

# Innovative and Exemplary Approaches in Bringing Development 10 Selected Charities in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Charities and Societies Forum (ECSF)

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## Background

While the Charities and Societies (ChS) Sector in Ethiopia is vast, it encompasses a diverse array of organization types, mission scopes, challenges and fields of work. Charities in our country ought to be heralded as “important vehicles for community empowerment and economic development”. ChS growing importance in development process is attributed to the fact that they are suitable for promoting participatory grassroots development and self-reliance, especially among marginalized segments of society—namely, the poor, women, children and those with disability.

The Ethiopian Charities and Societies Forum (ECSF) has prepared this compilation of various Charities’ exemplary projects in diversified areas of Education, Family, Gender, Disability, Human Trafficking, Community Based Organizations (CBO) as well as agriculture. It’s believed to shed light on and uncover remarkable and outstanding work of Charities in Ethiopia, for similar organizations to learn from other’s good practice, replicate their good efforts as well as take lessons in order to improve upon their gaps. Readers are guaranteed to embark upon a mind blowing and eye opening experience while understanding the vital and immense amount of appreciable work being carried out by Charities in Ethiopia.

The selected Charities included in this publication are driven by strong value and devotion, geared toward empowering communities that have been disempowered in the past due to different reasons. Their greatest potential is that they generate self-help solutions to problems of poverty. They are efficient, grassroots oriented, participatory and contributing to sustainable development in communities and the country at large. Overall, they are well suited to adapt the use of innovative strategies by their small-scale operations, flexibility, and great capacity to mobilize resources as well as to organize people to solve their own problems.

These 10 selected best practice projects attest to the fact, “Charities and Societies in Ethiopia hold a great promise to provide self-help solutions to problems of poverty and inequality”.

Send a Cow Ethiopia works with smallholder farming families, organized into self-help groups, in holistic programmes that combine training in sustainable agriculture, social development, and enterprise. 75% of group members are women.

### Mindset change

Key to Send a Cow’s approach is teaching farmers how to value and optimize their own resources, rather than seek external inputs. This shift in mindset helps build their resilience and tackles the dependency syndrome that affects many communities. Staffs help farmers identify and map their resources—land, crops, animals, water, labor, community – and discuss with groups how these can be used as the basis for thriving farms. Families learn that land shortage need not be a constraint: even backyards can produce harvests of vegetables. They are given training to increase their crop and vegetable production, using a variety of compost-based growing methods adapted to suit the resources they have available. This approach has proven to be innovative and affordable for smallholder farmers – even those living remotely.

### Training process

Send a Cow’s experience is that farmers, even if illiterate, are ‘scientists’ with a high degree of practical knowledge. They should be at the center of the learning process: not as passive beneficiaries, but as proactive practitioners and teachers. One way in which techniques are disseminated is through model farmers, who are given extra training by Send a Cow. They set up demonstration sites on their own land, and train groups there. They are trusted by these

new farmers as they ‘speak the same language’ and can demonstrate the effectiveness of the techniques. New farmers also go on experience sharing visits to other groups. And further training is delivered by community volunteers: motivated farmers who live in the communities and know the culture well.

### Sustainability

Send a Cow projects are designed so that sustainability is built in. One of the key principles is that of ‘pass on’, whereby all farmers undertake to pass on the benefits they receive – skills, seeds, livestock – to others within their communities. The self-help group is an effective strategy for this: members develop a shared vision, and draw up action plans for reaching out to their neighbors.

The passing on of gifts such as calves, seeds, donkeys and training is celebrated by whole communities in special ceremonies. They are truly inspiring and morale boosting events: the moment when very poor people become donors themselves.

Send a Cow’s own evaluations find that on average, each farm household passes on knowledge and skills to at least five neighboring families; either by training them, or because their neighbors simply copy the techniques. The younger generation is involved through schools clubs, where they practice backyard gardening in school compounds. So when Send a Cow’s funding ceases, it leaves behind empowered communities, skilled adults and youths, motivated community volunteers, and demonstration farms that serve as valuable community resources. The government also plays a significant role: trained development agents continue to monitor and disseminate learning.



Send a Cow's experience is that farmers, even if illiterate, are 'scientists' with a high degree of practical knowledge

### Outcomes

Send a Cow's research conducted in projects implemented in various parts of the Ethiopia, including Wolayita, Gamo Gofa, East Shewa and West Shewa zones, shows that within two years:

- 68.5% of families have adopted at least five sustainable organic agriculture practices, such as: soil conservation and fertility building through compost production and use of natural fertilizers; soil tillage; environmental hygiene and sanitation; organic pest management; energy conservation; water harvesting and catchment; and sustainable agro forestry.
- They are increasing their yields and diversifying their farm produce, For instance: by growing new varieties of vegetables and developing areas of specialization.
- 86.9% of families have adopted at least four improved livestock management practices, eg healthcare and vaccination (in collaboration with local government);

adequate feeding through use of improved forage and fodder varieties; increased provision of water; improved breeding; construction of animal houses and shelters that keep livestock out of the families' homes; better management of animal products such as milk, butter, and cheese.

