



PROJECT PROPOSAL

Empowering Women and Youth Through Sustainable Waste Management and Education

Date: June 2025

Location: Shebelle Zone, Gode City, Somali Region, Ethiopia



Background Information

In Shebelle Zone, Somali region, Gode City presents broader hardships for women. Limited access to basic necessities such as education and healthcare, coupled with a severe lack of economic opportunities, traps women in cycles of poverty. Deeply ingrained cultural norms further exacerbate their vulnerability, exposing them to gender-based violence and negating them a voice in their communities. On the same, the environment of Gode is polluted with waste creating a health risk when people get in contact or it pollutes water sources. Diseases outbreaks are a secondary result of it.

The estimated volume of waste generated daily within the community is approximately 10–15 tons¹. Though precise measurements are currently not available, it is estimated that plastic waste makes up around 30–40% of the total waste stream, primarily from household packaging and single-use plastics. A limited waste collection system is in place in Gode City. Women collect dry waste from the town, which is then transported by a vehicle owned by the municipal administration to a designated waste pit located approximately 3 km outside the city administration. The remuneration for the collectors is 3.000 ETB per month paid by the city administration's beautification and sanitation office. It is planned by the office to increase the payment to 5.000 ETB. The waste pit is unmanaged beyond basic dumping and eventual burning of the waste. There are no measures in place to cover or bury the waste, nor is the ground impermeabilized to prevent contamination. No formal system exists for sorting or recycling from this site. Similar informal disposal sites are found elsewhere in Gode City, though the described pit serves as the main dumping location.

While this system addresses part of the waste collection need, it is neither comprehensive nor formally structured across all neighborhoods. Once the waste pit becomes full, the accumulated waste is burned, as there is no recycling system in place. This method continues to be the primary approach to waste disposal in the area. The municipal administration is partially responsible for transporting waste, particularly from collection points where women gather dry waste. However, broader oversight and systematic management are lacking. The city has one designated waste pit, but no engineered landfill or formally designated collection points. Informal efforts and individual household practices fill the gap in areas not covered by this limited system.

The current practice of burning waste once the pit is full has led to environmental concerns, including air

¹ Gode City Administration Sanitation and Beautification Agency



pollution and associated health risks, particularly respiratory problems among community members. Additionally, waste dumped in open areas contributes to land degradation and poses potential threats to nearby water sources through runoff and leachate contamination.

Households and businesses typically dispose of their waste by collecting it in plastic bags or containers (community practice). In areas not serviced by the municipal vehicle, waste is either dumped in nearby open fields or burned. Informal recycling practices exist, such as plastic collection by women and youth, but these efforts are uncoordinated and remain small-scale.

Whenever garbage is collected in their homestead, local residents pay for this service. Households serviced with waste collection pay a daily rate of 50 - 100 ETB per person, while businesses in the town are charged with 400 – 2.000 ETB per month depending on the size of the business.

Overall Objective

This project improves health and hygiene in schools by reducing waterborne infections, particularly among females, while promoting sustainable practices. It also empowers women through waste management initiatives, providing skills and resources to manage waste effectively and promoting women's leadership in environmentalism.

Location and Accessibility of the Sites

The project will be implemented in Gode City, located in Ethiopia's Somali Region, Shebelle zone. Gode City consists of various sub-villages locally known as Kebele, where women's groups actively engage in waste management. The project will also target three public schools, including one senior secondary school. Within the city, accessibility is relatively good, allowing project teams to navigate efficiently across different areas and as well the Global project team based in Gode will have the time to effectively engage the implementation.

Project Goal

The project aims to foster sustainable, healthy, and inclusive environments that uplift women and girls through enhanced WASH practices and eco-friendly waste management initiatives.



Project Activities

Block 1: Women empowerment tailored to waste management:

- 1.1 Establish and train two women's groups in K01 and K02 of Gode
- 1.2 Supplying essential waste collection equipment
- 1.3 Training waste management committee
- 1.4 Construction of Waste Disposal Facilities

Block 2: Activities for Youth on WASH and Waste Management

Wash in School

- 2.1.1 : Constructing MHM Latrines for Girls
- 2.1.2 : Supplying and Installing Plastic Water Storage Tanks
- 2.1.3 : Constructing Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) Water Reservoir
- 2.1.4 : Establishing and Training School WASH Clubs.
- 2.1.5 : Establishing and Training Menstrual Health Management (MHM) Clubs.
- 2.1.6 : Provide MHM kit for 424 school girls and female teachers

