

Building Better Lives for Children

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Reaching educational needs of children in conflict-affected areas

Addressing the education need of children who live in fragile contexts requires integration of conflict into education policy and program. With this in mind, the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) selected WVE, given its interest and capacity to test the conflict sensitive education materials. Consequently, World Vision organized and facilitated a training to test conflict sensitive education materials within emergency setups. The meeting took place from February 24-25, 2014 at Nexus Hotel, Addis Ababa. Participants of the training were from WVE, Ministry of Education and World Learning. Going forward, the participants will roll out the materials and train other people in their respective intervention areas.



WV's Energy Efficient Cook Stoves Program has been registered under United Nations Framework

World Vision's Energy Efficient Cook Stoves Program has registered under the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) successfully fulfilling the UNFCCC criterion.

Accordingly, a contract with Standard Bank of Africa and the Swedish Energy Agency for the purchase of 600,000 Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) from the program was signed in December 2013. The program is the first of its kind for registering cook stoves within Ethiopian

boundaries. Currently, the program is implemented in 12 districts.

The Coordinating and Managing Entity of the program is the Standard Bank of Africa, and it is the second carbon project registered for WVE after the highly successful Humbo Afforestation/Reforestation project. This demonstrates World Vision's ability to pioneer programming that connects local development partners with the international carbon market, which has had a significant benefit for communities

through carbon incentives. The programs are also practically contributing towards realization of Ethiopia's Green Growth Path.

The registration of this Program of Activities (POA) creates an opportunity for all interested stakeholders in the country to implement different Clean Development Mechanism POAs under this umbrella at any time during the operating lifetime (up to 28 years). This will highly reduce transaction costs required to register a program by the private sector or NGO, and also the requirements in the carbon market.

Beyond generating carbon revenue and reducing the pressure on biomass, efficient cook stoves benefit the community by reducing the labor and time that communities wasted in the past collecting fuel wood; improves their indoor air quality and eases the adverse health impacts of exposure to smoke; and allows children to be focused on education rather than firewood collection. Currently, World Vision has begun scaling up this project to an additional six Area Development Programs (ADPs).



WVE inaugurates technical and vocational training center worth \$1.1m (22 m ETB)

As part of its effort to empower youth through provision of skills development and vocational trainings, WVE inaugurated a four-story Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Center at Gullele Sub-city on February 25, 2014. The overall construction cost was financed by citizens of Chungbuk Province of South Korea through WV Korea. The building cost more than \$1.1m (22m ETB) and consists of different classrooms, workshops, libraries, a meeting hall, ICT center, administrative offices and a store. The center has also been equipped with all the necessary machineries, hand tools, computers and furniture.

Calling WVE a long time developmental partner, the Addis Ababa City Administration Mayor's representative, Mr. Wondemagegn Tessema said on the occasion that the current education gap of the nation could not be addressed with the government's endeavor alone but with the support of partners such as WVE. He further emphasized that the building



constructed and equipped by WV will play a great role in creating competent and self-reliant citizens. Meanwhile, WVE National Director, Mrs. Margaret Schuler, assured WVE's continued commitment to partner with the government to achieve the goals of the Growth and Transformation Plan, particularly as it relates to improvement of child well-being. Likewise, Mr. Chcong Ju, Dang-Yang Daily News CEO and representative of Chungbuk province, promised continuous support and commitment of the citizens of Chungbuk province to the development efforts of Ethiopia.

The training center construction project was implemented in two phases. The 1st phase, (2009-2012), included the construction of a one-story building consisting of three classrooms, five workshops and two office rooms. The 2nd phase (2012-2014), focused on construction of a four-story building with two workshops, nine classrooms, a library, a meeting hall, a store and five office rooms.

During the course of the event, the donor committed to construct and equip an additional one-story building worth \$350,000 (6.8 m ETB) for an automotive workshop center, for which, a cornerstone was laid on the same day.

Spring of Life at Mount 'Yekashe' for 25,000 people

Since 2011, World Vision Ethiopia has been working on a gravity fed water supply project to provide adequate and safe water to more than 25,000 people in SNNPR at Muhurena Aklil District. The source of water, 'Yekashe' spring has the potential discharge to supply more than 40,000 people including multiple uses. This 'Spring of Life' was flowing for centuries while the people living in the area including the district capital Hawariat (Apostle) residents suffer to get safe water. They were subjected to waterborne diseases and had to walk for hours over difficult terrain to fetch water. This drudgery primarily fell to women and children, which contributed for gender inequality and school dropout in the area. To date, 80% of the work has been completed, with 186 water taps providing access to safe water for about 20,500 people.



Project to enhance food and water security begun, aimed at improving children's lives

WVE and the World Agro Forestry Center (ICRAF) launched the “Enhancing Food and Water Security for Improved Rural Commercialization Project,” on January 15, 2014 at Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa. The project aims to transit rural households from subsistence farming and emergency aid to sustainable rural development by increasing food and water security, better access to markets and strengthening the local economy for different categories of farmers. The five year project is worth \$15 m (291m ETB) and is funded by the Government of the Netherlands, via the General Directorate of International Cooperation.