- Families have more to eat, with fewer people affected by hungry months; and a greater variety of nutritious foodstuffs.
- They are increasing incomes from an average 1,434 ETB to 9,737 ETB; diversifying income sources; and developing further aspirations and plans.
- Most self-help groups are engaged in group income generating activities, eg petty trading and storing crops for resale in the dry season.
- Self-help groups are running savings and credit schemes to enable farmers to invest in new income generating activities.
- Women's self-esteem is rising, as is the respect in which they are held by their men folk and their communities. At family level, men and women are sharing food far more equally.
- Women are increasingly responsible for managing money at household and group level, and making decisions on income, savings, investments, assets and children's education.

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### Emmanuel Development Association (EDA)

Emmanuel Development Association (EDA) is an Ethiopian development organization committed to improve the lives of vulnerable children, youth, and women through implementing integrated community based development programs. EDA works in partnership with diverse local and international stakeholders. The projects focus on Education, Child Development, Livelihood Improvement, Environmental Development/Conservation, Community Health as well as Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) and Networking for joint implementation and Capacity Building.

With regards to WaSH, since 2009 EDA has been implementing different projects that aim to enable communities to access safe water, sanitation, and

hygiene education. Moreover, the projects also helped beneficiaries to generate income from recycling wastes and produces renewable energies to address climate changes.

In the years 2009 through 2015, with the technical and financial support of Comic Relief and Water Aid UK, EDA implemented two projects in Akaki-Kality Sub-City of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Largely industrial, slum and partly semi-rural, Akaki-Kality is an area where high poverty prevails. The area's population growth has outpaced the provision of services, leading to low access and poor quality of health, Sanitation services. Many neighborhoods and homes are crowded and lack basic infrastructures including water and sanitation facilities. As a result, community





## Gender inequality addressed through ensured economic empowerment of women in 'Akaki Kality' Sub-City

members spent a lot of time, money, and energy in search of clean water and sanitation facilities to avoid open defecation.

EDA implemented the first project in the years 2009 through 2011. The project's aim was to perform action research on WaSH-related problems in the community, construct improved WaSH facilities to serve the area, and build the capacity of youth and women through their involvement in WaSH-focused business cooperatives.

Learning from the success and challenges in the last three years (2009-2011), EDA then prepared new project entitled "Poor and Waste Powered Slum Improvement" to be implemented in six weredas of Akaki Sub City in the years 2012 through 2016, with the primary aim of improving the health and livelihoods of slum dwellers in the region.

Accordingly, during the two projects' implementation period, EDA has built six WaSH centers availing facilities such as latrines, showers, hand-washing troughs and biogas powered energy at the centers. The improved facilities have positively impacted health, environment and livelihoods of beneficiaries to promote and address the equity and inclusion of 300 marginalized women in the community.

As a result of this intervention, community members have improved their household income by engaging themselves in cooperatives which are dedicated to waste collection, composting, and management of communal WaSH center activities.

The capacity of the cooperative members has been built with the provision of:

- Sanitation management trainings



- Delivery of equipments
- Loans and
- Construction of facilities
- Creating business opportunities

Communal WaSH centers, which are managed by 300 women's cooperatives have washing rooms, shower facilities and community cafes. Customers of these centers can use freshly made food and use the services of washing room and shower with affordable payment. The waste from the washing rooms is recycled into biogas along with other waste and other organic materials. Biogas is an alternative form of energy



that is safe and dependable enough to supply power for cooking in the cafeteria.

In the course of implementation of the projects, the activities accomplished so far have resulted in the following benefits particularly in the area of environmental sanitation, hygiene and economic empowerment of marginalized women.

### Sanitation and Hygiene Benefits

- Improve sanitary conditions of the area;

#### Waste Management in an Environment Friendly Way

- Follow the natural waste treatment process;
- Require less land than aerobic composition or landfills; and
- Reduce the volume of waste (e.g. Reducing excess sludge)

#### Health and Environment Benefits

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through methane recovery
- Produce liquid fertilizer – slurry;
- Eliminate pungent smell/offensive odor
- Reduce cutting of trees for fuel wood; and
- Reduce sanitation and hygiene related diseases

- Improve the personal hygiene practices of the beneficiaries and communities;
- Demonstrate the integrated approach of sanitation, hygiene and income generation activities; and
- Can be a model for public washing rooms and shower management

### Improvement/ Impacts on the livelihood of marginalized women

- One cafeteria with a biogas digester can increase the household income of 25 households to Birr 2000 per month by working only 10 days per month;
- Due to improved household income, low-income mothers were able to re-enroll their children who previously dropped out back into school.
- Improved entrepreneurship skills of women and individuals as they were able to invest in small scale businesses to expand the services; and
- Gender inequality addressed through ensured economic empowerment of women.

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## Agar Ethiopia Respond! Renew! Rebuild!

Agar Ethiopia Charitable Society has ventured into an area where no one would have tried to venture. Agar Ethiopia is a national, non-political, non-partisan, non-profit making and non-governmental organization established in 2005 and re-registered in 2009 by Charities and Societies Agency of Ethiopia as Ethiopian Resident Charity to ‘respond, renew and rebuild’ victims of human trafficking, mentally ill and the elderly. Agar Ethiopia is a unique organization located in Addis Ababa, but provides services to beneficiaries from all parts of Ethiopia. Agar Ethiopia has deployed a holistic approach through rehabilitation, skills training, reintegration and reducing vulnerability of victims of trafficking, elders and mentally affected people.

