

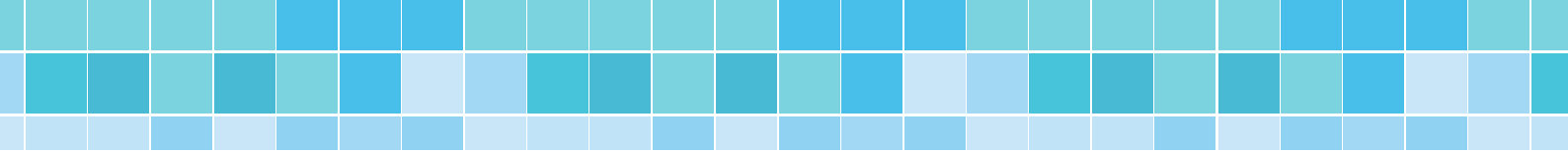


Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment

# THE CHILD INTERNET

Role of Multi-stakeholder Intervention in Child Protection  
Experience of FSCE





## THE CHILD INTERNET

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## *Acronyms*

APOs.....	Area Programme Offices
ACRWC .....	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ADAA .....	African Development Aid Association
CBOs.....	Community Based Organizations
CRC.....	Child Right Convention
CST .....	Child Sex Tourism
CPUs .....	Child Protection Units
ECPAT.....	End Child Prostitution and Trafficking
GOs.....	Government Organizations
NGOs .....	Non Government Organizations
FSCE.....	Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment
FDRE.....	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
MOE .....	Ministry of Education
MoLSA .....	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MoWCYA .....	Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs
MSCPS .....	Multi-Stakeholder Child Protection System
MSCPC.....	Multi-stakeholder Child Protection Council
MVF.....	MV Foundation
ILO .....	International Labour Office
UNICEF .....	United Nation Children Fund
WCAT.....	Wabe Children Aid and Training

## ***1. Introduction and Background.***

Child labour and exploitation is one of the most burning social problems of our time. The latest ILO global estimates, released in 2010, show that some 215 children, aged 5-17 years, are in child labour and more than half of this number (115 million) involved in worst forms of child labour. Studies from both industrialized and developing countries indicates that every minute of every day, a child engaged in one or another activity somewhere in the world suffers a work-related accident, illness or psychological trauma.

These children, like all children, should be at school develop talents and acquiring skills that prepare them for decent work as adults. By entering the labour market prematurely, they mortgage their health, their development and their futures. They are deprived of the education and training that can help lift them, their families and indeed future generations out of poverty. In addition child labour subjects them to needless physical, psychological and moral suffering that can leave long-term scars that impact not only on them, but on the society as a whole.

The situation of child labour in Ethiopia is not exceptional of other developing countries in Africa and beyond. The Demography and Health Survey of Ethiopia conducted by Central Statistical Agency in 2011 indicates that the situation of child labour in the country is in its alarming stage. As per the survey, the percentage of children from the age 5-11 involved in child labour are 20.4 percent. This include children in the age category of 5-11 years who in the 7 days preceding the survey, worked for someone who is not a member of the household, with or without pay, or engaged in any other family work for 14 or more hours or did household chores for 28 or more hours. The same survey indicates that the incidence of child labour in the country is 27.4 percent with 13.3 percent being in urban areas and the rest 29.7 percent in rural settings.

Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE) started its operation in the year 1989 with a primary objective of protecting and rehabilitating children from abuse and exploitation , provide care and support and integrating them to their families and the community at large. Since its presence in the sector, FSCE has implemented a series of programs and interventions that positively impact the lives of children.

Programs and projects implemented by FSCE focuses on addressing the needs of children on street, sexually abused, trafficked and exploited,

children exposed to labour exploitation and children in conflict with the law. The child focused programmes and projects implemented by FSCE are implemented in a bid to contribute to the realization of the wellbeing and protection of children from undesirable consequences caused due to social, economic and cultural factors.

In the last 23 years of service, the way programmes and projects are implemented have changed considerably with the change of scope of work and geographical coverage. Putting in place a child protection policy, strategies and implementation plans and standardization of services are some of the core measures taken to enhance the services it provided for children.

At present, FSCE, in partnership with various governmental and Non-governmental organizations and with the active involvement of the target community and children, implements its programs in five cities namely i.e. Nazareth, Dessie, Bahirdar, Addis Ababa and Diredawa using its 7 different area program offices.

As a pioneer organization in confronting the different socio economic challenges faced by children in difficult circumstances, In the last years, FSCE has designed and implemented quite a number of programmes with the mission of striving for sustainable protection, growth and development of urban disadvantaged children.

