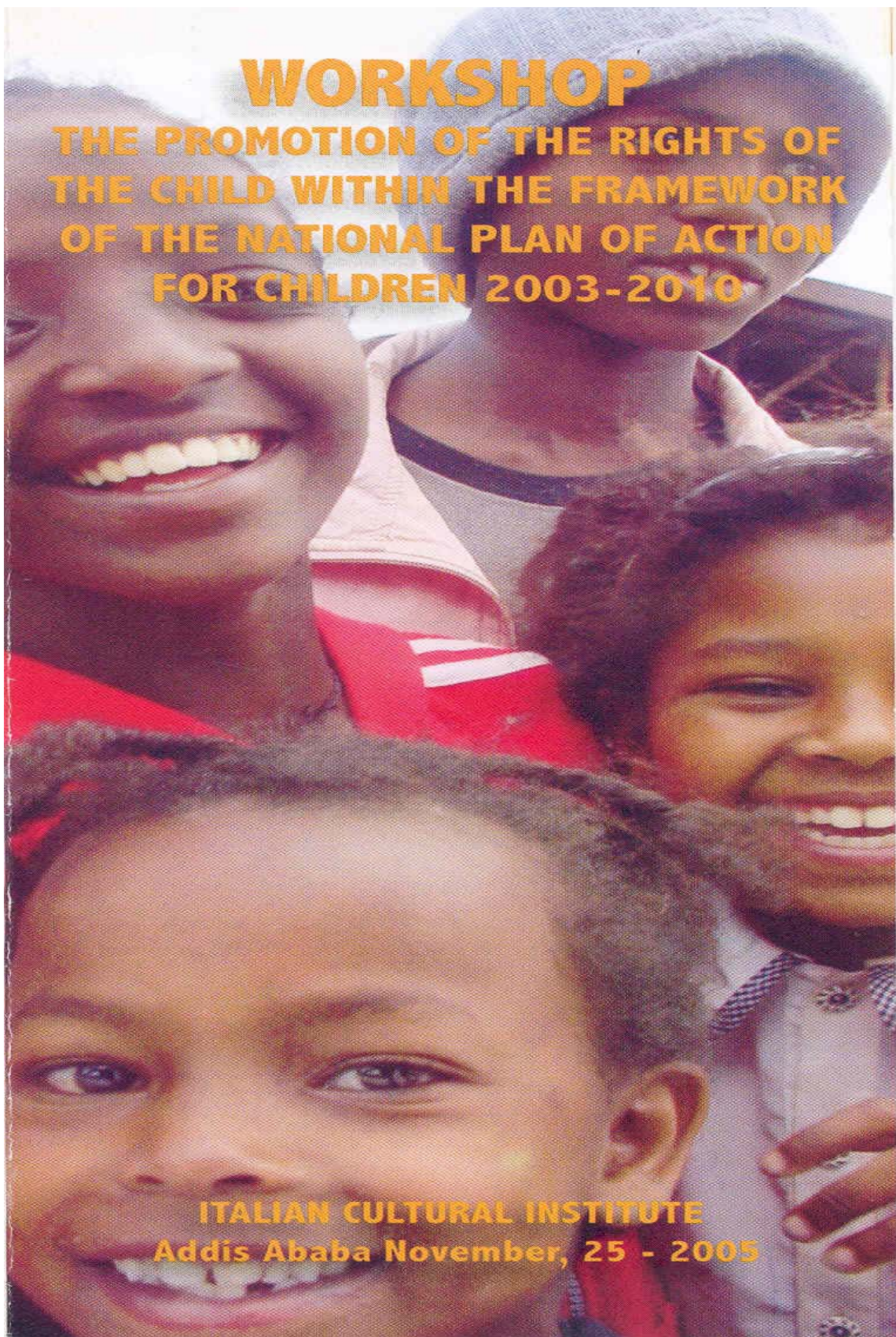


PROCEEDING OF THE



In the framework of



PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN AND
ADOLESCENTS IN VULNERABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

PROCEEDING OF THE WORKSHOP

**THE PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE
NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN 2003-2010**

Addis Ababa November, 25 - 2005

Organized within the framework of the

**Program in support of children and adolescents living in vulnerable
circumstances in Addis Ababa and Oromia Region**

By

ITALIA COOPERATION

COOPI (Cooperazione Internazionale)

CISP (Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Polpoli)

Addis Ababa, December 2005

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FORWARD

Since two years, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs-DGCS organizes the event **Giornate per la Cooperazione Italiana**, which develop different initiative in many countries, focusing on the contribution of Italian Cooperation forward the development.

Within the 2005 edition of the event, the current Italian Cooperation ***Program in support of children and adolescents living in vulnerable circumstances in Addis Ababa and Oromia***, has organized this Workshop.

The Workshop *The Promotion of the Rights of the Child within the framework of the new National Plan of Action for Children 2003-2010*, aimed to gather people working in the field of Child Rights Protection to joint their expertise in supporting the Rights of the Child in Ethiopia and represent itself an activity of the Italian Cooperation current program.