**Rehabilitation:** Agar Ethiopia accepts all the victims of trafficking as they are; rehabilitates them as a “Victim” not as a “Criminal.” During the rehabilitation process, it delivers a free and secure living environment, provides counseling to victims of trafficking. As a result, some survivors have themselves become psychosocial counselors at Agar Ethiopia. With first-hand knowledge and personal experience of

trafficking, a survivor turned-employee is always in a position to serve the anti-trafficking best. Agar Ethiopia has recently initiated the provision of Anti-cancer therapy to those survivors who are suffering from Cancer and plans to initiate Anti-retroviral therapy to those who are suffering from HIV/AIDS.

**Skills Training:** The rehab center aims to provide



the victims with a safe environment, food, clothing, medical and psychiatric treatment, psychological support, basic education and marketable skills to help them find jobs and be less vulnerable to the dangers of trafficking, violence, and abuse. Agar Ethiopia promotes skills training in different fields. Engagement in this type of training is important in itself. Agar Ethiopia provides life skills training which enables trainees to be assertive and self-supportive while vocational skills training assists them with job placement and income generating activities to become economically self-sufficient.

“  
Agar Ethiopia accepts all the victims of trafficking as they are; rehabilitates them as a “Victim” not as a “Criminal”



### Family Reunification/Reintegration

**Reintegration:** Encouragingly, most of the survivors have been reintegrated into the community. The term “reintegration” needs to be interpreted broadly here. If victims come out of the rehabilitation center equipped with skills that provide them with livelihood and the ability to start a new life, they could be seen as capable of reintegration. In other words, they don’t have to go back to their past experience of trafficking and instead can go to their native community or village. It is in this sense that Agar Ethiopia interprets cases of reintegration. Agar Ethiopia found that providing counseling for the Parents/Families is equally important during the reintegration process.

At Agar Ethiopia, there is an emphasis on employment opportunities for survivors. Some women rehabilitated at Agar Ethiopia are now owners of small businesses; others have become social mobilizing agents in programs run by various development agencies. Agar Ethiopia is lobbying government authorities to employ survivors into the driving industry.

The purpose is to:

a. Create employment opportunities for survivors

b. Enhance investigative capacity for prevention of potential migration. The government authorities have been convinced of this idea and are currently undergoing process of facilitation.

Agar Ethiopia has been successful in reintegrating survivors into their community based cooperative activities. For those who want to rejoin their communities, there are also economic incentives such as seed money amounting up to ETB 9,000.00 per individual for undertaking income-generating activities.

**Reducing Human Trafficking Programs:** Raise awareness among parents, teachers, children, policy makers, government officials, and civil society organizations against human trafficking through:

- Awareness and sensitization dialogue meetings with national and regional networks;
- Information dissemination to those groups, and the community at large;
- Media campaigns about trafficking at regional that reached more than 20 million people;
- Review of documents regarding human trafficking to determine if gaps exist;
- Alliance building forums of key actors in the government, civil society, and communities;

**Elders’ Support Program:** Agar Ethiopia deployed three pronged support system

- **Elders’ Rehabilitation Program (ERP):** This program provides a temporary shelter, food, and clothing including medical and psychosocial treatment. Following rehabilitation, the elderly people are able to move out of the rehabilitation program when personal or family situation improves
- **Sponsor a Grandparent Raise a Grandchild (SaGRaG):** This program encourages independent



living that enables the elderly to live with their family to raise their grand children in their respective community

- **Vulnerable Elder Sponsorship Program (VESP):** is connecting the elders with potential individuals for support. The program works to strengthen the capacity of local civil society organizations on fund raising and how to connect the elders with potential individuals and/or corporate donors. It also engages elders in income generating activities by creating small business opportunities in collaboration with business communities. As a result 'four YES Water Distribution Centers' have been established that could be replicable throughout the city and even the country. To date, more than 2,000 elders are supported uniquely.

Agar Ethiopia's rehabilitation and reintegration services have served more than 2,900 women and

children since 2009 and are planned to be replicated to all regions of Ethiopia;

In conclusion, a holistic approach is needed to achieve full reintegration where the survivors find themselves beyond the level of "hide and reside" and only "family acceptance" levels, but also "Community acceptance" is equally important in general.

Hence, our future plan is to construct a comprehensive 'all in one complex' Rehabilitation Center, Boarding Vocational Training Center and Psychiatric/Geriatric Hospital.

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## Consortium of Self Help Group Approach Promoters (CoSAP)

The Consortium of Self-help group Approach Promoters (CoSAP) is an umbrella institution of 28 likeminded organizations that promote women's development through "The Self-Help Group approach". The approach is a successful instrument for combating poverty in a sustainable way. It empowers the very poor women, socially, economically and institutionally enabling them to live an improved quality of life with their family in the community.

The Self-Help approach as promoted by CoSAP sees every woman as having a potential of strength and ability which by providing the right environment can be unleashed to enable her to lead a life of dignity. Hence, the very poor woman can become active member of her community and cease to be passive recipient of handouts.