As part of strategic direction, the organization has developed its own institutional child protection policy which guides the basic focus and direction of its service delivery mechanisms. The core programme areas are prevention, promotion, rehabilitation and reintegration of disadvantaged children and/or youngsters of both sexes. The core approaches of programme implementation promote community based integrated methods.

One of the objectives of introducing the institutional child protection policy is to equip every staff, volunteers and visitors with the required minimum level knowledge and understanding, standards, ethics and skills required to provide care and support for children and abide by the core principles of child protection.

Different monitoring and evaluation exercises undertaken so far have confirmed that the interventions of the organization have brought about significant impact on the livelihood of children. In the area of education, the organization's programme intervention contributed to school enrollment (including alternative basic education) and non-formal education and more specifically in improving the livelihoods of the target groups in the specific project area.

In the year 2011 only, FSCE together with its partners delivered child protection services for 14,954 children directly of which 47.5% are females and for more than 18,000 of their families in seven area programme offices in Addis Ababa, Bahir dar, Akaki kality, Adama, Dire Dawa, Addis ketema and Dessie. FSCE provides child protection programs and services for children and their families so that they can use their available resources and at the same time, be protected against all forms of abuse.

In general the community based child protection structures renders services for child labourers, out of school children, physically and sexually abused and exploited children, children in contact with the law, trafficked and migrated children, children without parental care and vulnerable children.

The core programs and major strategic interventions of FSCE in this regard are:

Preventive & Promotive program which encompasses

- Promoting livelihood programs that enables the poor to be economically capable and protect their children,
- Expanding children's' access to education in a belief school is the best place to be protected and be developed,
- Supporting children without parental care ,
- Raising awareness and making the community responsive towards child exploitation,
- Strengthening the community based child labour protection centers which includes alternative way to correct and rehabilitate children in contact with the law,
- Enabling multi-stakeholder community based child protection systems,
- Reunifying children into their families.

Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program which encompasses:

- Identifying children that require rehabilitation and reintegration,
- Withdrawing the abused children from the environment that exposed them to difficult circumstances,

- *Providing physiological and psychosocial recovery and social reintegration services,*
- *Providing vocational training and income generating activities and support to reintegrate children with the society.*

*Child resource development programmes:*

- *Building the capacity of child oriented CBOs, NGOs and concerned GOs,*
- *Conducting relevant research in child focused issues and topics,*
- *Publication, documentation and dissemination of relevant child related materials in printed and mass medias such as the publication and dissemination of Child internet newsletter, 'Tegen' newsletter, yearly calendars, booklets, different studies and reports.*

*This brief article has attempted to look into some of the core strategic directions followed in realizing the vision and mission of FSCE in the past few years.*



## ***2. Institutional policy, manuals and guidelines of FSCE***

In the absence of a national child policy in the country, in 2007 FSCE felt the inevitability of developing institutional child protection policy and developed its own “Child Protection Policy”. This measure is a fundamental stride towards building consensus on the overall direction of the organization and setting minimum standard in service provision for children.

One of the objectives of the child protection policy is to ensure that staff members, collaborators/volunteers working with or for children, comply with the child protection policy and their actions meet professional and acceptable standards. FSCE believes that the proper implementation of the policy significantly reduce the risk of abuse and exploitation of children at organizational and community levels. The policy document shows ethical responsibilities of persons directly or indirectly associated with FSCE and indicate the way the principles of the policy and the wellbeing and protection needs of children are adhered.

FSCE initiated the establishment of “Mekari shemagelies”, at Woreda levels which is an initiation and collaborative effort of selected sub cities , Addis Ababa Police commission and Save the Children-Sweden. As a result of this initiative, it has been possible to establish model child protection units in selected kebeles of Arada sub city. This approach paved a way for addressing minor child related abuses and cases by Mekari Shemagelies at woreda level relieving the burden of woreda and sub city level police stations to concentrate on more serious child right violations issues. Moreover, this initiative reduced child abuse in the selected Woreda/Kebele equally contributing to the reduction of referral of minor cases to sub city level CPUs or to the police stations providing the latter opportunity to focus exclusively on serious child abuse cases.

As part of facilitating the work of police stations, the second effective collaboration has been established with the Ethiopian police college with the objective of developing working manual for the police . The manual was developed by Forum on street children-Ethiopia in collaboration with Save the Children-Sweden and The Ethiopian Police College with the objective of enabling the police force to be trained on the wellbeing and protection needs and other related issues pertaining to children.

