



Model Practice from Addis Ababa Area Program Office

A preliminary Report in the Multi-stakeholder process at Woreda 8 of Arada Sub-City

Forum on sustainable child Empowerment has adopted a Community Based Multi-stakeholder Child Protection system as an umbrella strategy to realize its vision of seeing the well-being and protection needs of children fulfilled. This strategy is sought to attain this noble end in a more comprehensive and sustainable manner. The strategy stipulates the active involvement of all stakeholders, and also attempts to address all child protection problems children face in a more comprehensive and sustainable manner.

Addis Ababa Area Program office is the pioneer Area program Office in launching this apparently utopian but practically demanding task of introducing community based Multi-stakeholder Child Protection Process. The whole aim of this comprehensive strategy is to create protective environment for children as indicated in the vision of FSCE.

Major Objectives of Initiating Community Based Multi Stake holder Child Protection Process:

- to maximize partnership between the government organs, community members, families , children and NGOs which needs active involvement of multi-stakeholders
- to develop Child protection goals through mutual commitment approach to understand the child protection problems in a given woreda at Arada sub city during planning, implementing and monitoring the effort.
- To create local expertise that understands its own society intimately and that brings sustainable change.
- to define the nature and magnitude of child protection indicators in their locality for sustainable plan of action.
- to jointly learn, analyze and reflect for effecting sustainable change in child protection efforts—both for participants and facilitators.

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Editorial

Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE) would like to welcome its distinguished readers to this first edition of the biannual and bilingual (Amharic and English) child protection newsletter called 'Tegen' for 2010. The newsletter comes in replacement of the previous *Sounds of the Street*- a biannual periodical through which FSCE has for long produced and disseminated various child right related issues since its first edition in 1994.

Following the issuance of the new Charities and Societies Proclamation No.621/2001 in January 2009, FSCE along with all its partners and other stakeholders designed and endorsed a new its fifth strategic plan (2010-2014) at a national future search conference held at Red Cross hall in Addis Ababa in March, 2009. The conference ended with key valuable decisions and resolutions that envisaged a potential future direction which led to a comprehensive approach to its child protections interventions.

Shortly after the conference, the organization officially received its re registration license as an Ethiopian residents charity organization with its newly formed name called Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE) as a successor of its ex name *Forum on Street Children Ethiopia*. In harmony with the new proclamation, concurrently, it has adopted a new vision, mission and goal of the organization. Its new vision is to see the wellbeing and protection needs of children fulfilled whereas its Mission is to strive for sustainable protection, growth and development of vulnerable children.

Thus, its vision and mission helped FSCE to see its standing in the society as a child protection organization that strives to contribute for a meaningful difference in the lives of urban disadvantaged and marginalized children.

Since its foundation in 1889, program activities predominantly relied upon foreign funds and some forms of contribution from, individuals, community, government and non government actors. However, since program areas and intervention activities are related to promoting and implementing such previous core issues as related to Child right, advocacy and any other issues

Steps Followed to Establish Community Based Multi-stakeholder Child Protection Process:

1. Establishment of Activation Committee (initiation step):

Prior to taking the idea to the wider stake-holders, a committee consisting of elders, active community members who are duly dedicated to cause of child protection issues and who can successfully steer the establishment of the committee was established.

The activation committee has discussed the need for establishment and initiation of the process with technical support of FSCE staff

After the activation committee has thoroughly understood and internalized the cause, the members embarked on mobilizing the wider stake-holders to involve them in the process

2. Two days workshop was organized involving virtually all stake-holders existing in the woreda (Adaptive planning phase). These include:

- CBOs (Idir representatives),
- NGOs, Children, Health Office,
- Women and Children Affairs Office,
- Education office,
- The woreda police,
- Children
- Woreda Administration Office,
- Individual Business Persons ,
- Youth and women Associations among others altogether there were 42 (17 female) participants represented from various Stake-holders.



...editorial

enshrined in the law deemed as prohibited acts for Ethiopian resident charitable organizations, FSCE as a resident charity has to re align its area of program interventions to the provisions of the Charities and societies Proclamation

As a result of this program components which are geared towards creating empowered families and communities that contribute to the sustainable growth and development of urban disadvantaged children, is anchored into four major sub programs. They include Preventive, Promotive, and Recovery and Reintegration and Child Resource Development (CRDP)

Child Resource Development program previously called Child Resource Development Center, as indicated above, is one amongst the core program areas subsumed in the new strategic direction of the organization. The program has a child resource center at the head office to function and realize one of its major objectives i.e producing and disseminating child resource materials to a wide range of users. Among others publications of periodicals has been one. Among the publications to produce annually is the renowned biannual newsletter called *Sounds of the Street* which had created access to various child oriented information for partners and the general public.

Conversely, due to the overall change introduced in the organization in program areas and goals, it was found appropriate and timely to give publications a change they demand, too. The change then affected not only the messages it used to convey but also its very naming of it. In line to this, it has been found appropriate to rename the previous *Sounds of the Street* as '*Tegen*'.

Tegen' is an Amharic term which connotes protection, safety or safeguarding in time of need. The protection messages to be issued in *Tegen* mainly gears towards publishing model practices, success stories, pilot projects etc in terms of not only provision of range of services but also in changing the mindset, attitude and practice of families and communities against child protection risks for the benefit of urban disadvantaged children through seven area program offices in Addis Ababa, Adama, Akaki kaliti, Bahirdar, Dessie and Diredewa.

