



Building Better Lives for Children

Quarterly Newsletter
Volume 1. No. 2
July, 2014

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Head of State promises support



The President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Dr. Mulatu Teshome, has expressed interest to visit World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) projects and pledged to support WVE whenever the need arises. H.E. Dr. Mulatu Teshome said this while hosting the WVE National Director, Deputy National Director and Government Relations Manager at the National Palace on May 21, 2014. At the meeting, the President was briefed about the strategy, main focus areas and future direction of WVE. He said that the meeting helped him to learn more about WVE, and he appreciated the organization for devoting itself to improving the lives of Ethiopian people in various development aspects particularly, in economic empowerment and value chain efforts. The president cited agriculture and climate change as additional areas of collaboration between WVE and the government of Ethiopia to complement the National Growth and Transformation Plan.



From Left: Worknesh Mekonnen, Deputy National Director World Vision Ethiopia, H.E. Dr. Mulatu Teshome, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Margaret Schuler, National Director World Vision Ethiopia, Noah Degu Government Relations Manager

World day against child labor celebration

WVE E-FACE project, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and other partner organizations, celebrated World Day against Child Labor under the theme “Extend social protection, combat child labor” on June 12 in Addis Ababa, Shiromeda area. The walk was led by the Federal Police band and a local musical band also mobilized people for the mass walk on the event.

In his opening speech, H.E. Mr. Remedan Ashenafi, State Minister of Ministry of Labor and Social affairs, underlined the need to combat child labor in a strengthened and collaborative manner.

Different messages related to child labor were amplified by the musical band and student participants during the mass walk. The mass walk was closed by a remark made by Mr. Samuel Sugamo, E-FACE project Director, wherein he stressed the need for collaboration of pertinent stakeholders to end the problem of child labor in the nation. Around 500 people (100 children) participated in the event.

Youth advocacy delegates in World Vision Cup



Utilizing the spotlight that is created by 2014 World Cup, World Vision Brazil initiated an advocacy event entitled ‘World Vision Cup’, to facilitate exchange of ideas and policy recommendations on various issues that are relevant to the youth and to conceive and design fruitful and enduring projects and initiatives.

Consequently, from East Africa, WVE was invited to join the cup. Accordingly, five potential child advocates (2 girls) from Addis Ababa Urban ADPs were selected from among different youth. After getting training on advocacy skills, the advocates involved in different local awareness raising and advocacy activities and traveled to Recife, Brazil to be voices of voiceless children in Ethiopia and East Africa as a whole.

The ‘World Vision Cup’, which run from May 10 – 17, 2014, brought together 160 youth and their coordinators representing 11 countries where WV is operational.

During their stay in Brazil, WVE's delegates participated in various activities including presentations covering the challenges and barriers for the full development of children and youth, discussion sessions and cultural exchange events.

One of advocate, Melat Wodajo, 18, said, “Ethiopia's child death rate has been reduced by half achieving MDGs target, but we still have to work hard to bring it down to zero. As WV most often says ‘mobilizing the youth is mobilizing the society,’ I want to take advantage of my ‘youth-hood’

to convey this message to you that no mother whatsoever; no child should die because of preventable causes.” While expressing the opportunity the event created for her, Melat added, “Watching so many people who travelled a long way with a strong desire to accomplish a specific common goal really made me see the strength of the issue and enhanced my sense of responsibility even more.”

Finally, the ‘World Vision Cup’ participating youth together wrote the Recife letter compiling the outcomes of the group discussions on the themes of malnutrition, maternal and youth mortality, child labor, sexual abuse and exploitation and lack of economic opportunities for development.

Regional government recognizes WVE Programs

World Vision Ethiopia in North Tigray Region was rewarded as one of the best performing NGOs on June 20, 2014. The Eastern Zone recognized the two ADPs namely Wukro and S.T.Emba ADPs along with other Government Offices and NGOs operating in the region. The Eastern Zone Administration recognized the ADPs for their respective development activities, their contribution to the two districts' development and the impact they have made respectively.

Present at the ceremony were more than 800 people including H.E Mr. Abay Woldu, the Tigray Region Administrator; Mr. Kiros Bitew, Deputy Regional Administrator and Head for Agricultural Bureau, District, Zonal and Regional Administration and government sector offices and Bureaus staff; non-governmental offices working in the Eastern Zone, community leaders, as well as community representatives.