In partnering with the Ethiopian police college, both partners equally acknowledged the fact that police officers are increasingly getting involved in child protection activities on day to day basis which gave rise for the development of a child protection working manual tailored to the roles and mandates of the police. In their everyday service delivery, police officers face

various issues related to the violation of the wellbeing and protection needs of children who are at increased risk of abuse and exploitation owing to their age and particular circumstances.

Facilitating and enhancing the performance of the day-to-day tasks of the police has been considered as a straight forward activity that would ultimately benefit children. The coming into effect of the manual has primarily meant to serve children in conflict with the law, children who are victims of crimes, street children and working children who are referred to or request assistance of the police.

The development of the manual was the culmination stage of the previously developed and exercised three manuals by Forum on street children while it has been closely working with Child Protection Units (CPUs) some years back. These manuals had different names and focus areas depending upon the time they were developed and the objectives set in their respective specific project implementation approaches.

The development of the manual has consolidated and standardized the existing and defragmented approaches of implementation and brought together into one consolidated working document. The distinctive feature of the lately developed manual is that it has been developed with close collaboration and contribution of professionals of the Ethiopian police university college and other concerned stakeholders.

The manual comprise eight core modules which include, understanding childhood and child development, child rights, the problems of child abuse and juvenile delinquency, basics of policing child matters, police preventive strategies, handling of vulnerable and victimized children, handling of children in conflict with the law and organization and management for child protection.

\*Mekari Shimagiles: Community elected elderly persons

To widen the implementation scope of the manual, different capacity building training and familiarization workshop were organized for participants drawn from all regional state police training institutes and other police structures.

On the other hand, in 2009 FSCE developed a child resource development center guideline that allow users to receive efficient services and retrieve information quickly and timely maximizing the services of the center. The guideline has been designed to point out core concepts and methodologies of organizing, conducting and disseminating research materials in an effective manner.

### ***3. Partnership - A way to enhanced service***

As is the case in the past years, FSCE is increasingly fostering strong partnership with national and international organizations whose vision and mission corresponds and match with it. One such action worth mentioning here is the alliance created with local partners to combat child labour in Ethiopia. These partners are Africa Development Aid Association (ADAA) and Wabe Children Aid and Training (WCAT) both of whom are indigenous associations. The alliance, is closely working with Hivos People Unlimited which is an international Netherlands based NGO that globally coordinates the “Stop Child Labour - School is the best place to work” campaign.

The campaign promotes the concept of “child labour free zone-Schools is a place for a child” which has increasingly become popular in the world in terms of influencing concerned stakeholders in the area of child protection.

As a result of this partnership, in 2010, FSCE organized an experience sharing programme in India to learn from experiences of child labour free zone implementation by MV Foundation” Child Labour Free Zone-programme . The experience sharing programme involved staff of FSCE as well as concerned government officers drawn from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA), Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Women , Children and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA) which brought about practical insight on the concept of creation of child labour free zone in India .

The visit focused on learning the strategies of India in elimination of the problem of child labour. 40 participants drawn from 20 organizations from such countries as -Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Nepal attended this exchange visit .The Group visited about 25 village communities and interacted with grassroots functionaries and government officials working on child labour elimination programme.