We hope you will enjoy this first edition of '*Tegen*' and welcome your thoughts or reflections.

3. The following Major Issues were Addressed in the Workshop

- Stake holder analysis was carried out by active participation of all participants
- The need for MPs and child protection was discussed by FSCE staff
- Brief introductory concepts on Child protection problems with especial focus on the 13 child protection indicator identified by UNICEF Progress for children Report Card 2009, and were endorsed by FSCE were discussed by FSCE staff and Arada multi-stakeholders community committee members.
- Identifying major child protection problems in the woreda as per the set 13 indicators
- The Woreda Community Based multi-Stake holder Child Protection process Committee and roles and responsibilities of each of the Stake-holders were defined
- A subcommittee / executive committee responsible for leading and coordinating the works of the larger committee was set up
- Name, Role, Vision, and Mission of the stake holders committee was defined .At woreda 8 of Arada Sub-City the name of the Multi-stakeholder was agreed to be "Arada Sub City Woreda Eight Community based Child Protection Committee".
- The committee was determined to be answerable to the Woreda Women and Children Office.



Figure 1 An Initiation phase workshop on Multi stakeholders Child Protection Process in progress

As per the child protection indicators identified in the Woreda, five years strategic plan was prepared by active participation of the Stake-holders which was actually subjected to future revision before it would be fully endorsed as the woreda’s binding child oriented document.

Achievements Ever Since

Arada Sub City Woreda Eight Child Protection Committee has only one year’s age since its establishment. Yet, it has accomplished diverse preliminary activities within this short period of time. The following activities are some of the major child protection tasks implemented

Birth Certificate

As it is indicated earlier the whole aim of the multi-stakeholder committee is to build a comprehensive protective environment for children. One of the 13 child protection indicators identified by UNICEF and endorsed by FSCE is promoting birth certificates for needy children

The basis for promoting this indicator in the area is because many children are believed to be lacking birth registration card.

Securing birth registration is not a common practice in woreda 8 of Arada Sub-City. The committee during the initiation and adaptive planning made an exhaustive discussion on birth registration along the remaining 12 indicators and was duly convinced that the birth

registration has a multitude of advantages for children. Thus, it did not take time for them to take action. One of the members of the multi-stakeholder committee – the iddir coalition, took the initiative to sensitize the wider community on the significance of birth registration. The open discussion was made among the community and the result was going for instant action. As a result about 400 children got registered and received their cards with the knowledge of the iddir coalition which otherwise would have been a cumbersome task for FSCE to manage alone.

Supporting children with Disabilities

One of the challenges in addressing the problems of children with disabilities has always been lack of reliable data on the number of children with disabilities and their corresponding needs. Further, neither governmental organizations nor any nongovernmental organizations claimed to have been working to address the plight of children with disabilities in the woreda.

Consequently, FSCE- Addis Ababa Area Program Office organized a two days training on how to integrate and incorporate these children in the woreda child protection systems. In the training, emphasis was given to explore the woreda residents’ view of disability and the support that these children should be able to get to lessen the burden it imposes on their life.

The participants involved members of the multi-stakeholder steering committee. They then share their experience on incidents of maltreatment of such children because of poor awareness level.

Right after the training, selected multi-stakeholder committee members engaged in the task of identifying children with disabilities. Using their prior knowledge of the situation of their locality, they then managed to identify about 120 children. Nearly all of them were physically impaired .It is not only their presence missed by official statistics but also some parents prefer going for a painful way to hide their children in fear of social



shame. Subsequently, the participants cooperated in the effort to meet some of their needs. What FSCE Addis Ababa Areas office did is just to facilitate the actualization of the support. The support selected children were given include

Child Labor

FSCE working in close collaboration with Arada Sub City Woreda Eight Child Protection Multi-stakeholder Council believes that children should not be engaged in labor by compromising their education. There is a common understanding that Child labor is both a cause and consequence of poverty, and it perpetuates impoverishment by keeping children out of school in exchange for small income. With early entry into the labor force, most children delay entry to school, fail to complete basic education or never attend school at all. Cognizant of this, the child protection committee has planned to address child labor within five years (2010-2014). As part of this long range plan, the committee identified 50 children to be registered into Non Formal Basic Education. The Multi-stakeholder committee divided the woreda among themselves and made a door to door assessment for any child who is already at risk of child labor.

Finally, an area map was made indicating places where there is a high threat of the problem and Among the those who are found to be the most vulnerable were identified for educational support to help them into reinsertion program. Along with the children, the Multi-stakeholder committee also identified 10 parents to be engaged in IGA to capacitate their economic stability so that they could help their children resume school. The Woreda education office was leading the multi-stakeholder child protection committee's effort to combat child labor abuse and exploitation in the woreda.

Baseline Assessment

The multi-stakeholder committee developed a five years strategic plan to address the child protection needs of the woreda. But later the committee found that there must a baseline data to have a viable plan and measure its

outcome. The committee was convinced that the scale of child protection violations in the woreda has to be known in advance as a basis for future plan and collaborative intervention. The plan and intervention of projects supported by baseline data will also be conducive to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention efforts later. The assessment will also be helpful to identify vulnerable groups and factors of vulnerability in the context of woreda 8 of Arada Sub-City. The assessment that is being held by the planning team of the multi-stakeholder committee is also expected to identify children who are marginalized under the existing child protection systems and work to integrate them into the child protection system domain in the woreda.