Championing voices of children

During this year's, Global Week of Action (GWA) May 1 – 8, 2014, WVE's Child Health Now (CHN) campaign mobilized various stakeholders- school children, health professionals, churches, faith based organizations and community members across the country- to join hands in the efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality in Ethiopia and across the globe. To this end, engagement activities in schools, health institutions, churches, ADPs, and the Great Run organized in Hawassa were used

as mobilization foras. Messages of the campaign were also conveyed through different means such as drama, songs, poetry and promotional material on child and maternal health.

As a result about 10,000 hands were raised in Ethiopia in commitment to promote child survival efforts along with 3 million people globally calling upon leaders and policy makers to take action on untimely deaths of mothers and children.

Since 2009, World Vision has been engaged in mobilizing leaders and communities through a Week of Action on child health issues globally. The campaign aimed to mobilize citizens and inspire widespread public action for world leaders to deliver on their existing policy commitments so that all children survive the age of five. The mobilization also sought to ensure that the world achieves the Millennium Development Goals and ensures maternal and child health and nutrition in the post-2015 development framework.



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Empowering children through mainstreaming disaster risk reduction education

In collaboration with the Addis Ababa City Administration Education Bureau, World Vision Ethiopia is implementing a child focused Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project at Lideta ADP, in Addis Ababa. The project is focusing on integration of DRR into the school subjects for 1 – 4 grades to empower school children. It was designed with the thinking that if children are taught about man-made and natural hazard risks, they will play an important role in saving lives and protecting themselves and other members of the community in times of crisis.

The project implementation program includes, various activities such as dissemination of information and creating awareness on DRR issues for schools, orientation of curriculum experts, teachers, supervisors, school directors and students to sustain the application of DRR in schools as well as development of resource materials for students and teachers that guide them to do a series of planned activities

It is known that in the previous phase of the project, in 2012, a great success was achieved in mainstreaming DRR education into primary school curriculum, for 5-8 graders, in five subjects-namely environmental science, social studies, integrated science, languages (English and Amharic), and civics and ethical education. Major hazards like drought, flood, windstorms, fire, highway accidents, HIV&AIDS, earthquake, etc. were covered in the books.



US Ambassador visits WVE's project in Dire Dawa

A high-powered delegation from the US Embassy and USAID Mission to Ethiopia led by Ambassador Patricia Haslach visited WVE's USAID/E Preventive care package program (PCP) at Dire Dawa, Sabiyan Health Center, recently. The visit was to assess how Faith Based Organizations are engaged with different stakeholders in project implementation.

The visitors were briefed about WVE's vast work all over the country and about PCP's works in particular. They were informed about the various support that the health facility is getting to provide PCP services, including provision of health kits, capacity building, and supportive supervision and mentoring. The visitors had also the chance to stopover at the Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) service site where an ART nurse explained each PCP Kit item; the counseling method; and the linkage between different networks and community volunteers. This was followed by a case managers' briefing on how they do counseling for clients and sharing their own experience as being HIV positive. Besides, the visiting group met with a client benefiting from the PCP program who explained the positive health status she is experiencing through using PCP kit items.



US Ambassador, second from the left, visits WVE's project in Dire Dawa

PCP program is a five-year national program funded by USAID/E aiming to mitigate the impact of HIV & AIDS in Ethiopia and improve the quality of lives of People Living with HIV & AIDS (PLWHA), their families, and the community through sustainable, comprehensive, and coordinated evidence-based interventions. It is built upon the HIV & AIDS service established by the Federal Ministry of Health, USAID, other funding partners, and the people of Ethiopia to address the persistent problem of HIV & AIDS.

Currently in its third year of implementation, WVE along with other partners is implementing PCP in four Regions in the country and two City

Administrations reaching more than 94 percent of PLWHA in the country. The target health facilities increased from 197 at the start of the program to 260 during the second year of implementation.

Thus far, 421,294 PCP kits were distributed to Health facilities; 150,250 PLWHIV have been reached through home to home kit utilization monitoring and general IEC/BCC messaging by volunteers; 503 community volunteers, 833 case managers and adherence supporters. Moreover, 1,693 health workers were trained; and 265 health facilities and 70 PLWHIV associations were supported with logistics, financial and supportive supervision through the PCP program.



Helping Children Survive Crises

Joining hands with other partners, WVE has stepped up its efforts in responding to the high refugee influx from South Sudan into western parts of Ethiopia, particularly Gambella Region. By June 27, 2014 over 158,164 refugees had arrived in Ethiopia since the outbreak of the conflict in South Sudan last December. According to UN statistics 70% of the refugees are women and children. What's more, the number is still rising given the continued fighting between government and rebel forces.