Since its establishment, CoSAP has been involved in promoting the Self Help Group approach through its members in six regions and two city administrations: Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Oromiya, SNNPR, Afar, Somali, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa respectively. Currently, 206,700 women are organized in SHGs with a total capital of ETB 75.5 million! CoSAP is supporting its members and the grassroots Women Institutions through Coordination, Research, Networking, Capacity Building, Monitoring, Resource Mobilization and Documenting Best Practices.

### National Self Help Group Day Celebration

CoSAP employs various strategies so that the impacts of the SHG approach can be recognized in Ethiopia



by government and non-government stakeholders, the general public and other like-minded organizations. One of the key strategies employed to promote the Self Help Group model in the country is organizing National Self Help Groups Day with the participation of all member organizations. The Second National SHG Day was celebrated colorfully in 2013 in the presence of high level government representatives including the First Lady, W/ro Roman Tesfaye.

## Research Output

The Self-Help Group (SHG) approach has been implemented for more than a decade in Ethiopia. However, there is very few research works conducted in the area. CoSAP in collaboration with Ethiopian Economics Association, conducted a research and published its output in March 2016. The study entitled, "The Contribution of Self Help Groups for Livelihood Improvement of Women Living under Extreme Poverty" explores the contribution of SHGs towards improving the physical, human, social and financial capital of the targeted women as well as resilience and the coping strategies of impoverished women.

The research concluded that SHGs under study developed their members' social capital, made them more assertive, socially active, less marginalized, came to have more access to credit, boosted saving both inside and outside the group, developed skills through involvement in leadership and trainings, developed the income generating

activities, and strengthened their resilience to shock through building their asset base. SHG members are more satisfied with their living conditions and occupations, send their children to schools, feed them well, and take charge in decision making within their households as well as becoming more aware of issues that matter for them.



**When disadvantaged women are brought together as homogenous groups and facilitated to start analyzing their situations and strategize for their future, they become a strong engine of development**

## The Path from Petty Trade to Entrepreneurship: the case of Addis Miraf SHG Member



W/ro Kibinesh Molla from North Wollo, Mersa Town, and member of 'Addis Miraf' Self Help Group (SHG) facilitated and promoted by Women Support Association - one of CoSAP's members, testifies to how her life changed as a result of her membership to her SHG:

"The subsistence petty trade in front of my door has given way to a well-established shop; and a business that employs three workers. My husband has left his carpeting work and is now a full time worker in my shop. Recently I have opened a saving account in commercial bank.

My life has drastically changed in the past six years. Even though I didn't continue my education after the first grade, I serve the group as a Record Keeper. I have built my own house. I used to sleep on barn mattress, now I sleep on a modern bed; I have gotten rid of my wooden table and bought a modern cabinet; I used to put my clothes in a plastic bag, I now own a closet; I can afford to pay for my children's education, I used to be very shy but now I can speak confidently in front of others, ..."

The approach promoted by CoSAP and its members brings women at the forefront as the primary actors in conveying a positive change to themselves, their family and their community at large. When disadvantaged women are brought together

as homogenous groups and facilitated to start analyzing their situations and strategize for their future, they become strong engine of development. Therefore, the SHG approach makes the women realize their hidden potential and unleash it through gradual attitudinal change.

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## Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (ENAPAL)

In Ethiopia, it is estimated that over 30,000 people are living with a permanent leprosy-related disability. Almost 5,000 new cases are diagnosed every year and more than 14 % develop loss of sensation and are exposed to disability due to late treatment. Leprosy often affects the poorest of the poor, and if not diagnosed early, leads to disability, which affects people's ability to support themselves financially. In Ethiopia, people affected by leprosy live in poverty with inadequately met basic needs, exclusion or the inability to assert their rights to these basic services. Leprosy is sometimes not fully understood by communities due to myths, superstitions, ignorance, misunderstanding and stigma surrounding the disease.

They are highly discriminated, neglected, and excluded from basic socioeconomic services and other opportunities in life. There were more than 40 colonies in Ethiopia where only persons affected by leprosy were forced to live. Consequently, more than 95% of them are living in an extreme poverty leading the worst lives (MOLSA, 2009).

Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (ENAPAL) was established in 1996 by thirty six persons affected with leprosy concerned about the devastating effects of leprosy and wished to see a generation free from misconceptions, discrimination and exclusion of persons affected by leprosy. From these small beginnings, ENAPAL grew and developed into an association and re- registered as Ethiopian Residents Societies/Mass based, delivering a range

of multi-year projects with a variety of local and international partners.

ENAPAL in collaboration with its major donors, government partners and the people affected by leprosy has been implementing different projects under the following major programs for the previous 20 years in seven regions (Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR, Tigray, Harari, Dire Dawa & Addis Ababa) of the country:

- Awareness raising on leprosy related issues
- Capacity building of local associations and its members
- Improvement of socio-economic situations of persons affected by leprosy and their families;
- Networking and partnership building; and
- Creating forums for policy dialogues on leprosy areas

**Achievements:** since its establishment ENAPAL has carried out a number of awareness raising activities in the seven regions. Annual commemorating of World Leprosy Day, publishing of magazines, brochures and posters, broadcasting radio and TV programs were the main approaches used to raise public awareness and bring significant changes of stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy. Persons affected by leprosy are becoming active participants in their community leadership and social lives.