A facilitator was recruited to lead the rapid assessment team comprising selected key members of the multi-stakeholder committee. The first task in the process of the assessment was to discuss what aspect the child protection issues is worth studying in light of the 12 child protection indicators with the exception of landmines, explosive remnants of war and small arms which is out of the woreda's existing reality. Having thoroughly discussed what aspects of the child protection issues should be studied, the committee gave the facilitator an assignment on preparing data collection instruments. Later these instruments were discussed upon and modifications were made considering the local reality and their prior understanding of the magnitude and the nature of the problem.

Data collection was carried out by the Stake-holders themselves by taking 350 children as sample of the study. Before the actual assignment, data collection was carried out, a pilot test was carried out to see how much the questionnaire items were relevant to the study, and how much the data collectors are well acquainted with the process of data collection.

On the basis of the pilot survey, discussions were made and some modifications were made unto the questionnaire items that need further modification and clarification to increase quality of the data collection instrument. The comments from the committee members and the



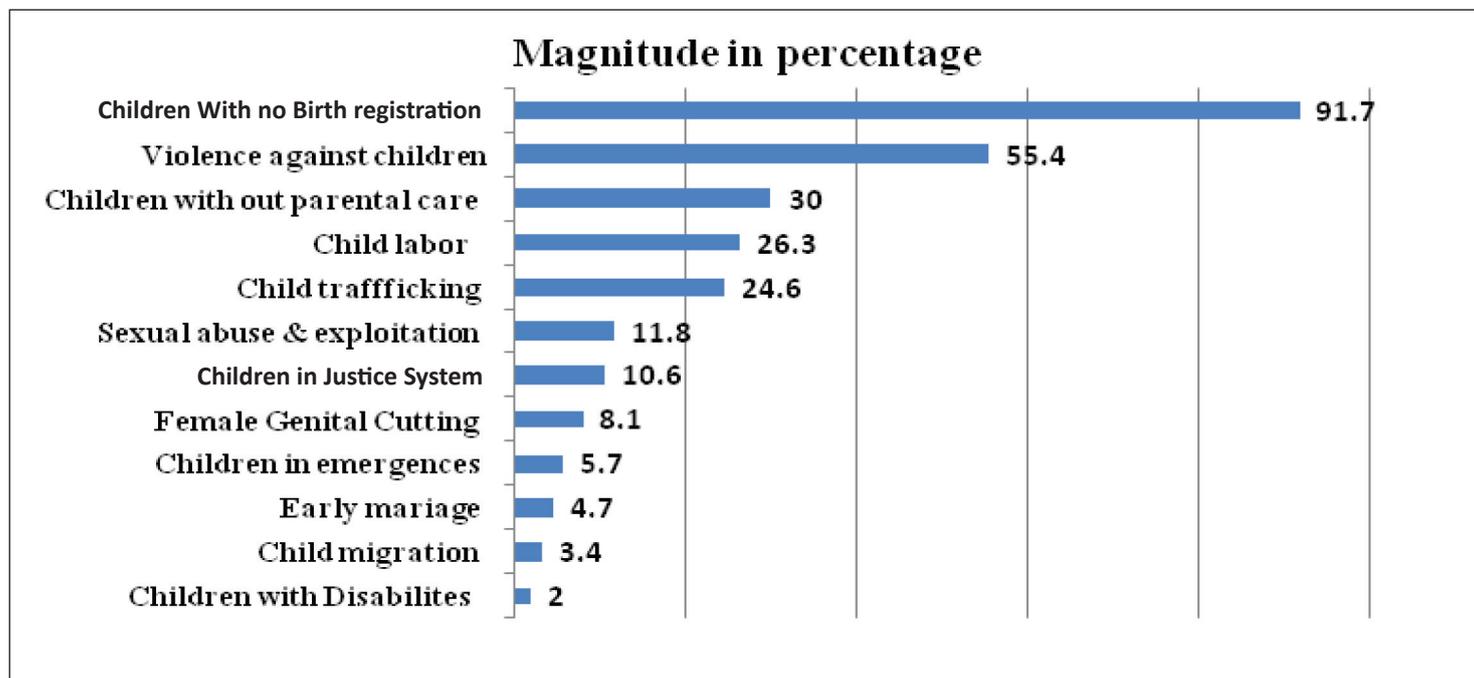
facilitator were also important in further enhancing appropriate comprehension on the questionnaire items.

All team members were given tasks to be enumerators, facilitators, and interviewers and so on. The process went so smoothly with only minor challenges as members of the woreda are residents who have an in-depth knowledge of the area map and the social fabric of the woreda.. Accordingly, the assessment was carried out through dividing the woreda into Kebeles and the kebeles were further divided into qetenas. This way the process of collecting data on child problem issues was made. On the other hand, the committee workers went

for door to door search for children under the age of five without birth registration card .

Finally, the consolidated and analysed report of the assessment was presented to pertinent stakeholders at a half day workshop at Arada sub city woreda 8 Multipurpose Child Center. Therefore, it was found that among all children facing one or more indicators, children with no birth registration card takes the highest proportion (91.7%) of prevalence followed by violence against children (55.4%).Prevalence of children with disabilities shows very small proportion. See the summary below.

Summary of the scale of prevalence of child protection problems among the 12 indicators



Community Dialogue - a Viable Approach in Community-Based Development

Child protection endeavor demands regularly revised and improved approaches to bring about success in project intervention and lasting change in the lives of target children and communities.

