based violence. If you are interested in supporting our education projects, please contact us at email us at [US.Office \(at\) IIRR \(dot\) org](mailto:US.Office@IIRR.org).

[Farmer Field School](#)

[Pastoralist Education Project](#)

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[E-Newsletters Archive](#)

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We look forward to hearing from you!