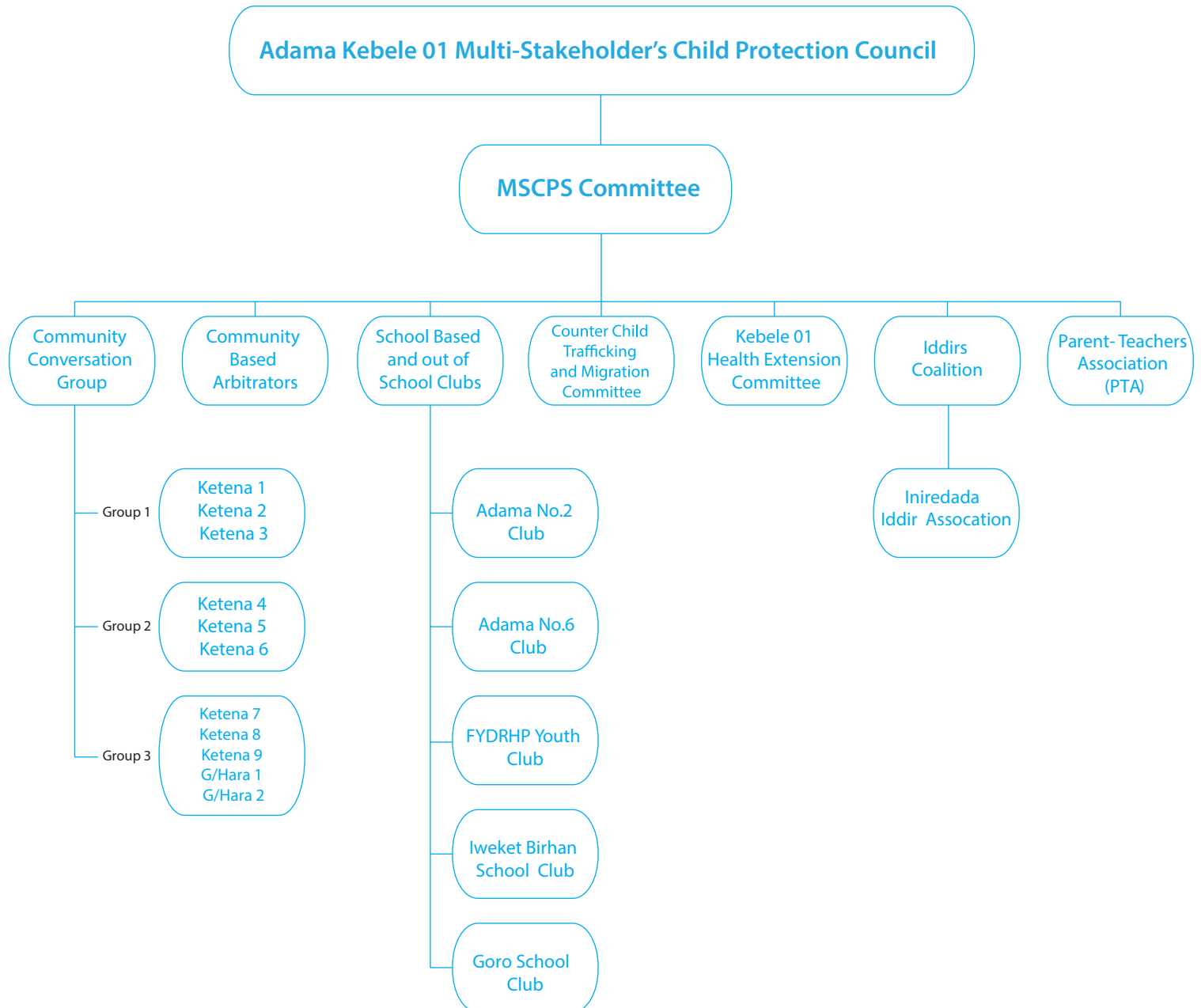
This experience sharing programme has laid the foundation for FSCE to adopt the strategy of area based child labour free zone approach and strengthen the already prevailing community based intervention into a more organized and all inclusive area based intervention. Area based approach is known to be direct actions with an area focus intervention aimed at addressing the problem of children in specific geographic area .

On the other hand, the sector-based approach aims at eliminating child labour or specific types of exploitation from a given economic sector or industry. The experience of India revealed that area-based approach allows for targeting all forms of child labour and out of school children prevalent in a well-defined geographical area. As part of testing this strategy, FSCE attempted to customize and domesticate the strategy and pilot tested it in selected area program offices. The result of the pilot testing program proved to be successful and recognized by stakeholders as an effective way of addressing the concerns of out of school children and enhancing the role of relevant government and community based organizations.

Based on this experience, area based multi-stakeholder child protection interventions expanded its foundation and proved to be an effective way of addressing the problems of children and at the same time strengthen the establishment of Multi-stakeholder Child Protection Councils. Currently the multi-stakeholder child protection council based interventions are rolled out in all area programme offices of FSCE. One such exemplar structure of the multi-stakeholder child protection council established at Adama Kebele 01 where other FSCE Area Program Offices with volunteers visited, draw lesson and experience to initiate and establish such council in there own operational areas is as follows:

As part of scaling up of the strategy and introducing the concept, a consultative workshop was organized at Ghion Hotel in August 2012 in Addis Ababa on the concept of “child labour free zone “. All concerned government and non- government organization working directly or indirectly with children attended the consultative workshop that laid foundation for the country to be part and parcel of the world wide campaign. The consultative workshop, other than publicizing the child labour zone concept, it also reviewed and pointed out the preconditions and possible impacts of adopting the strategy in Ethiopia. In the same workshop, participants discussed and indicated the role of the government, UN Agencies, NGOs and the community at large in promoting and implementing a child labour free zone strategy in Ethiopia.

## *The Structur of Multi-Stakeholder Child Protection System (MSCPS)*





*Children enrolled to school as a result of MSCPCS in Adama Kebele 01*

### **3.1 Case story: Adama MSCPS**

Belaynesh (Pseudo name) is a mother of six, 2 boys and 4 girls. She is living in Kebele 01 Adama city. The Kebele 01 located at the outskirts of Adama town which is yet in the early process of transforming from semi-rural agriculture setting to a developing township. Belaynesh and her husband, Getachew (pseudo name), preferred to live in this kebele merely due to the fact that cost of house rent in this area is relatively cheap. Fortunate enough, the owner of the house, where they are living in, allowed them to stay there free of charge partly to ensure the safety of the house and as a gesture of support to the family up until the house is fully built.