Among the working approaches made to alleviate the problems of children through sensitizing and mobilizing communities for their own cause, the one which has gone operational at FSCE Bahirdar area program office has become a case in point. This approach is concerned

with initiating community dialogues among residents of selected rural towns around Bahirdar on child commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking and other related child protection risks particularly on girl children. This specific community led approach is commissioned as a result of having a varied record of involving and engaging with individuals, patients, groups and communities in project implementation at various times. The dialogue sessions used regularly are meant to be issue based and bottom up in approach.



However, it was recognized that to be successful within the agenda of combating sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking, involvement with communities must occur in a more systematic way on the basis of collaboration as opposed to imposing expert solutions.

The dialogue is initiated at 4 transit towns surrounding the city of Bahirdar. The towns are Adet, Merawi, Tis abay and Woreta through which most children migrate to Bahirdar for sexual exploitation purposes either on their own accord in search of a better life or cajoled by illegal agents.

The approach employed is community conversation/dialogue. By employing such an approach, the target communities are expected to discuss in detail their existing problems and come up with contextually viable solutions. Currently in four target woredas, 11 community dialogue /conversation (CD/CC) sessions have been undertaken having 280 group members where, in each Community conversation group, there are 70 participants as members so as to contribute their own in fighting the rate of sexual abuse and exploitation of children. The dialogue is supposed to take place for a year on the basis of objectives set.

The support project funded by Save the Children Denmark is committed to alleviate the problem in eleven kebeles. Besides, four school community conversation groups that discuss gender issues in and around schools have been established. In other words, outcomes of the dialogue process among schools and 4 different communities addressed key questions regarding sexual abuse and exploitation and gender issues which of course have practically shaped the status of community awareness raising within each targeted town.

As a result, a number of outcomes have been registered. Volunteer facilitators drawn from the community are selected and given training to provide free service. The other success story attained is the communities' willingness to cover refreshment costs in time of budget shortage. Participants have also mobilized the

community to supply food and other related expenses for intercepted trafficked children to during their stay in the temporary shelters. They also facilitate covering the cost of children's uniform and stationary materials in collaboration with local individual business men. Working jointly with the police in re-unification of victim children is another success story worth mentioning.

So far 132 community conversation sessions has been conducted by trained facilitators along with support given from the area program office. Those whose awareness level increased in the area are actively involving in preventing child trafficking. The progress is regularly monitored by planning continuous follow up scheme mainly by the project community dialogue/conversation committee.

To conclude, there is an understanding that Community dialogue sessions represent a starting point, not an end in themselves. They show that residents from all target towns are willing and eager to face up to difficult choices, and that they are willing to go a long way to make a brighter future for their children and their community as well.



Figure 2 A community conversation Session in progress



Serving beyond the Grave: Community Experience in Adama

Unlike the bygone days, the biblical quote uttered by Jesus Christ that says “Let the dead bury the mortals...” is becoming the order of the time these days when it comes to the long standing motto of traditional Ethiopian community based institutions particularly the iddir. Traditionally many iddirs are known for gathering in harmony to serve very often a three days mourning ritual until what is termed as ‘*selest*’ in Amharic (the third day) to comfort the family member of the deceased. Apart from comforting an individual or a family, iddir is obliged to expend a good deal of money to cover all the expense during and funeral aftermath as per the rule and regulation of a particular iddir.

Iddirs is a traditional community-based organization which has a very long history although its origin and development is not clear, and certainly may require careful historical research. However, it was speculated that it emerged with the growth of urbanization in the time of Italian occupation at the dawn of the 20th century.

According to some literature, it was also said that iddirs evolved as the rate of urbanization increased, creating more social disintegration and urban crisis in the capital and neighboring cities during the Italian occupation.

Iddirs did not remain the same throughout history. They have undergone significant transformation and considerable degree of formalization since their emergence. Its main mission remained provision of burial service for long. However, it began to take another course during the 1950’s among factory workers when iddirs began to use the opportunity of the forum for discussion of social issues until the legislation of labor proclamation in 1960.

Since then, iddirs have passed ups and downs in different political climate in Ethiopia. The governments have manipulated the iddirs to serve their own benefits. However, more recently, Iddirs have gained some attention from the government as much as NGOs in Ethiopia, being reckoned as potential partners in

development. This can be attributed to the global paradigm shift in development theory that recognizes the role of civil society organizations as actors in development. This can be evidenced by the Ethiopian government’s iddirs inclusive Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty (PASDEP) especially their sustained and marked effort in supporting people living with HIV/AIDS in many ways.

Contrary to the old days, the function of iddirs has expanded both in scope and orientation over the years. Currently, providing aid in the form of insurance and credit schemes in some cases in time of death and sickness has become a most important function for most iddirs and iddir unions. They are rather getting highly involved in development activities in constructing roads or community-based development activities like promoting schools for children. The local government is also involving them in neighborhood security works in collaboration with the local authorities, which is assumed as critical role by the government. This is in line with the fact that they serve as important force in social control, ensuring the conformity of members to the accepted norms of the community.

Following the formation of the first iddir in Adama, *Sodo Meredaja Iddir*, four other iddirs were said to have formed union, according to some sources from some influential Iddirs in the town. Since Adama city’s iddir’s umbrella organization was said to be formed in 1942 E.C, according to one researcher, evidences show that this umbrella organization seems to be the first of its kind.

The idea of the formation of an umbrella organization of Adama Iddirs originated from school construction committee in which it was believed to easily mobilize the community for development by raising money and other resources from the community. Thus, the Iddirs’ overall committee was said to play a significant role in mobilizing community resources for the construction



and expansion of schools, roads, churches and mosques and other communal facilities.