Waste Management in School

- 2.2.1 : School Awareness Campaigns on Plastic Waste and Its Environmental & Health Impacts.
- 2.2.2 : Establishing waste collection points located in three schools Gode city.
- 2.2.3 : School tree plantation campaign

Block 1: Women empowerment tailored to waste management:

1.1 Establish and train two women's groups

Two women's groups will be formed in Kebeles 01 and 02, each comprising of 10 members, for a total of 20 women. These groups will be established and trained in partnership with the city sanitation and greening office. Group members will be selected through community meetings and in consultation with local leaders and sanitation officials. Selection criteria will include a demonstrated interest in waste management, residence in the target villages, and vulnerability—such as being widowed or heading a household. This approach ensures the formation of motivated and diverse groups. The training will focus on waste collection and segregation, recycling practices (sustainable waste management practices) and business management skills, equipping the women with skills to improve sanitation while creating income-generating opportunities. Each group will elect a committee to oversee waste management activities. In



total, approximately 460 women are expected to benefit from the initiative, including 20 direct participants and others reached through workshops, community awareness campaigns, and the work of local waste committees. Furthermore, the women groups will be supported in their waste collection activities through the provision of dedicated vehicles by the city sanitation office for the project period. Additionally, the residents of Kebeles 01 and 02 will be encouraged to contribute a nominal fee for waste management services, creating a financial incentive for the women-led groups. Ultimately, any fees collected from the community should be based on their consultation and capacity, so that the money should directly benefit the women by creating job opportunities for them.

1.2. Supplying essential waste collection equipment

To enhance waste management efforts, necessary equipment such as waste bins, carts, gloves, and protective gear will be provided to the women's groups and relevant stakeholders. This ensures efficient waste collection, safer working conditions, and improved sanitation in the targeted areas.

1.3. Training waste management committee

A waste management committee will be trained to oversee and coordinate waste disposal efforts, ensuring proper collection and sorting for recycling. The training will also cover best practices, enforcement of waste management policies, and strategies for long-term sustainability.

1.4. Construction of 2 waste disposal facilities across the intervention sites with proper fencing and accessible gates in public places

This activity involves the construction of two waste disposal facilities in institutions across the project intervention sites, with proper fencing and accessible gates to ensure safety and ease of use. The facilities aim to improve sanitation and environmental health by providing safe waste disposal solution, reducing open dumping, and promoting responsible waste management. The project includes site selection, construction, installation of fencing, and community engagement to encourage proper waste disposal practices, ultimately contributing to public health and sustainability.

Block 2: Activities for Youth on WASH and Waste Management:

Gode City's schools, the harsh realities of daily life are starkly evident. Girls struggle to attend class consistently due to crippling water scarcity and inadequate sanitation facilities. The lack of clean water and functioning toilets is not just an inconvenience; it forces girls to miss school, jeopardizing their education.



Compounding this issue, the silence surrounding menstrual hygiene and the absence of gender-sensitive WASH practices perpetuate a cycle of inequality, making schools unwelcoming and unsafe for girls. This project directly addresses these urgent needs by providing clean water, constructing proper sanitation facilities, and delivering essential hygiene education to empower girls and keep them in the classroom.

WASH IN SCHOOL

2.1.1: Constructing MHM Latrines for Girls

Dedicated menstrual hygiene-friendly latrines will be newly built in two secondary schools in Gode City, of which one will be Mirad Layli Secondary School. These facilities will ensure privacy, proper waste disposal, and access to clean water, creating a comfortable and hygienic environment for female students.

Additionally, it remains a focus to empower the school management to enhance their existing latrine infrastructure through the utilization of school grants. OWDA has recognized the critical need for dedicated Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) facilities and will further explore their construction. This will create a supportive environment where girls, particularly adolescents, can manage their menstruation hygienically and with dignity, contributing to improved health and educational outcomes.

2.1.2: Supplying and Installing Plastic Water Storage Tanks

To improve access to water, 5m³ plastic roto tanks will be supplied and installed on a 2.5-meter-high stand. The setup will include tap stands, pipelines, and all necessary fittings, ensuring a reliable water source for hygiene and sanitation purposes in schools. The Plastic Storage Tanks will be installed in two primary schools namely Tawakal primary school (556 students with 249 girls) and Dolal schools (1,047 students with 478 girls)

2.1.3: Constructing Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) Water Reservoir

A 5m³ capacity RCC water reservoir will be constructed at Gode City Secondary School to provide a durable and long-term water storage solution. This reservoir will help ensure consistent water availability for sanitation and hygiene purposes in school's community. The secondary school was chosen due to its unique characteristics and higher water demands compared to elementary schools. As a central institution catering to both adults and adolescent girls, and hosting a wider range of water-intensive activities including laboratories and libraries, a consistent and reliable water supply is paramount. The RCC reservoir offers the advantages of a larger, more permanent, and potentially more protected water storage solution, aligning with the school's long-term needs and potentially benefiting from specific funding or local expertise in RCC



construction.