WVE has developed a one-year response plan requiring 18 million USD to implement WASH, Education in Emergencies and Child Protection interventions. A startup budget of 250,000 USD is allocated from the WVE National Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund. In addition, office space was rented, key staff members were hired, geo-hydrological survey was conducted and sites were identified. When the National Director visited the settlement camps, she held important discussions with pertinent stakeholders, concerning the refugee situation and together they agreed on the way forward.



Deep well drilling by WVE at Kule 2 refugee camp site

Currently, deep well drilling is underway by WVE in an attempt to ensure permanent water supply at Kule 2 refugee camp site where over 33,000 people are being sheltered. In addition, USD 550,000 is secured from UNOCHA for WASH project. Meanwhile, USD 800,000 fund from WV Japan is in the pipeline to implement Education in Emergencies program.

Moving forward, effort will be made to secure more funds for future sanitation and hygiene as well as livelihood activities.

There are a number of unaccompanied minors among the refugees. Some have to look after their siblings day in and day out.



Colorful celebration of the 24th Day of African Child

On June 16, World Vision in collaboration with Wolayita Zone Women, Children and Youth Bureau, celebrated the 24th Day of the African Child in Soddo town with a theme of 'A child friendly, quality, free and compulsory education for all children in Africa'.

Opening the celebration, Mr. Eyob Bate, Wolayita Zone Chief Administrator said "Despite the government and nongovernmental organizations' relentless effort to bring children to school, the number of children joining street children is escalating at an alarming speed in Wolayita Zone and its districts." He added "We should unite more resolutely than ever before to tackle the root causes that compel children to opt for street life."

Accompanied by a the music band of the Zone, the celebration brought together more than 2,000 school children, zonal higher officials, 15 districts' heads and other segments of the community. The participants of the event had about 3-Km mass walk along major public areas of Soddo town chanting slogans like Free education for all children, stop child labor, Send children to school, children are the hope of the country.

At the closing of the mass walk, the Wolayita Zone Women, Children and Youth Business Process Head presented a brief assessment result conducted on street children's life in Wolayita Zone and districts. According to the official, more than 900 children are leading a street life, adding that the cause for children to live on the street is mainly attitudinal problem rather than poverty. He appealed to higher government officials and NGOs to gear their

strategic plan on changing attitudes of the children who are already on the street or in the course to do so.

Mr. Samuel Sogamo, WVE's Ethiopians Fighting Against Exploitative Child Labor (E-FACE) Project Director, on his part, said that World Vision has been doing its level best to improve the well-being of children through promoting educational opportunities for children, improving livelihood of families, strengthening social protection for children, and improving institutional capacity. He said that so far, World Vision has been able to address the economic, educational and social needs of more than 20,000 children in nine districts of Gamo Gofa Zone and five districts of Gullele Sub-city in Addis Ababa City Administration. He further added that World Vision will continue to work on improving the well-being of children.

A panel discussion on the causes and solutions for street children's life was also held at Gutar Hall in Soddo town. The event pulled together zonal higher officials, districts heads, religious leaders and WVE's representatives. On the occasion, poems and songs that manifest the adverse effect of child labor and street life were presented by children. Eventually, each participant of the panel discussion expressed their commitment to do their best in their locality to stop children from joining street life.



Partial view of participants

WVE distributes 315,700 children reading books

WVE distributed 315,700 Afan Oromo Reading Books worth 8 million birr through its 24 Area Development Programs' (ADPs) Literacy Boost program in Oromiya Regional State in the months of May and June 2014. The distributions were made in the presence of government officials, community members, youth volunteers, children, Program Operation Office Managers and representatives of WVE Senior Leadership Team.

On one distribution event that took place in Abaya ADP, WVE's Oromiya Region Associate Director, Mr. Ashenafi Woldegiorgis said "Literacy Boost has been

introduced with the aim of improving the reading skills of rural children in a short period of time". Mr. Mastewal Worku, Literacy Boost Coordinator on his part said "Seven months back 60 out of 100 students couldn't properly read but now, we managed to bring it down to 38 out of 100 students".

Literacy boost was introduced in two districts of Oromia Regional State as pilot project in 2012. In due course, WVE managed to establish 772 reading camps, mobilized 3,088 youth volunteers for 120,000 children and 20,000 parents. This best practice will be scaled up in Amhara, SNNP and Tigray Regions in the coming years.



Oda Edema, 49 years old was born and raised in Abaya District. He is one of the Literacy Boost champions who gave his extra house for reading camp

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