According to documents and actual words of the chairperson of the coalition/ Association, a group of 10 Iddirs have come together to work under one umbrella association known as *Ineredada iddir* so as to strengthen their capacity to care and support orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Adama town in the year 2003 amongst others. The iddir's association got registered with the Ministry of Justice In the same year embodying 11 Iddirs (CBOs) bearing the name *Ineredada* in Amharic whose English equivalence may literally mean *'let's support one other'*.

Using this opportunity, FSCE Adama Area Program Office has been working in partnership with this strong coalition of Iddirs since its establishment in different community based project interventions. According to the chairperson of the *Ineredada Iddirs Association*, Ato Tamirat Asfaw, previously the OVC care and support program implementation was done haphazardly with only quite a few iddirs. Ato Tamirat further explained that after the area office summoned the leaders of different Iddirs to discuss possibility of joint works. This has in fact paved a way for all members to come to form 11 an iddirs coalition or association to strengthen their mutual effort to meaningful level. The rest 15 agreed to be co members of the coalition in the process. Since then, FSCE strengthened its commitment to work closely with the Association to address problems of OVC in the target area through provision of capacity building support.

Redefining an Approach for Rehabilitation of Child Laborers

The International Labor organization recently introduced a rehabilitation program for child laborers in Ethiopia .Having ample experience in the area; FSCE takes the initiative to pilot the model in Addis ketema area Program office target woredas at Merkato. According to ILO, child sex work is considered as unconditional worst form of child labor exploitation. In order to reduce and eliminate such worst forms of labor exploitation, Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment in collaboration with

ILO, Addis Ababa bureau of Labor and Social Affairs and other partner NGOs like Mission for Community Development Program (MCDP) engaged in the pilot study in 2009 on the prevalence of such category of children within the domain of worst forms of exploitation that includes: child weavers, child domestic workers and children engaged in solid waste management. The main objective of the study was also to pilot test the draft Procedures, Protocols and Guidelines (DPPG) prepared by ILO to intervene against worst forms of child labor as against the usual center based rehabilitation phases through *Drop in and Safe house* approach which actually has proved to have as many limitations as it has much benefits as well, as experience tells.

The working protocol mainly employs four pillars of intervention phases as appropriate strategies to rescue target children from worst form of child labor in selected kebeles of Addis Ketema sub city area. The phases reckon identification, withdrawal, rehabilitation and reintegration of children as guiding procedure.

With the set criteria, the identification task deals with recruiting the right target. Here, relevant community members play a pivotal role as they are more aware of the situation of children in the area. The Identification process helps to acquire information about the child's living and working condition, magnitude of the abuse they s/he is in, the place where children are working and living. This is done through area mapping, outreach program i.e. night and day.

What follows after identification of the proper children is withdrawal of the identified children under worst forms of child labor from the exploitative environment they are in. The process follows two options to withdraw the children, rescue operation and gradual withdrawals. Rescue operation is an immediate withdrawal of victim child from the area s/he has been exploited. It is administered only when it is believed that an individual child's living condition is so critical that it could cause lasting threat to the child's health if overlooked. On the other hand, gradual withdrawal procedure is performed when the living condition is not as such a potential threat to the physical and psychological wellbeing of the child.



Then, the rehabilitation work will follow as per the individual child's distinct situation and context. Both withdrew children through rescue operation and gradual withdrawal procedures go through the rehabilitation procedures. In rehabilitation process, provision of immediate care/basic need of the child including accommodation, food, clothing, medical care and counseling services have been considered. However, unlike the previous trend in rehabilitation process, the children may not go through same rehabilitative processes. Rather, the children get tailored rehabilitation services depending on the nature of the problem they were in.

After children have undergone the above stages and have reached the rehabilitation stage successfully, they are expected to show socially accepted behavior before they are reintegrated into their family and/or the community. However, the common service packages all withdrawn children should receive comprise such services as getting vocational skill training in certain field that s/he prefer, joining formal or non-formal education that contribute to their future behavioral and social adjustment.

Individual need assessment physical, psychological and health status will be conducted to run the rehabilitation tasks. Then, based on the result, individual rehabilitation and reintegration plan that have short and long term objectives in addressing physical, psychological, educational needs (i.e. vocational skill training and formal education support) of the children will be prepared. In other hand, family tracing for reunification, reintegration support i.e. medical support, social and legal need of the child will be arranged to facilitate the reintegration of the children.

Finally, as part of the rehabilitation phase, after the rehabilitation works completed, reintegration of the rehabilitated children in to their family and the community will be performed based on the criteria set in the Model. *Through the reintegration* stage the children are thought to have brought desired behavioral change. This is often verified through a conventional change variable that ensure whether the child has been trained in certain form

of skill training, resumed formal education scheme or joined non-formal education program to acquire such life skill as to be able to learn how to read and write or not.

In this regards, formerly named Merkato project of FSCE, which currently has been restructured as Addis Ketema Area Program Office, within its ample experience in combating child sexual exploitation and domestic child labor, has been the first office which has taken the initiative to tackle the problem.

Piloting the Model project, the Area Office exercised every phases, procedures and process in rehabilitation of sexually abused and exploited children. It also identified 350 to 500 victims of commercial sexual exploitation from selected kebeles of Addis Ketema Sub city. Thirty-two of the children were withdrawn through a rescue operation and 18 children in gradual procedure. Similarly, the area office withdrew 10 domestic child workers in rescue operation and 11 in gradual process. In regards to those who have been successfully rehabilitated among sexually exploited children 17 have been reintegrated with their family and community in six months period.