Both mother and father work as daily laborers and their income is inadequate compared to the size of the family. Of the six children, the elder one is 17 years old and currently lives in Addis Ababa with relatives and pursues her education there. Two years ago all of the remaining children two boys and two girls were not going to school at all (13, 11, 8 and 6 years respectively). The youngest is only 3 years. In 2002, when Adama Multi-stakeholder Child Protection Council was established and a new school constructed in the neighborhood, with the help of FSCE and the MCPCS three of her children enrolled to school at the age of 6, 9 and



11. All of them haven't ever gone to school earlier therefore, all of them started at grade one and this year they are in grade two. However, sending all of the children to school was not an easy and straightforward measure for the family and rather it had an opportunity cost, as Yeneneh, who was 11 then used to work and contribute to the family income before he enrolled to school. He used to support the family working on a pushcart. Even while attending school, he continued to work for half day which has reduced his income by half. Working full time, he earns on average 20 birr which is used to compliment the meager income of the family .The income he earns working half day contribute little than what is expected for the daily meal of the family. This has become the principal reason that obliged him to drop out of school and continue his work on full time basis, which was welcomed by the family.

Belaynesh, confirms that if her son hadn't worked, then the fate of the other children would have been to stay home and starve. The income of the family doesn't allow them to think of schooling other than leading a survival way of life. Hence, in this situation, they insist the elder son to work and contribute to the income of the family. She also recalls that, if it hadn't been for the support of MCPSC programme, she wouldn't have sent even the other children to school at all. She reiterate that though school fee is free , her family does not afford at all to cover costs associated with sending children to school i.e. purchase of school uniform, exercise books, text books and even buying lunch box and related materials. On top of all these, she recalls that there was no school facility in the nearby neighborhood until the MCPSC established one two years ago. Belaynesh, confirms that she would prefer to be supported in establishing any sort of income generating activity, work hard and earn decent income on the basis of which she could sustainably feed her family and send all of her children to school.

#### ***4. Knowledge base and evidence based intervention.***

The knowledge base in the area of child protection include availability of relevant empirical data on the extent and nature of the child labour and other forms of exploitation, abuse and their causes and consequences, detailed through time and geographical area.

In this regard, FSCE has built a strong tradition of conducting wide range of baseline surveys and rapid assessment surveys both as part of programme kick off activity and knowledge base prior to developing strategic plans and action programmes.

This article has tried to present excerpts from the findings of some of the recent surveys and assessment made by FSCE and indicates how these materials will contribute as resources for wide range of users.

FSCE with the financial support of End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking (ECPAT) and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of FDRE conducted the first of its kind Assessment of child tourism in selected sites of Ethiopia.

The survey revealed that in the area of policy and legal framework, the country has in fact appropriate legal frameworks with specific provisions on sexual abuse and exploitation against children in the legislative framework which are enshrined in the CRC (Child Right Convention), ACRWC (African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child), FDRE (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia) Constitution, and domesticated in the Revised Criminal Code, Family Law, etc. On the other hand, the survey reveals that there are, however, drawbacks when it comes to the implementation and enforcement of these existing legal provisions.

In a nut shell the survey revealed that although child sex tourism (CST) has existed for decades, the practice has exploded in recent years mainly due to rapid globalization and the growth of the tourism industry in the country.

In terms of magnitude of the problem the survey indicated that nearly one third (30.3%) of young girls engaged in commercial sex drifted into the tourist destination sites and the great majority (90.2%) admitted having sexual contact at one or more times in the past with domestic and foreign tourists. While every tourist attraction site entails some degree





of risk in exposing children to CST, the problem seems to be more serious in the main towns (Addis Ababa 24.9%), Bishoftu (16.5%) and Gondar (13.4%). If sites are ranked in terms of the likelihood for initial sexual encounter with foreign tourists; Hamer appears to be the third highest (14.5%) next to Addis Ababa and Bishoftu and is followed by Gondar and Axum. Domestic tourists and the diaspora constitute the majority (60.6%) of tourists involved in CST while foreign sex tourists accounted for 39.4% of total offenders.