The Program, financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs-DGCS, is implemented by the Italian Cooperation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, at federal level, and by the two Italian NGOs: COOPI (Cooperazione Internazionale) and CISP (Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli), in collaboration with the Bureaux of Labour and Social Affairs, at regional level.

Workshop
*The Promotion of the Rights of the Child within the framework of the new
National Plan of Action for Children 2003-2010*

MORNING SESSION

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

Andrea Senatori

Head of Italian Development Cooperation in Ethiopia

*Your excellencies,
Distinguished guests,*

Good Morning,

I am very pleased to see all of you here to attend this very important workshop on children rights.

Thank you for coming.

My name is Andrea Senatori and I am the Director of the Italian Development Cooperation, office of the Italian Embassy in Addis Ababa. I am honored to introduce the workshop and chair the morning session of the event.

As you may already know, this workshop is designed to gather people working in the child's rights protection field and provide a forum in which a fruitful discussion about the promotion of children rights can happen.

As you see from the program, the workshop is divided in two sessions. The first session is a series of speeches by guest of honors representing various institutions and organizations committed to the promotion of children rights. Let me acknowledge the presence of His Excellency Girma W/Giorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, who has honored this gathering with his presence and kindly accepted to give the opening remarks for the workshop.

The second session, which is after lunch, mostly consists of a round table discussion on the promotion of children's rights within the Ethiopian National Plan of Action. It will involve the participants of various representatives from the government, donors, and civil society active in the sector.

So, without much delay, I now would like to introduce to you the new Italian Ambassador, his Excellency Raffaele de Lutio, who will give the welcoming remarks for the workshop, and to pass the floor to his Excellency Girma Wolde Giorgis, the President of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia.

WELCOMING REMARKS

Raffaele de Lutio

H.E. the Ambassador of Italy

H.E. Girma Wolde Georgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

H.E. Luigi Giacco, Member of the Italian Parliamentary Commission on Children

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

It gives me great pleasure to make some introductory remarks at this very important event that focuses on the promotion of children's rights.

Every day, in every region of the world, children are subjected to a long list of human rights abuses. The problem of children's human right violation is especially challenging in developing countries where abject poverty is rife and other types of human right violations are routine and commonplace. In many parts of the world, children have no access to education, are forced to work long hours, are sold as indentured servants, and are beaten and sometimes raped by individuals that are in charge of their safety and wellbeing.

It is precisely because children are members of society that are least able to protect themselves that it became important we, the global community, create a treaty that protects them. As a result, Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was ratified by both Ethiopia and Italy, came into force fifteen years ago.

The right of the child is a priority in Italian foreign policy.

Our cooperation strategies are based on ideals such as freedom, wellbeing, and dignity for all people, including children.

Our development programs promote universal primary education, which is one of the most fundamental rights of the child, and equal access to education at all levels, particularly for girls.

We are fully aware that sustainable development can not be achieved without investing in the new generation that will be poised to take over the destinies of their nations once becoming fully grown adults.

With this in mind, since 1991, the Italian Development Cooperation continues to fund projects that specifically work on children issues.

It currently funds a program that supports children and adolescents living in vulnerable circumstances in two regions of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa and Oromia. This program, funded with 2.8 million euros, aims to improve the living conditions of children and adolescents, improve their access to basic social services such as health and education, and increase the child rights awareness on community level.

*Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen*

As you may already know, this workshop is a part of a worldwide event called *Giornate per la Cooperazione Italiana 2005* or Italian Cooperation Days, 2005 supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This event is used as a vehicle to highlight different initiatives, create awareness about selected issues, such as the Rights of the Child, and bring to attention the Italian contribution towards that particular field.

The purpose of this workshop, which is to bring together people working in the children rights field and to provide a forum for sharing experiences and best practices, is a very important step towards formulating strategies for effective child rights awareness campaigns.

I hope it will give all of us an opportunity to share experiences and learn from the presented cases of best practices.

As the new Italian Ambassador to Ethiopia, I am very pleased to be here today.

I would also like to thank you for coming and wish you full success in your deliberations.

OPENING REMARKS

Girma Wolde Georgis

H.E. the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

*H.E. Mr. Raffael del Lutio, Ambassador of Italy
Distinguished Representatives of UN Agencies, Local and International Organizations as well as
Institutions working to promote the welfare of children,
Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I would first and foremost like to extend my heartiest greetings to all of you and express appreciation and gratitude to the Italian Embassy for inviting me to open this important workshop entitled “The promotion of the Rights of the Child within the framework of the New National Plan of Action”.

Children will be the main actors in tomorrow’s task of nation building.

Hence, it is wise and appropriate to care for them and invest on their all-round growth and development.

I strongly believe that this august gathering will immensely contribute towards this effect and thus the organizers have to be commended.

There has been a longstanding development partnership between Italy and Ethiopia. This relation is now growing in leaps and bounds covering wider areas of endeavor including Health, Education, Rural Development, Food Security, Social Services, Tourism and Culture as well as Infrastructure.