Representing the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Sileshi Getahun, expressed hope during the launch that the project will help farmers ensure food and water security and better access to markets through scaling up and innovation. On the occasion, emphasizing that the project targets the most vulnerable communities, Mrs. Margaret Schuler, National Director of WVE said, “We are thrilled with this project because World Vision’s programs are

designed to improve the wellbeing of children and the DGIS project will strengthen household and community resilience and ultimately improve the lives of Ethiopia’s children.” While Prof Dennis Garrity, Drylands Ambassador, ICRAF affirmed that the program uses a fresh and innovative approach to building the resilience of the poorest households.

The project is part of a five African countries regional program for the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. In Ethiopia, it is to be implemented in Tigray and the Rift Valley dryland areas in partnership with NGOs, Community Based Organizations and respective government agencies. During the occasion, it was indicated that the project will be inclusive and work with all social groups in a village, from the poorest and most food-insecure to the more prosperous and commercially-oriented. Further, the program design will take into account the diversity that exists with regard to access, use and control over resources, between households, and within the same household.

The official launching event was followed by a planning workshop to develop a national plan towards facilitating for the project roll out.



Charities and Societies Agency pays compliment on WVE's effective performance

Delegates of the Charities and Societies Agency (CSA) appreciated WVE's program achievements during their visit to five WVE Area Development Programs (ADPs) – Wonchi, Guraghe, Sodo, Humbo, and Gullele - in March, 2014. The visit was aimed at introducing the major intervention areas of WVE; promoting operational transparency and accountability; creating a meaningful cooperation and partnership with the Agency; discuss operational concerns at

ADP level and experience sharing and learning. The visit consisted of the NGOs Monitoring and Follow up Directorate Director and Team Leader, Property Administration and the Transfer and Dispose Directorate Director of the Agency.

During the mentioned period, visits were made to three of WVE's deep well drilling water projects in Guraghe and Wonchi; two schools and two Health centers constructed and

supported by WVE in Sodo and Guraghe respectively; award winning WV Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) project in Humbo and the recently inaugurated Technical and Vocational Education and Training Center in Gullele, Addis Ababa. The delegates indicated that the visit has enabled them to have a better understanding about WV interventions and acknowledged that it has provided them with the opportunity to interact with the community at the grass root level.

WVE's "For Every Child Campaign" gets recognition for being in top three

Out of nine regions and two city administrations, three WVE target districts where the "For Every Child" campaign is operating, were recognized for being in the top three in their respective regions for their best performance in sanitation and personal hygiene.

The three recognized districts are Wonchi, Hulla and Gewata from Oromiya and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regions. The recognition was made during a "Hygiene and Environmental Health Festival," held from November 19 – 22, 2013 in Adama city. The Festival, which was coordinated by the WaSH Ethiopia Movement, also offered the respective health offices of the

mentioned recognized Woredas with cups and certificates. During the festival, in addition to presentations on the regions' achievements in the past year, films depicting success stories, different songs and dramas about WaSH, research and case studies were presented. Further, among



successful hygiene and sanitation projects of WVE carried out in Boset Woreda, two open defecation free villages were visited by the event participants as best practice experience sharing.

Since 2010, WVE has been implementing the largest water project in Africa, "For Every Child Campaign," to change the lives of six million children and their families by 2016 by providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene; build or rehabilitate more than 11,000 wells and water points; help communities build more than 400,000 sanitation facilities; and train more than 35,000 communities in proper hygiene practices.

Backing the Education Sector, Provision of books to Universities

As part of its Education Strategy, aiming to assure that all children experience learning gains World Vision's direction on education focuses at the elementary, secondary and tertiary levels. Accordingly, more than 41,000 reference books on various subjects were donated to the Federal Ministry of Education in the last quarter of 2013 as part of its effort in improving the quality of higher education.

Worth \$258,000 (5 m ETB), the books are meant to be distributed to 10 new universities in the nation. During an official handing over ceremony, Mr. Takele Woldekidan, Head of the 10 Universities Construction Project Secretariat with the Ministry, said "The donation will address our top urgent priority of boosting quality education and will surely alleviate the shortage of reference books in universities." WVE National Director, Mrs. Margaret Schuler, on her part, indicated that World Vision would further continue its support in expediting the government's effort to access education for all.



Improving the reading skills of children

WorldVision Ethiopia in partnership with Save the Children, has been piloting Literacy Boost program at 15 schools in Wonchi and Hidhabu Abote Woredas in the Oromiya Regional State since 2012 aimed at increasing the percentages of children who are able to read at functional levels by the end of fourth grade.

The program focuses on school/ classroom and community based reading intervention composed of three components – reading assessment, teachers training and community action. It trained about 200 teachers, school principal's supervisors from 15 primary schools on five core reading skills such as letter knowledge, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, reading fluency and reading comprehensions. Three hundred twenty two volunteer reading camp leaders and community facilitators were selected from the community youths and trained on home-based literacy activities to help facilitate reading camp activities and mobilize parents.