Piloting the Draft Procedure, Protocol and Guideline, FSCE and its partners have learnt ever since the launching of the model is that it has the following advantages that the previous trend lacks: Low rehabilitation cost per individual child, short time rehabilitation period, treatment of individual cases as opposed to all children as a whole, case and family assessment of individual child in view of its educational, health, psychological and legal status.



Figure 3 Rehabilitated girl Children In practice of hairdressing



Working with Community-based Organizations - an Indigenous Approach to make a Difference:

Ineredada iddir's Experience

While working with community-based organizations, FSCE Adama area project has found a lot of best practices and learnt various lessons. The first best practice gained is working with social institutions which have brought greater impact and sustainability in the project's implementation. It can be said working with traditional social institutions which give mutual support like iddirs consolidated the trust between the organization and the community. In this respect the joint work FSCE exerted has gained respect from Iddr leaders and their members as these Iddirs have good reputation and respect among the community in regards to getting 'life insurance' and other material supports usually for the family member of the deceased when a member passes away. Nowadays, such institutions has gone far beyond the usual gathering in time of sorrow, but also in various development endeavors. This has facilitated the effort of successful project implementation of many NGOs like Adama Program area offices in FSCE.

Above all, such a community led approach towards ensuring the wellbeing of disadvantaged children proved greater impact in children's life since almost all of the parents and guardians of children are in one way or another Iddir member. The other advantage of such an approach is that the likelihood of sustainability of the project interventions is very high since Iddirs existed for longer decades and are expected to exist in the future as well.

The second best practice gained so far is the issue of decreasing dependency. It is true that many NGOs undertake their projects by funds gained from international donors which make them fully dependent on external resources. By the same token, in most cases it is believed that such foreign aids increase dependency syndrome on beneficiaries. Some parents and children seem to have such a misconception that they fail to explore their potential, and rather expect handouts to

receive where ever such NGOs exist. One of the means to decrease such dependency syndrome is to mobilize local resources. In doing so, FSCE is making an encouraging move in this project area intervention trying to diversify funds, commencing local sponsorship for school children and initiating income generating activities (IGA) through introducing saving of their minimal resource.

The third best practice achieved includes use of local knowledge. Unless local knowledge and expertise is added to a project, any community-based development will not have good ending. This direction is followed by FSCE in a support to change child protection endeavors in Adama program area office. Such an effort is based on the need to recognize the target communities' and other stakeholders' capacity to take active part in child protection endeavours based on their locality, needs and desires thereby bringing solutions by their own than giving ready-made solutions by experts from NGOs and other partners with their very limited involvement. Thus, such shared social responsibility for meeting the needs of marginalized children is being addressed using common approach by understanding the problem, planning, implementing and monitoring the actions together for sustainable interventions and significant change in the lives of the children. The use of local knowledge and expertise in this project area has proven to be a key to deal with the local problems and has contributed a lot towards bringing better impact and success.

So what lessons were learnt so far? The first lesson learnt was trust building. As mentioned above, Iddirs are respected institutions in communities, and working with them enhances not only acceptance and trust among the community, but also gives room to the community to explore local resource which in effect may have proved one step forward to build their confidence. This has been manifested in FSCE project interventions in the area in which the community puts its high regards and trust to



Case Story 1.

Beginning to Live my Dream

Merima, 17, is living with her mother, brothers and two other sisters. She is the third daughter of the family who grew up in a family with scanty income. The only breadwinner for the family is her mother and all were obliged to depend on her meager income to survive.

Her father, bed-ridden for long living with HIV/AIDS, is also another burden for a family already living in an unfortunate situation. And add to this the fact that the children in the family are not self-reliant this time, Merima being only seven years old!

Overall, it can be said that this is a time of great challenge for Merima's family in general and her mother in particular. The mother was the only responsible for meeting the basic necessities of the family as well as the medical expenses required by the case of her husband. It is at this critical time that her mother compelled Merima, her elder brother and sister to be involved in any sort of the small scale business activities so that they can make some money to help support the family. In fact this was very crucial in maximizing the family's income.

Taking her assignment, Merima took to the nearby marketplace, called Jekala, to sell roasted potatoes. She used to stay in the market at least for six hours each day, sometimes having nothing to eat for the whole day. When Merima recalls the bad memory of those days, her eyes are filled with tears. And yet she continued in that state until she was 11 years old when her father passed away. The death of her father in turn became another shock for the family.

The saying "Necessity is the mother of invention" appears true in the case of Merima's family. Because of this difficult situation, the family was in search of a way out. The difficult life of Merima and the rest of the family started changing when her mother became one of the beneficiaries of the Saving and Credit Scheme at the sub-project of the FSCE, Adama Area Office Project. Hence, she was able to get a grant of 100 USD as per the procedures of the Trickle up Program as an initial capital to start savings of her own and engage in income generating activity.

After saving part of the grant money in six months period, as per the procedures of the program, Merima's mother got another 800 Birr loan as a start-up capital for the business she intended to begin. Using this money, she started baking injera and selling it for the nearby dwellers. From the business, she was able to pay back the loan and her next loan was improving in size as she was repaying fast.

Currently, the income of this family has been improved and Merima's mother is able to let her children go back to school and continue their education. Two of her daughters' successfully completed high school and joined university and Merima is also a preparatory student who will also join university very soon.