With regard to socio-economic component, ENAPAL has carried out various socio-economic interventions

One of the house construction project in Ambo



Before



After

such as Income Generating Activities, vocational and formal educational support, capacity building training for members, housing and WASH throughout the intervention areas that aimed to enhance quality of life of persons affected by leprosy. As a result, successfully integration and socioeconomic rehabilitation of persons affected by leprosy and their family were achieved through combined efforts of ENAPAL, government and NGOs.

Currently, ENAPAL has more than 20,000 fee paying members and 69 local associations in the above stated seven regions. Some of the local associations have become strong enough to mobilize and manage local resources and are able to assist their members to end stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family.



*Wishes to see a generation free from misconceptions, discrimination and exclusion of persons affected by leprosy*

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## Ethiopian National Association of the Blind (ENAB)



**ENAB has set its vision to see a society in which equal opportunity and full participation of blind persons is fully realized**

Ethiopia is believed to have one of the world's highest rates of blindness and low vision. However recent data were lacking to accurately determine the magnitude of sight related problems in the country. Based on the estimated population size of Ethiopia, which is 75 million, overall there are 1.2 million blind people, 2.8 million people with low vision, 9 million children 1-9 year of age with active trachoma, and 1.3 million adults with Trachomatous trichiasis. (Survey Report National Survey on Blindness, Low Vision and Trachoma in Ethiopia. 2006).

Economic, academic, physical and social barriers are identified as the most difficult spots of hurdle that stand between persons' with visual impairment and their full participation. In order to address these challenges, the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind (ENAB) was established in January 2, 1960 by 29 blind persons and one sighted woman who was an associate member. In its first decade, the association was largely engaged in capacity building activities. In the 2nd decade, more than 1000 members were supported to become financially self reliant and productive through organizing them in small scale manufacturing work. In addition, the association took

over the responsibility of administrating two boarding elementary schools for the blind. In addition, it organized an independent educational center which produces and also imports Braille materials so as to distribute all over the country. Since it is not easy to reach members who reside out of Addis Ababa, the association focused on increasing the number of its branch offices in its 3rd decade. Currently the association has 30 branch offices in different regions of Ethiopia. In conjunction with all the above activities, ENAB has been playing a significant role in the areas of right, awareness creation, and advocacy so as to enhance the full participation of its members during the 4th decades and onward. Currently ENAB has set its vision to see a society in which equal opportunity and full participation of blind persons is fully realized.

Among the major objectives of ENAB, ensuring the inclusion of persons with visual impairments in all aspects is the one that stands in the forefront. As a means to realize the real inclusion of persons with visual impairment, ENAB has been getting involved in establishing "Braille Units" alongside public libraries. Public libraries have always been a community's 'portal' to information, knowledge and leisure. Libraries are a community's gateway to information from many sources nationally and internationally. Keeping this fact in mind, ENAB established "Braille Units" in seven public libraries found in three regions (Tiray, Amhara, and SNNPR) and Addis Ababa city administration. The specific locations of these seven public libraries are Mekele, Adigrat, Axum, Bahirdar, Gondar, Sodo and Addis Ababa.



Figure 1 - Addis Ababa city administration culture and tourism bureau library archives and information center is one of the public libraries along which "Braille Unit" is established by ENAB

So far 726 Braille books of various subject matters with a total estimated cost of ETB 236,160 have been donated to the above mentioned public libraries. These include educational (text books), reference (Dictionaries), Periodicals (magazines), fictions and scriptures. The ultimate objective of establishing Braille Units in public libraries is to create a suitable environment for people with visual impairment where they can easily access reading materials in Braille format and enhance their personal development through promoting Braille literacy. The Braille units will also increase their social affiliation with other segments of the society which will have a positive contribution in the process of building an inclusive society in Ethiopia.

According to the information gathered from the Addis Ababa city administration culture and tourism bureau library archives and information center, up to ten blind persons in average visit the "Braille Unit" every day. The demand of Braille books in every

public library is higher than the capacity of ENAB to supply and satisfy their demand. Since Braille books are expensive to prepare and difficult to handle, it requires an immense financial and organizational capacity to establish Braille Unit in each region's public libraries.

Though it is difficult to set criteria of prioritization for deciding place of Braille Unit establishment, ENAB considers the prevalence of blindness as the main priority criteria.

ENAB has two sources from which it gathers Braille Books to donate to public libraries. The primary source is its internal Braille Production Center and the other one is collecting from different external sources in the form of donation.



Figure 2 – ENAB's primary source of Braille books is its internal Braille Production Center

ENAB would continue playing a key role and being a model to other stakes in the promotion and organization of "Braille Unit" in every public library. In order to ensure sustainability, ENAB will keep working together with public libraries to strengthen their capacity and other potential local/international organizations to collect Braille books.

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## Professional Alliance for Development (PADet)

Professional Alliance for Development (PADet) has been implementing integrated community centered development program in Ankober district since 2007. After starting its program in the district, PADet has successfully accomplished different projects and activities that have positively influenced the lives of many.