2.1.4 : Establishing and Training School WASH Clubs

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) clubs will be established in three schools, with nine members in each, totaling 27 students. These clubs will receive training on hygiene promotion, safe water use, and proper sanitation practices to encourage healthier school environments.

2.1.5: Establishing and Training Menstrual Health Management (MHM) Clubs

Menstrual Health Management (MHM) clubs will be set up in three schools, each with nine members, to support adolescent girls. These clubs will provide education on menstrual hygiene, break social stigmas, and ensure that girls have the knowledge and resources to manage their menstrual health effectively. OWDA has a proven track record with similar school-based clubs that have successfully raised awareness, broken barriers, and improve the dignity and privacy of schoolgirls.

Moreover, the positive impact of recent MHM (now MHH) Clubs implemented through a CERF-UNICEF Anticipatory Action project, which enhanced girls' knowledge and information access, further supports this approach. By providing accurate resources, these clubs aim to empower girls to manage their menstruation confidently and with dignity, leading to better health and sustained school attendance. The project is currently conducting monitoring and evaluation activities to track progress towards its intended outcomes. These include collecting data on girls' knowledge of menstrual hygiene, changes in attitudes and behaviors, utilization of club resources, and preliminary data on school attendance and girls' perceptions of dignity and privacy. This data will inform the final impact evaluation after the project concludes in June 2025.

2.1.6 : Provide MHM kit for 424 school girls and female teachers

Providing MHM kits for 424 schoolgirls and female teachers ensures access to sanitary pads, soap, and menstrual health education, reducing absenteeism and promoting hygiene. This initiative fosters dignity, gender equality, and a supportive school environment.

WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOL

2.2.1 : School Awareness Campaigns on Plastic Waste and Its Environmental & Health Impacts.

This activity educates students and staff about the environmental and health impacts of plastic waste.



Through interactive sessions and discussions, it promotes responsible waste management, recycling, and reducing plastic use in schools and communities.

2.2.2 : Establishing waste collection points located in three schools Gode city.

Dedicated waste collection points will be set up in three schools in Gode City to encourage proper waste disposal and recycling. This initiative helps maintain cleaner school environments and instills good waste management habits among students. Waste collection in the schools will be managed through a couple of key methods, with careful consideration of their environmental implications. The initial approach is to build school-level waste disposal pits. The collected waste will be picked-up and taken care of by the women groups. However, the likely practice of burning dry waste presents a potential risk to school air quality. A more feasible and environmentally preferable alternative is to connect the school administration to the established waste collection system operated by the Gode City administration. Waste collection in the schools will be managed through a couple of key methods, with careful consideration of their environmental implications. The initial approach is to build school-level waste disposal pits. However, the likely practice of burning dry waste presents a potential risk to school air quality. A more feasible and environmentally preferable alternative is to connect the school administration to the established waste collection system operated by the Gode City administration.

2.2.3 : School tree plantation campaign - 3 sessions, planting 100 trees per school per sessions. Cost includes purchase of tree species, tools and transportation cost

Three tree-planting sessions will be held in each school, with 100 trees planted per session. This initiative aims to improve air quality, provide shade, and promote environmental conservation. Costs cover tree purchases, tools, and transportation.

Waste management in schools is essential for enhancing environmental responsibility among students. Schools generate significant waste, including sludge, paper, plastic, food scraps, and electronic waste. Implementing a proper waste management system with proper disposals for recyclables, compostable, and non-recyclables can help reduce landfill waste. Schools can also promote waste reduction by educating students about sustainable practices.

In 2023 baseline survey on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in Gode town revealed significant challenges in waste management within schools. Among the 14 schools surveyed, only 8 had latrines with walls and doors, and 6 maintained clean latrines. Additionally, 6 schools provided separate facilities for



males and females.

Tree planting in schools is another impactful environmental initiative that benefits both students and the ecosystem. Trees provide shade, improve air quality, and contribute to biodiversity, creating a healthier and more pleasant learning environment. Schools can involve students in tree-planting activities to foster a sense of environmental stewardship and hands-on learning about nature. By incorporating tree planting into school programs, students gain a deeper appreciation for nature and understand the importance of conservation efforts in building a sustainable future.