In the area of responses and awareness the findings indicate that most of the key informants denied the existence of the problem of child sex tourism which could be attributed either to lack of concrete data about the extent of the problem or deliberate denial of the incident for fear that it might tarnish the image of the society. Incidents of practices of CST are either underreported or not reported at all. The fact that a huge proportion of the incidents of CST often go silent further complicates the effort of tracing evidences and, hence, leaves perpetrators unpunished. Overwhelming majority of victims and some key informants consider CST as a non- criminal act. (60.8% of the respondents either understood CST as a non criminal act or were uncertain about it). Findings suggest informants were not aware that sexual intercourse with children (with or without their consent) constituted a crime.

The following causes were identified as core ones for the prevalence of the problem: Girls often fall into CST mainly because of poverty (children mostly vulnerable to CST include those with low economic support in the family, child local guides, children with little or no education, children from broken families and street children.) Illegal tour guides, traffickers, brokers, taxi drivers, some hotel receptionists and hotel owners are major actors in facilitating the involvement of children in child sex tourism. Peer influence and lack of awareness or misplaced perceptions on CST were also reported as major factors predisposing children to the problem. 41.5 % of the tourists who engage in CST approach girls through local intermediaries (local tour guides, brokers, receptionists or hotel owners).

In investigating health impacts, particularly HIV and AIDS and unwanted pregnancy, the survey pointed out that one fourth of the respondent were not consistently using condoms. Exploitation, abuses, increased number of school drop outs and early child marriage were some of the identified consequences of child sex tourism. With these findings, the survey suggested that Multi-sectoral interventions need to be fostered in order to design joint preventive, protective and rehabilitative programs on top of strengthening public information campaign on CST and sensitize the public on various preventive and protective measures.



Rapid assessments (baseline surveys) are conducted by APOs before the development of strategic plan by multi-stakeholder councils. One such assessment has been carried out in Addis Ababa, Addis Ketema Sub city, Woreda 08 in a bid to inform the community-based multi-stakeholders child protection council about the magnitude and depth of the problem of children. The assessment explored major child protection problems in the target community in light of the 12 child protection indicators depicted in the UNICEF's Annual Progress report card.

The findings of the survey indicated the limited practice of birth registration as one of the most serious concern of child protection in the woreda. Only 12.4% of the households had a child registration practice. Such limited practice would certainly impede the legal protection of children from all forms of violence.

Next to birth registration, higher gravity was observed in emergencies affecting children (mainly car and fire hazards), sexual abuse and exploitation, child labor and trafficking, physical abuse, child migration, and children in conflict with the law. On the other hand, the distribution of prevalence of early (child) marriage, children without parental care, children with disabilities and female genital cutting were found to be relatively low.

One major issue that came out of this study is a problem related to educational access to children. Interesting enough, about one third of the households reported having at least one school-aged child out of school. In spite of the fact that this figure does not represent the majority; its impact is worth considering. Many researches working in the area of child abuse and exploitation suggest the inverse relationship between educational attainment of children and the likelihood of vulnerability to violence (ILO, 2009). Successful interventions in child protection therefore require concurrent effort in addressing the educational needs of high risk children. In this regard, the finding of the assessment illuminated the importance of bridging the gap in the sphere of education as a priority area of concern in the studied woreda.

In a nutshell, the assessment highlighted child protection issues as an immediate concern in the woreda. However, in the sphere of community level intervention, the study depicted that although some efforts are being made by the government and few NGOs, local initiatives have still a long way to go. It has been observed that there are different structures put in place by the government sectors in the community (such as community policing structures, urban health extension, women forum,

and local idir councils). These lines of structures could be used as better opportunities to reach the children in every household in the woreda for child protection purposes. There are also some constraints existing in the coordination and networking efforts among stakeholders and in record keeping practice in all the structures which were identified as drawbacks for child protection.

Reports of such studies are properly documented and made available for further analysis through the resource center, FSCE has established and sustained for years. This center is one of the scarce knowledge centers in the area of child protection that avails child protection related studies, researches, working papers as well as other area specific information for wide range of users. The resource center is instrumental for policy makers, researchers including undergraduate and post graduate university students, researchers of UN and international agencies, learning institutions and other individual researchers.

The child resource Development center addresses the seriously felt need by NGOs engaged in providing services and programs for children without parental care and other vulnerable children. The center serves as a resource center for skill advancement, sharing and networking of information with field workers of NGOs and government agencies and academic institutions.