PADet's program at Ankober is securing fund for child sponsorship program. Community has a major role in identifying its priority needs through PRRP (participatory review and reflection process). Communities and stakeholders agreed on the idea of establishing and supporting preschool as it is an



*After those three years of our interventions, establishing and expanding preschool has become the main agenda and priority area of the government following our good initiative*



essential learning set up for children which provides education at early age. Preschool (kindergarten) is dominantly known in urban settings but before 2009, there was not even one preschool in any of the Ankober rural settings.

Based on the agreed direction and interest of the communities, PADet began preschool program in 2009 with financial support obtained from Action Aid. The project has been implemented in collaboration with district Education, Administration offices and community. While designing the project, PADet reached an agreement with all pertinent stakeholders about who played what role and responsibility in the following areas.

The education office played a major role in adapting the learning curriculum, providing training for preschool teachers and a supervisory role. The administration offices including kebele level officials were involved in mobilization of the community, resource sharing, providing land and others. The communities participated in provision of local materials and labor for center construction. A total of 9 preschools were established in 5 sponsored rural kebeles Derefo, Gorgo, Aliyu Amba, Chefa, Lay gorbella. In addition, 18 preschool teachers were trained and recruited, 6 preschool centers that meet the required standard were constructed and furnished. The project was implemented for three years and has started giving service to children in the age of 5-7. A total of 225 children's were enrolled by 2010 in 9 classes and continued until 2013.

### **Why should the government continue/scale up this initiative?**

- In primary school, the academic result of children enrolled in preschool at earlier age is much better than children who were not enrolled at early

age. We found them to be active, interactive and better communicators with teachers and their surrounding community.

- The mothers of those enrolled children get sufficient amount of time to be engaged in other economic activities rather than taking care of their children.
- Most of the preschools were constructed near to the children's place of living/villages which means they only need to travel a short distance. For this reason, mothers were encouraged to send their children to school in early age.

### **Scale up preschool in the district**

After those three years of our interventions, establishing and expanding preschool has become the main agenda and priority area of the government following our good initiative. The government is aggressively trying to create access and ensure quality of education in the district. Likewise, the district government taking into consideration the context in the area and allocating resources to run these activities has established minimum of one preschool in one primary school cluster in the district.

Based on the given plan and direction from the district government, the district education office has established 33 new preschools furnished with standard materials, recruited 66 new preschool teachers and provided them with capacity building trainings. Currently in 2016, a total of 42 preschool centers are giving service to a total of 4475 children (51.3 % of girls)

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## Operation Rescue - Ethiopia

Operation Rescue Ethiopia (ORE) is an Ethiopian Resident Charity organization currently working in the northern part of Ethiopia - Tigray with a major focus on community-based child care services, orphan outreach services, orphan care and women's vocational development programs. ORE has an operational agreement with concerned government bodies and its main goal is to improve the living conditions of the orphans and vulnerable children by providing an ethos in which provision can be made for the children to develop physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. The project began with a few street children and grew to require rented premises. When the number of children reached 200, the project moved to its present site with land provided by the municipality.

- In 2010 and 2013 the second and third centers were opened in Adigrat and Adwa respectively.
- Currently, in Mekelle over 300 children are being supported along with 60 blind students and 70 single mothers/carers sewing and making jewellery.
- In Adigrat, there are 60 children and 50 single mothers/carers receiving various kinds of vocational training.
- Likewise, in Adwa there are 100 children being cared for under the community based Child Care Program.

ORE has a very strong and smooth working relation and implements projects with government stake holders and other community based organizations.

The discipline of ORE is based on participatory approach that includes identifying beneficiaries, designing strategies that promote sustainability, and facilitating implementation at the grass-roots level.

One of the projects being run by ORE is Accelerated Learning for Africa (ALFA). ALFA is a project supported by Geneva Global International-Ethiopia The project had 4 components. Namely:

**ALFA class:** 10 months of temporary ALFA class for over aged out of school children (9-14), where the aim is to catch up to grade level by condensing a 3 years curriculum in to 1 year in an innovative way

**Self Help Group (SHG) of ALFA student's mothers:** It aims to organize mothers of over aged out of school children by empowering them economically through provision of business skill training and initial injection so that the over aged out of school children will continue education up to higher level

**Primary School Capacity Building:** The very objective of this component is to improve the quality of primary school teachers' teaching methodology through training. Providing IGA injection to primary schools so that the income generated will contribute to reduce students drop out.

**Child to child education:** a program where selected and well performing students who did not lag behind tutor 5 ALFA students each.

**Situation:** Atsbi wemberta and Kilitawlaelo wereda were among the weredas of Tigray regional state characterized by high number of AOOSC in 2014/15 as they had 1000 and 500 AOOSC respectively. These



**Our main goal is to improve the living conditions of the orphans and vulnerable children by providing an ethos in which provision can be made for the children to develop physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually**

children could not be accepted by government primary schools because of their age. The future life of these AOOSC was ignorance and it's evil. The expectation from self, parents and the community were not beyond cattle keeping and daily laborers.