In the Somali Region, annual seedling production supports afforestation, agroforestry, and soil and water conservation. For instance, in the 2018/2019 period, 57,000 seedlings were raised in the Afder Zone, and 18,800 in the Dollo Zone.

Women are at the forefront of environmental conservation and waste management efforts, both in schools and communities. In many schools, female teachers lead awareness programs on waste reduction, hygiene, and proper sanitation. Women's involvement in environmental clubs helps promote responsible waste disposal, tree planting, and eco-friendly practices among students. Additionally, mothers and female community leaders contribute by advocating for better school facilities and supporting sustainability initiatives.

Expected Outcomes:

Impact: Achieve a 10% increase in adolescent girls' average school attendance within one academic year post-menstrual awareness interventions and girl-friendly latrine construction.

Outcome 1: Empowered women actively leading and sustaining environmentally sound waste management practices within their communities.

- Increased number of women participating in and leading waste management initiatives.
- Improved sanitation and hygiene conditions in areas managed by women's groups.
- Documented reduction in environmental pollution related to solid waste.
- Proper disposition of the wastes ensures the reduction of disease transmissions
- Increased female participation in local decision-making bodies regarding waste management.



Indicators Block 1: Women empowerment tailored to waste management:

Indicator 1.1: Number of women established and trained

Indicator 1.2: Number of essential waste collection equipment purchased and handed over

Indicator 1.3: Number of waste management committees trained

Indicator 1.4: Number of school awareness campaigns on plastic waste conducted

Indicator 1.4.1: Number of people participating in school awareness campaigns

Outcome 2: Youth in Gode City schools enhance their knowledge and practices in environmentally sustainable waste management through effective school WASH and waste education activities.

- Improved knowledge among students regarding appropriate recycling, disposal, and waste segregation procedures.
- Increased student involvement in waste management programs at school (e.g., recycling clubs).
- Positive behavioral changes in students' waste management habits at home and school.
- Implementation and maintenance of functional waste management systems in schools, including designated bins and composting areas.
- Increased student awareness of the environmental impact of improper waste disposal.

Indicators Block 2: Activities for Youth on WASH and Waste Management

Indicator 2.1: Number of MHM Latrines constructed for Girls

Indicator 2.1.1: Number of girls benefiting from the constructed MHM latrine stances

Indicator 2.2: Number of Plastic Water Storage Tanks Installed

Indicator 2.3: Number of Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) Water Reservoir Constructed

Indicator 2.4: Number of School WASH Clubs established and trained

Indicator 2.5: Number of Establishing and Training Menstrual Health Management (MHM) Clubs

Indicator 2.6: Number of MHM kits distributed for school girls and female teachers

Indicator 2.7: Number of School Awareness Campaigns conducted

Indicator 2.8: Number of waste collection points established across the three schools Gode city

Indicator 2.9: Number of School tree plantation campaign conducted

Implementation and Accompaniment through OWDA personnel

For the proper and sustainable project implementation, 2 OWDA staff employees will be engaged.



An Environmental/Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Officer is responsible for assessing, managing, and conducting environmental and disaster-related activities. He takes the lead on implementing strategies to mitigate the impact of natural disasters, promote environmental sustainability, and ensure the resilience of communities and ecosystems. His task includes developing disaster preparedness plans, coordinating risk assessments, monitoring environmental policies, and promoting sustainable practices.

The WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Officer is responsible for managing and implementing water, sanitation, and hygiene activities, ensuring access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation facilities are constructed, and promoting hygiene practices. He will assess the needs of communities, design and oversee WASH projects, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, and coordinate with local authorities and stakeholders.

Monitoring & Evaluation

OWDA will implement a comprehensive monitoring framework to evaluate key indicators such as water accessibility, sanitation facilities, handwashing habits, and waste management systems. This framework will employ diverse data collection methods, including household surveys, school evaluations, and community consultations. Regular monitoring, alongside mid-term and final evaluations, will ensure the initiative's effectiveness and sustainability while actively addressing the evolving needs of the communities it serves.

Beneficiaries

The project will target both women's empowerment and education in schools. In total, 3,803 individuals will benefit from the initiative:

- Women's empowerment activities: 455 individuals.
- Education/school WASH activities: 3,348 individuals, including students and teachers.

A total of 3,808 individuals are expected to benefit from the integrated activities of Block 1 and Block 2. This includes a specific focus on gender equity, with 100 women (approximately 2.6%) and 2,078 girls (approximately 54.6%) among the beneficiaries. The project will also benefit 107 men (approximately 2.8%) and 1,523 boys (approximately 40%)

Budget Overview

The overall budget for the project is €86.997,87