The center also serve field practitioners and academics as a forum for exchanging ideas and experiences thereby adopting best practices that relates to child development services in order to tackle emerging social problems. One such FSCE Area Program Office (APO) Resource Center is as shown below:



*Dessie Area Program Office Resource Center*

## 5. *Good Practices, Lessons learned and Case story*

The campaign ‘stop child labour-School is the best place to work’ works on coherent policies and practices for the total elimination of child labour linked to the provision of free, formal and full-time education for every child. By doing so the campaign aims to arrive at ‘child labour free zones; where all children are withdrawn from work and (re)integrated into the formal education system. The campaign seeks to ensure that the education system –and all other relevant actors –are not just working on better education for children already in school, but also integrate those who are excluded i.e. out of school children.

The campaign through years of involvement in the issue of child labour and education in both Asia, Africa and Latin America, it came to the conclusion that poverty is not, as is often believed, the major cause of child labour not is it the main obstacle to making full-time formal education accessible for every child. Child labour is in the vast majority of cases not necessary to help families survive. Many studies show that children’s wages only contribute in a meager way to the family’s income, whereas the cost of children missing out on education is much greater in both the individual development of the child as well as development of society as a whole.

The Indian MV Foundation (MVF) for example has over the last twenty years been able to get a total of more than 1 million working and other out-of-school children into full-time schools, including many girls. While MVF started by ‘targeting ‘certain groups of children in the worst forms of child labour, they soon discovered that to make an impact on eliminating child labour –be it as a whole or focusing on hazardous work-they had to deal with the entire population of out-of –school children. Without the existence of a sustained community-based norm that ‘no child should work and every child should be in school”, bringing one group of children from work to school would mean that another group would soon replace them to work.

The child labour free zone and area based approach principles acknowledges that all children need to enroll to full time education, any child out of school is a victim of child labour, any kind of child labour and exploitation will adversely affect the proper growth of children, child Labour needs to be abolished, persons engaged in exploitation of children need to be legally accountable for their deeds.

*All in all, lessons learned out of the child labour free zone worldwide campaign are that:*

- Effective elimination of child labour requires policies that address persistent poverty and the vulnerability of households to economic shocks. Those policies include education, social protection and decent work creation and promotion.
- The links between child labour and education are clear – children with no access to education have little alternative but to enter the labour market, where they are often forced to work in dangerous and exploitative conditions. Hence, expanding access to free and compulsory education is crucial to reducing child labour, as is the provision of quality education.
- Access to education is a necessary but insufficient element as the challenge is to keep children in school and equip them with relevant skills.
- Only quality education can ensure that children are enrolled and stay in school. Quality education means that teachers are recruited in adequate numbers to avoid high student teacher ratios in classrooms.
- Good education cannot be provided if classroom conditions are deplorable and students lack the necessary books, equipment and other educational materials. Children who receive quality education are more empowered to escape from poverty and, as adults, are more likely to send their children to school.
- Employment strategies which ensure that parents and young persons of legal working age have the possibility of decent work are a key factor in tackling poverty and child labour. Adults who are in decent employment and enjoy a fair income are far less likely to send their children to work.

### ***5.1 Case Story: Shining light into the darkness***

The following case story is taken from FSCE Addis Ababa Area Program office (APO), Kirkos Woreda: The Woreda is one of the six operational areas of the AAPO. One of the interventions in the Woreda is running multi-purpose child protection center. Currently, the center is providing service for about 195 target children directly. Besides this socio-economic empowerment



of children's mothers performed. Children enjoy themselves with such activities like playing games, dancing, listening to music, watching films, reading stories on top of getting regular time to study and do their home work in the center. They also learn basic computer skill and participate in life skill training provided by the center.

The center also supports eleven children with different physical disability through creating access to school and providing wheelchair, eyeglass, artificial foot, ankle and leg and other educational material and to enable them to integrate with other children. Bereta is one of the beneficiaries of such a programme.

Bereta is a nine year's old physically disabled child who lives in Kirkose Sub City with his grandfather, cousin, aunts and uncles. His mother left home four years ago to look for jobs in one of the Gulf countries. She was the only bread winner of the family of ten including her pensioner father, her son with physical disability (leg impairment) and the other eight member of the family. Bereta has never seen and doesn't know his father. Bereta's grandfather explains that Bereta's father is in fact alive but he is addicted with drug and cannot support himself let alone his child.

Bereta's recalls that he had never got a chance to see the sunshine outside, play with other children, and go to school. Because of his disability and little difficulty to speak, he has been confined at home. He doesn't move far from his grandfather every day in a fear of falling as the grandfather was the only person who spend much of the time with him providing food and assisting him to clean. The family has never ever thought that he could join to school and will have a potential to learn and interact with others.

On the part of the grandfather he confirmed that all the time, he felt sorry when he thinks of Bereta. He was deeply worried thinking about what will happen to him if he dies. He recalled that he used to pray that the child die before him because he doesn't want him to suffer alone. However, now he confirms with joy that his worries had been somehow changed and a little bit of hope sparkle after he had started to participate in the training given by the area programme office (APO) to the parents and guardians educating them about causes of disability, traditional beliefs and the need to educate children no matter what their disability is.