**Response:** It is the above horrific fact that attracted the attention of Operation Rescue-Ethiopia to collaborate with Geneva Global and reverse the situation to the extent possible. ORE Ethiopia Addressed 1200 out of school children by establishing 60 ALFA classes through training and assigning 60 facilitators/teachers. In supporting the ALFA class, 1200 mothers of the out-of school children were organized in to 60 Self Help Group (SHG). Each group was provided with ETB 11305 as an initial capital to start business and empower them economically so that their children could continue education up to higher level. 500 selected and well performing students who did not lag behind also tutor 5 ALFA students each under child to child Education program.

**Results:** As a result of this imperative response,

1200(100%) of the ALFA students completed the condensed 3 years curriculum with in a period of 10 months. The placement exam conducted by the respective Wereda education office indicated that, 1097(91.4%) of the ALFA students were promoted to Grade-4 and the remaining 103 (8.6%) of ALFA students were placed to Grade-3. Currently, all our previous year ALFA students have caught up to their appropriate grade level and are attending their education in the grade level they are placed.

**Currently:** The rewarding performance of 2014/15 has strengthened the commitment of Geneva Global and ORE to change the lives of other out-off school children in Atsbi Wemberta and Hintalo-Wejerat. To this end, ORE-Ethiopia in collaboration with Geneva global is giving the chance of education to 1256 out of school children by covering all their educational expense as the previous year.

The life situation of our target children (previous year and Current) can be represented by the success story of Welde Aregay Berhe Meles, who is ALFA-3 student currently, residing in Hintalo Wejerat.

Since the age of 7 until one year ago, he felt inferior to his age mates when he witnessed them going to school while he looked after cattle.

After getting the chance to join ALFA, W/Aregay feels complete and confident. By next year, he'll be in 4th grade. He not only meets the academic competency needed to be in grade 4 but he's proficient in literacy as well as numeracy.

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## Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization (JeCCDO)

Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization (JeCCDO) is an Ethiopian Resident Charity established in 1985, in response to the needs of children who were left orphaned due to natural and man-made disaster. In the first decade of its history, JeCCDO had been progressively working to address the challenges of Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and other disadvantaged groups through institutional based care and programmatic approaches.

However, as of 2003, JeCCDO has adopted child centered, family focused and community based development approach upholding the idea that children are best grown within the natural family and societal setup. As part of this, JeCCDO has taken up partnership with grass root community structures/ Community Based Organizations (CBO) or locally called Iddir to reach disadvantaged people in need. So far, JeCCDO has partnered with more than 140 CBOs operating in 22 major towns found in Oromia; Amhara; South Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' regions; and Dire Dawa City Administration.

### The Path to Success

JeCCDO strongly believes in the power of partnership with CBOs to bring about sustainable development at the grass root level, and the effectiveness of such partnership is determined by the extent of the capacity of partner CBOs. Cognizant of this, JeCCDO has set up CBOs Capacity Development Unit both at its Head office and the 5 Community Development Program Offices. The units are tasked with unleashing

and enhancing the systemic, institutional, operational capacities of partner CBOs so that they can address the challenges of their respective communities in a sustainable manner.

Accordingly, the working unit has been developing the capacity of partner CBOs in the area of resource mobilization, project management, strategic management, internal working system and procedure, as well as networking. In concrete terms, the CBOs have been supported to: revise their bylaws in a way it implants development functions; mobilize resources from the community and external sources, set up an institutional business in which its income is used to sustainably support disadvantaged people in their localities; develop and led by strategic plans, standard working manuals and procedures. In addition, partner CBOs are networked with each other so that they can share their experiences and have concerted effort with local governments.

### The Key Success

The very success of such partnership is that JeCCDO has managed to transform more than 140 CBOs/ Iddir which had previously been confined to funeral related services to become development actors. This was found to have far reaching effect on the poverty reduction endeavor of the Government of Ethiopia. In the first place, working with the CBOs has ensured not only active community participation, but also community ownership of local development initiatives in the CBOs' operational areas. This is



clearly evident from the fact that more than 8200 orphan and vulnerable children and their families, and 1024 unemployed youth have been supported by partner CBOs in the last three years alone. Of partner CBOs, 65 have already owned institutional businesses; and thus are expected to reach more disadvantaged groups in the years to come.

In addition, these partner CBOs have so far been found to be the most effective and efficient actors to reach the right beneficiaries and ensure sustainability of community development outcomes achieved by JeCCDO in their respective operational areas. In addition, the networking established among them has boosted the synergy between the community

and the local governments.

### Success Stories of Some Partner CBOs

#### **Bekur Iddirina Yebego Adragot Mahber (Debre Birhan)**

Bekur Iddirina Yebego Adragot Mahber is a consortium of 12 village level 'Iddirs' found in Debre Birhan Town. Until 2012, it was confined to funeral related services. However, the then 'iddir' turned to 'development actor' in 2012 and started acting up on various community development issues. Owing to the capacity development support from JeCCDO, Bekur started generating significant amount of money



**JeCCDO has succeeded in creating strong and vibrant CBOs that not only benefit vulnerable groups in need, but also forward Growth and Transformation Plan-II**

from community contribution, other funders and its institutional Income Generating Activities (IGA). In 2014/15, the CBO’s annual budget for community development works reached ETB 400,000, and its total capital now exceeds ETB 1.2 million. With all these income sources, Bekur is currently supporting 116 OVC, 76 guardians, and 10 elderly people. On top of that, Bekur regularly mounts dialogue with pertinent government sector offices and mobilizes the community for local development initiatives. Through this interaction, the CBO is playing key role in influencing local government for the betterment of lives of vulnerable groups. All told makes Bekur, one of the most successful and influential local development actors in the Town.