Merima's mother is very much grateful for the saving and Credit Program that changed the life of Merima and her other children. So it does the life of many who accessed it!!



Case story 2.

Amakelech is Breaking Loose of her Poverty Handcuff

The Adama town resident, Woizero Amakelech Abebe, is a married young woman of 20 years old who lives in Kebele 04. She lives with her husband, a baby and four orphaned younger siblings. The responsibility of her younger sisters and brothers fall on her shoulders as her parents passed away in 2005. They don't know the reason of the death of their parent - what disease attacked and killed them. The kids are only 15, 13, and 11 and 7 years old in their age order. Two of the children attend grade seven and six in the nearby school. Thus, she is the only person responsible for taking care of them.

Amakelech gets some support to share her burden from some institutions. She gains an 80 Birr monthly financial and school material support for one child from FSCE and another child is given school fee and material support from the Amanuel Church. In addition, she gets social support, counseling and advice from her community.

Although she gets these small supports from the aforementioned institutions, it was a bit difficult to run her family. This is owing to the fact that what she gets does not sufficiently meet the needs of her family. Some expenses like medication and

essential things remain unpaid for due to shortage of income. To add fire to the fuel, the ever increasing cost of living forced the family to live in a far worse condition.

It was in this difficult time that FSCE Adama Project's saving and Credit Sub-Project recruited her to be beneficiary of the scheme. Following this, she got startup capital in the form of revolving funds and engaged in petty business of making and selling the local drink 'tella'. Despite increasing cost of raw materials and tight competition in the market, Amakelech is able to maintain her family through financial means to buy some essential basics for living. She goes on saying: She said, "By now, life is by far better than before." She continued to add the remarks below:

"Some guardians should get regular support to help them be engaged in various income generating micro businesses. They should also get opportunities in skill trainings that could make them be ready for job opportunities to eventually prop their precarious life. Also, in this regard, the ever rising cost of living should compel the organization to increase the limited start up capital."



ቅንጭብ

የህፃናት ጥቃት ዓይነቶች በአይነትም ሆነ በመጠን የተለያዩ እንደመሆናቸው ሁሉንም በእዚህ ዕትም ማቅረብ ስለሚያዳግት ለአንባቢያን ስለሚከተሉት የጥቃት አይነቶች ብቻ ቀንጭብን ለማቅረብ ሞክረናል። በዚህ ርዕስ ጉዳይ ላይ ከአንባቢ ሊቀርብ የሚችል ተጨማሪ መጣጥፎች ያለው ለዝግጅት ክፍላችን በአድራሻችን ቢያቀርቡ ማስጋናችን የላቀ ነው።

የህፃናት ትንኮሳ /ጥቃት/ ምንድነው?

የህፃናት የወሲብ ትንኮሳ ወይም ወሲባዊ ጥቃት ስንል ህፃናትን አግባብነትና ህጋዊነት በጎደለው መልኩ ወሲባዊ ስሜትን ለመቀስቀስ ሰውነታቸውን መንካት/መዳሰስ፣ ወይም ህፃናትን ምስል ወሲባዊ በሆነ ድርጊት ወይም ሁናቴ ውስጥ እንዲገኙ በማድረግ በፎቶግራፍ ወይም በቪዲዮ መቅረፅንም ይጨምራል።

የህፃናት የወሲብ ትንኮሳ የሚለው ፅንሰ-ሃሳብ ህፃናት ልብሳቸውን እንዲያወልቁና መለመላቸውን እንዲሆኑ ማድረግን፣ የህፃናትን ወሲባዊ የአካል ክፍሎች ወሲብ ቀስቃሽ በሆነ ስሜት መነካካት/መዳሰስን፣ ህፃናት በአፋቸው በኩል ወሲብ እንዲፈፀሙ ማሰገደድን እንዲሁም ልቅ የግብረ ስጋ ግንኙነት መፈፀም ይጨምራል። የባሰባቸው ህፃናትን በወሲብ የሚተናኩሱ ግለሰቦች በአብዛኛው የራሳቸውን ዓይነት ስታ ያለውን ህፃን ወይም ተቃራኒ ስታ ያላቸውን ህፃናት ይመርጣሉ።

በአብዛኛው እነዚህ ግለሰቦች ድርጊታቸው ፈፅሞ ሞራልንም ሆነ ህግን ሚገረር መሆኑ ብቻ ሳይሆን በህብረታቸውም ዘንድ ተቀባይነት የሌለው እንደሆነ ይረዳሉ፤ ይንዘባሉ የሁን እንጂ ወሲባዊ ስሜታቸውን ለመቆጣጠር አቅም ያንሳቸዋል ፔዶፋይልስ በመባል የሚታወቁት ከህፃናት ጋር ወሲብን በቋሚነት የሚፈፀሙ ግለሰቦች ግን ተግባራቸው ህገ ወጥ ወይም አግባብነት የጎደለው ነው የሚል አመለካከት የላቸውም። ፣ ይልቁንም ህፃናት ከአዋቂዎች ጋር ወሲብ ማድረግን ይወዳሉ ብለው ያምናሉ። እንደ አጠቃላይ ግን የህፃናት ወሲባዊ ትንኮሳ ማለት እድሜያቸው ለአቅመ አዳም/ሔዋን ባልደረሱ ህፃናት ላይ የሚፈፀም ህገ ወጥ የሆነ ወሲባዊ ንክኪ ነው።