From the training, I understood that children with disability can be like any other children as long as they get help and support from the people around them. I also start to recognize how much I ruined my grandson. I have never thought for a single moment that he can go to school learn, be able to understand and his condition would be improved in such a short period.

After I left the training, the grandfather recalls, I told my granddaughters to tutor him so that he knows the basic education at home to identify Amharic and English alphabets. It didn't take him longer time to identify some of the letters. Gradually, he became more contented to trace letters, tries to read and show so much interest in education and demonstrated incredible improvement in his speech. We were totally amused by his speed of learning. After eight months, with the support from FSCE APO Bereta joined 'Felegeyourdanose' primary school as a grade one student. The area program office continued on supporting Bereta; to attend school, to have access to school facilities and able to feed himself.

This could be an exemplar story that reflects the incredible work performed by FSCE Addis Ababa APO together with partners and volunteers to ultimately address challenges faced by children.



## 5.2 Poems/ግጥም

ግጥም: ሚናችን ወላጃ ነው

የዛሬ አበቦች ሀገር ተረካቢ

ለህዝባችን ታዛዥ ለወገንም ገንቢ

ለኛ ለህፃናት ክብር ይሰጠን

ከአሁን ጀምሮ እንድንሰለጥን

የጉልበት ብዝበዛ የሴት ልጅ ግርዛት

ይቁም ባገራችን የህፃናት ጥቃት

ዛሬን ብቻ ሳይሆን የነገን ለማየት

ጠለፋና አስገድዶ መድፈር ይወገድ በእውነት

ከጥፋት ተቆጥቦ ህፃናት መንከባከብ

ስንፍና አይደለም መስራት ነው እንጂ ክልብ

እስኪተመልከቱን አስቡን አስተውሉን

አገር ተረካቢ እኛ ህፃናትነን

ሀገወጥ ዝውውር ይጥፋ ካገራችን

መሸጥን ሳይሆን እንፈልጋለን ፍቅርን

ህፃናት እንዳይሰደዱ በየአገራቱ

ማስተማር ነው የእድገት መሰረቱ

የህፃናት ስደት ቆሞ አሁኑኑ

ሀዘብ ሁሉ ይመልከት በህልም ሳይሆን በውኑ

የቤተሰብ እንክብካቤ አንጣ እኛ ህፃናት

ነገ እኛነንና ኢትዮጵያን የምንረከባት

አካልጉዳተኛ ህፃናትን እንከባከባቸው

ምክንያቱ ደግሞ ባለራዕይ ናቸው

በፈንጂ ወረዳ የሚኖሩ ህፃናት

ከቦታው እናላቃቸው እንስጣቸው ትምህርት

ልጅ ያባዛው ለእራት አይበቃም

የሚባለው ተረት ከእንግዲህ አይሰራም

የህፃናት ሁሉ መብታችን ተከብሮ

ለአገር ከሰራ ሁሉም ሰው ተባብሮ

ድህነት ከኢትዮጵያ ይወጣል ተባሮ

ከዛሬ እንጀምር አንያዝ ቀጠሮ

አገር ለማሳደግ አገር ለመገንባት

ሚናችን ወላጃነው የኛ የህፃናት

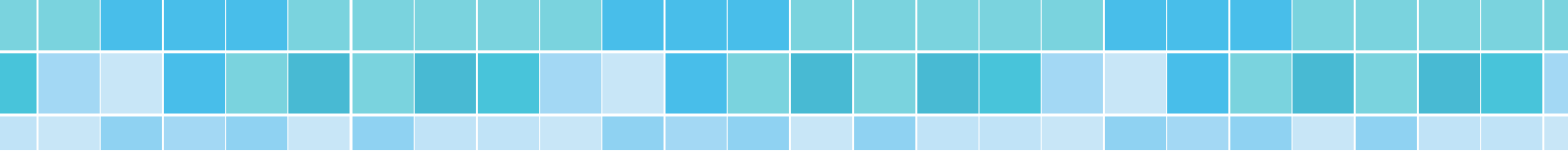
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ከፎረም ኦን ስቡቴነይብል ቻይልድ ኢምፓወርመንት ኡዲስአበባ አካባቢ ፕሮግራም ፅ/ቤት

አራዳ ክፍለከተማ ወረዳ 8 ማህበረሰብ አቀፍ ሁለገብ የህፃናት ማዕከል ተጠቃሚ (ተማሪ)

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