**Eniredada Yeiddiroch Mahiber (Adama)**

Eniredada Yeiddiroch Mahiber was established by a group of ‘iddirs’ in 2003 with the aim of interweaving the efforts of iddirs found in Adama City towards local development. Eniredada has strong belief that local problems ought to be addressed locally. To sustainably serve this purpose, the CBO works to widen its resource base. Hence, it currently owns a

recreation center, a public transport bus, stationery, early childhood center, and butchery. As a result of these, Eniredada is now supporting 350 OVC, 80 guardians and 109 elderly people in partnership with governmental, non-governmental, religious, and business organizations. In addition, it is serving more than 120 children in its early childhood education center. Eniredada started from scratch, and has now become the first to reach out for needy people in the locality.

In general, over the past decade, JeCCDO has succeeded in creating strong and vibrant CBOs that not only benefit vulnerable groups in need, but also forward the Growth and Transformation Plan-II of the Country. Inspired by its successes, JeCCDO will continue to revitalize the role of CBOs in development and remain committed to stretch out to draw more CBOs to the development front.

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**Abraham’s Oasis**

Abraham’s Oasis is a registered Ethiopian Resident Charity (ChSA 0905); has sought to implement the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia’s Ministry of Women’s Affairs Alternative Childcare Guidelines (2009) that are based on the General Assembly of the United Nations Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children [64/142], (2009).

This outline highlights best practices for family tracing and reunification of children living at Grace Village, a project of Abraham’s Oasis and referred to in the Guidelines as institutional child care that we have found to be successful.

**Description of Family Tracing and Reunification**

“To reunify children separated from their parents/ relatives due to natural or manmade catastrophe



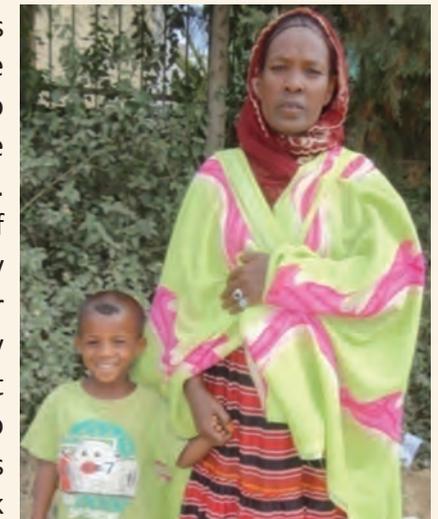
to their birth families or relatives is the recognized practice as a primary alternative against residential care and other out-of-home child welfare services.” (Alternative Guidelines, 2009, page 21)

**Activities**

In line with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs Guidelines Abraham’s Oasis agree that ‘Family is Best’. Three years ago we started actively doing family tracing, starting with the person that brought the child to Social Affairs Office

or the Woredas Administrative Offices closest to the place where the child was found. In the event of orphans the family tracing was easier because generally it was family that brought them to Social Affairs Offices who would then ask Abraham’s Oasis

to take them. Health Centers and hospitals would telephone and tell of mentally challenged mothers unable to care for the child; we then requested them to contact Social Affairs Offices for correct protocol for admission to Grace Village. Abraham’s Oasis was the first port of call for lone, abandoned, orphaned,





To reunify children separated from their parents/relatives due to natural or manmade catastrophe to their birth families or relatives is the recognized practice



neglected or abused children. We received them on the assumption that there was 'no one else to care for them'. Sadly this was not always the case, there was extended family that with some financial and moral support would and is willing to care for a grandchild, a nephew or niece even a step child, often they knew nothing.

Social Affairs Offices over stretched and under financed was unable to do the required follow-up therefore Abraham's Oasis did this work retroactively going back in some case many years and with success that surprised us!

Monthly stipends are paid to the family, quarterly visits by social workers are made to each unit to ensure the child attends school, is safe and healthy and emergency telephone contact with our team of social workers is also available.

Tripartite agreements are signed between family, Social Affairs Office and Abraham's Oasis. Where the potential for income generation is perceived by our team this is strengthen towards more sustainable independence of the host family for the long term care of the child.

Total number of family identified and willing to

receive their relatives is 46: 21 boys and 25 girls.

In summary Abraham's Oasis has found that families are willing to take in kinfolk, however with support and a little help from organizations such as ours and eventually government budget plans encouraging supportive family reunification within the Social Services of Ethiopia.

Abraham's Oasis is now developing a more proactive approach working closely with Social Affairs Offices and the Kebele Community Care Coalitions encouraging them to rapidly assess the lone child and investigate extended family and encourage immediate reunification to reduce the number of highly vulnerable children requiring residential welfare care.

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