ጥቂት ስለ ፔዶፋይል

ፔዶፋይል ማለት ምን ማለት ነው ? ፔዶፋይል ማለት እድሜያቸው ለአቅመ አዳም/ሔዋን ያልደረሱ ህፃናትን የወሲብ ጓደኛው/አጋር ማድረግን የሚመርጥ ሰው ነው አብዛኛውን ጊዜ ፔዶፋይሎች ወንጀሎች ሲሆኑ አልፎ አልፎ ግን በሴቶችም ዘንድ እንዲህ አይነት ሰዎች እንዳሉ ተመዝግቦ እናገኛለን።

አንዳንድ ፔዶፋይሎች ተመሳሳይ ስታ ያላቸውን ህፃናት ለወሲብ አጋርነት ሲመርጡ ሌሎች ደግሞ ተቃራኒ ስታ ያላቸውን ይሻሉ። ፔዶፋይሎች በተለይ ስለሚመርጧቸው ህፃናት እድሜ የተለየ ትኩረት ይሰጣሉ። ፣ አንዳንዶቹ በጣም ለጋ ህፃናትን ማለትም እድሜያቸው ከ5-10 ዓመት የሆኑትን ሲመርጡ አንዳንዶቹ ደግሞ ታዳጊ የሆኑትን ይፈልጋሉ። ፣ የፔዶፊሊያኒት ችግር ምንጩ እስከአሁን በቅጡ አልታወቀም አንዱ መላ ምት እኒህ ሰዎች በተፈጥሮአቸው ውስጥ እንዲህ አይነቱን ምጫ እንዲወስዱ የሚያደርጋቸው ነገር አለ የሚል ነው። ይህ አስተሳሰብ ግን ለእነዚህ ግለሰቦች ሊሰጣቸው የሚገባውን የአእምሮ ህክምና ሙከራ ፋርሽ ያደርገዋል፤ ሠዎቹ ጭራሽ ህፃናቱን እየጎዳናቸው አይደለም ብለው እስከማሰብ ይደርሳሉ።

ሌላው መላ ምት እንዲህ ያሉት ግለሰቦች ራሳቸው በህፃንነታቸው የወሲባዊ ጥቃት ስለባዎች የነበሩ ናቸው የሚል ሲሆን ይህ በባይተዋር ወይም ባመኑት አንድ አዋቂ ሰው የደረሰባቸው ጥቃት በጎለመሱ ጊዜ የተጠቁትን ሳይሆን የአጥቂነት ሚና እንዲወስዱ አድርጓቸዋል የሚል ነው።

ፔዶፋይሎች በስራቸው ቅንጣት ታህል የማይፀፀቱ አደገኛ ወንጀለኞች ናቸው። እነዚህ ሰዎች እንኳን ጥፋተኛነት ሊሰማቸው ህፃናቱ ከአዋቂ ጋር ወሲብ መፈፀም የሚያስደስታቸው ነገር እንደሆነ ስለሚያምኑ ድርጊታቸውን ህፃናቱን የመርዳትና ስለ ወሲብ የማስተማር በጎ ሥራ አድርገው ያስቡታል።

ፔዶፋይሎች ከአዋቂዎች ጋር ደካማ የሆነ ማህበራዊ ግንኙነት ያላቸው ሲሆን ካልበሰሉ ህፃናት ጋር ግን በቀላሉ መግባባት ይችላሉ።

ህፃናትን ለወሲብ ጓደኝነት የሚመርጡትም ከህፃናት ጋር ልክ ከአዋቂ/ ጎልማህ/ የወሲብ አጋር ጋር ማድረግ ያለባቸውን የበሰለ የሥሜት ተራክቦ ማድረግ ስለማይጠበቅባቸው ነው።

ፔዶፋይሎች በወንጀል የፍትህ ሥርዓቱ ላይ ከፍተኛ ጋሬጣ ናቸው። ወህኒ እንዲወርዱ በሚደረግበትም ጊዜ በእስር ቤት ለሚደረግላቸው የተሃድሶ እንክብካቤ በጎ ምላሽ የማይሰጡ መሆናቸው ብቻ ሳይሆን በአንድ ስፍራ አብረዋቸው ለሚሆኑ ህፃናት ጭንቅ የሚሆኑበት ሁኔታ አለ። አንድ ጊዜ በአመክሮ ከተለቀቁ በኋላ ፔዶፊሊዎች በአካባቢው ህግ አስከባሪ አካላት እንደተንኳሽ ወይም ወንጀለኛ ሪከርዳቸው ሊመዘገቡ ይገባል።



News Brief

- The 2010 annual organizational Review meeting was held between February 24 to 26/2011 at Beshale hotel .In the meeting heated discussion was made on plan vs. performance in outcome level and a review on 2011 plan was made as well. Staff members in attendant from seven area program offices were 32.
- FSCE general assembly members held their half day annual meeting on 26th of March 2011 at Desalegne hotel .A total of 16 participants attended the meeting. During the meeting points high on the agenda include:
 - Endorsing the previous year minute (2009)
 - Endorsing the 2010 financial management audit report
 - Reviewing Program, Finance and Human Resource and Material Management performance report ,and
 - Endorsing the 2011 program and finance plan



Figure 5. A scene from the General Assembly Meeting

- FSCE has received a certificate of award from Ethiopian Society of Sociologists, Social workers and Anthropologists in recognition of its outstanding achievement in the application and promotion of the fields of sociology and social work.



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