The trained teachers were able to create print - rich classrooms, use active teaching methodologies and change the seating arrangements differently. So far, 89 reading camps established across 89 villages. Each reading camp has its own book banks where children can borrow reading books. A total of 17,550 books distributed to schools and reading camps to



Dawit reading story book for his friends at Chitu reading camps

support children reading in and out of schools.

Chitu, some 123km southwest of the capital, Addis Ababa is the location of one of the reading camps. Close to 40 children are attending at this camp. The walls of the camp are filled with eye catching print materials. Some of the letters are associated with familiar animals' names, some with cultural things, and some others with local materials.

The friendly reading materials, informal interactions along with sound teaching methodology have incredibly improved children's reading skill.

"The way we learn at this reading camp has entirely changed our core reading skill performance. We

learn everything as fun through games, story times, songs and activities. Once we learn this way, we will not forget. I have now reached from the level of not identifying a single letter to reading a text. I used to answer exams just by guessing, but now I can read and respond accordingly," Dawit happily explains the benefit he gained from WVE's Literacy Book program.

The reading camp demand is very high following its successful achievements. WV is now planning to scale up the literacy boost projects in 25 ADPs in Oromia, 3 ADPs in Amhara, 4 ADPs in Tigray regions and Dollo Ado refugee response program through sponsorship education program.



Researches to improve the national knowledge base on child labor, trafficking

WVE, through its Ethiopians Fighting against Exploitative Child Labor (E-FACE) Project, facilitated and funded three researches with the intention of increasing national knowledge base on child labor and trafficking. The researches: “Work Place Hazard Assessment and How to Regulate Standards in the Informal Sector;” “Push-pull Factors in Child Trafficking;” and “Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Survey on Child Vulnerabilities, including Child Labor,” were carried out in collaboration with Gondar and Addis Ababa Universities and Population Media Center, respectively at project target areas.

Major findings

“Push-pull Factors in Child Trafficking” indicated that the major push factors which force children to engage in child labor and trafficking were poverty; loss of parents, parental conflict, maltreatment of children at home. While the major pull factors were a desire for modern life, role model/peer pressure, and aspiration for better education, need for economic independence, and exaggerated information about the destination places from traffickers and who had previously migrated. Further, the need for cheap labor from children is identified to be the foremost full factor for child trafficking. The study was conducted in four districts and one town Administration of Gamo Gofa Zone; three districts and one town Administration of Wolaita Zone and five districts of Gullele sub-city. A total of 532 respondents participated in the study.



“Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Survey on Child Vulnerabilities, including Child Labor” identified that one of the major contributing factors to the limited child protection mechanisms and increased child vulnerabilities in Ethiopia is the low level of awareness of parents, children themselves and institutions on the subject. Other factors are related to poverty, limited access to education for children, limited institutional capacity to enforce laws and growing demand for cheap labor. The study was conducted in five districts of Gamo Gofa Zone, four districts of Wolaita Zone, and five districts of Gullele Sub-city.



“Work Place Hazard Assessment and How to Regulate Standards in the Informal Sector” implies many of the children in weaving, farming and fishing sectors were working in hazardous working conditions for the sake of earning money. These hazards are physical/ergonomic (cuts, injury and deformity), psychological and mental. The study covered three districts of Addis Ababa city, Gullele Sub-city; two districts and one town Administration of Wolayta Zone; and four districts and one town Administration from Gamo Gofa Zone. Overall, 2536 respondents were involved in the study.



Dissemination of all researches have been underway since end of 2013, through workshop and publications to project partners including the United States Department of Labor, World Vision US, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and other government stakeholders.

National director expresses organizational interest to partner for child well-being

“WVE works with different stakeholders, partners, religious leaders and communities, for the betterment and well-being of children” said Mrs. Margaret Schuler, National Director of WVE at the Partnership Forum which took place in Gondar town, on February 4, 2014. The North Gondar Zone Department of Finance and Economy Development organized the forum which was aimed at strengthening the partnership and working relationship among the key partners and WVE towards achieving child well-being.

During the forum, Mrs. Schuler presented an overview on WVE, while Mr. Assefa Eshete, WVE's Amhara Regional Office Associate Director, presented WVE's operation in Amhara Region in particular. Following the presentation, there was group discussion on the good practices, challenges as well as expectations from partners. Major multilateral agreements have been reached, among others, is to strengthen existing partnership and build new ones to avoid duplication of efforts and waste of resources, share good lessons and practices,

and conduct periodic review meeting and discussions.

At the end of the forum, the Bishop of the North Gondar Zone Orthodox Church expressed his interest to partner with WVE in projects like supporting People Living with HIV and AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children and women.

In all, 60 people drawn from North and South Gondar Zonal Administrations and Sector Departments, Ethiopian Orthodox Church leaders and WVE took part in the event.



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