Concerning particularly the building of Infrastructure for the source of energy, the construction of the Gilgel Gibe Hydroelectric Project which is well underway with the ever-biggest Italian financial assistance to Ethiopia is worth mentioning at this juncture. The completion of the project will undoubtedly boost Ethiopia’s energy capacity and expedite its rural electrification program.

The return of the Axum obelisk has not only cemented the existing genuine fraternal relation but also illustrates the ever and ever growing amicable diplomatic ties between the two sisterly countries.

*Distinguished Participants!
Ladies and Gentlemen!*

I am certain that you will be able to exchange views and experiences during the workshop and come up with suggestions and recommendation which can help in alleviating the problems facing children.

I finally declare the workshop open.

Thank you!

ITALIAN GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN AND ITALIAN STRATEGIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE CHILD RIGHTS

H.E. Luigi Giacco

Member of the Italian Parliamentary Commission on Children

*Your Excellency Girma Wolde Georgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,
Distinguished guests*

I am very pleased to visit Ethiopia on such occasion that gives me an opportunity to speak about Italian guidelines and strategies for the promotion of children rights. I would like to start by emphasizing that in Italy a Parliamentary Commission for Children was established in December 1997 with the tasks of addressing and monitoring the implementation of international agreements and legislations on children rights and development.

The commission is composed of 20 Representatives from the lower parliament and 20 Senators from the upper parliament selected in proportion to the number of members of each parliamentary group, which should be represented by at least one person.

The Commission supervises, within its institutional tasks, the implementation of many international agreements, such as the Convention of New York on the Rights of the Child. This Convention was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on November 20, 1989 and became active in Italy in May 1991.

This international treaty is the most important framework for the Commission's activities. One of its main tasks is to verify that the work of public administration and public and private institutions is in accordance with the prescriptions of the Convention.

The Convention, apart from its juridical application and the theoretical assertion of the rights of the children, also requests the implementation of adequate mechanism and measures that the different Countries should use for responding to the needs of the Children.

Italy, motivated by a strong humanitarian tradition, has placed the implementation of commitments on children rights endorsed by the New York Convention high on its political agenda.

In particular, Italy has focused its commitment on the reduction of mother and child mortality, the improvement of nutrition, the access to basic education and literacy, the better family planning capacities and protection children living in vulnerable circumstances.

In 1998, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs adopted a set of new guidelines, which were then updated in 2004. In this way we have moved from an "assistance" based approach, towards a comprehensive framework founded on respect for and consideration of children and young people as individuals with their own rights. The guidelines, elaborated with the help of experts, institutional representatives and the civil society, are based on different considerations.

The first is the idea of focusing the cooperation efforts towards children and adolescents, that the Convention indicates to be all individuals under 18. We shouldn't forget that in areas of the world where the Italian Development Cooperation is involved, children and adolescents make up over half of the population.

The second consideration is the specific vulnerability of girls. Generally in a situation of abject poverty, wars, immigration, unemployment, economic exploitation, girls are affected differently and to a greater level than boys. The collapse of traditional networks is another problem that was factored introducing the guideline. As you know, family ties, which were the traditional safety net for children in most poor countries, are disintegrating because of conflict, greater poverty and the spread of AIDS. The problem of Child Labor and most importantly the elimination of its worst forms in agriculture, in urban/informal sectors and in the family domestic context, also played a pivotal role in defining the guidelines.

Last but not least, concern over the rising level of child trafficking for sexual exploitation of children underpinned the development of the guidelines. The strategy of the Italian Development Cooperation regarding children aims to guarantee the social conditions necessary to satisfy basic needs. In this context the family is seen as the adequate input for an individual development that leads, at the end, to a development of the society.

The methodology used by the Italian Development Cooperation projects promotes the importance of the community networks, the links between families and the complex social network of the beneficiary countries. The Italian Cooperation works in order to state within these networks that children's and adolescents' rights have to be promoted through an integrated approach. This approach is based on the idea that children are seen as a fundamental resource for the development of the social conditions.

The efforts of the Italian Cooperation are supported by Italian Local Institutions (*Regioni, Province, Comuni*) that form the so called "Decentralized Cooperation". This results in real and concrete partnerships that allow the local institutions to exploit the best practices in their research for adequate needs responses in the different situations.

Distinguished guests

In the last years the Italian Development Cooperation has been an extremely efficient tool for the promotion and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Child. The political action together with the development assistance have been an efficient strategy to fight the most terrible situations. These include the newest kind of slavery like child labor, sexual exploitation, trafficking of children, girls discrimination, children exploited during armed conflicts and children victims of war.

Different researches have confirmed that investing in upcoming generations is the best guarantee for preventing conflicts, building towards peace and overcoming ethnic based confrontations. Since we consider children as a fundamental resource for the development of a country and an important indicator of its overall condition, our projects deem investment in children a continuous and crosscutting cooperation factor.

We also believe that children and adolescents are generally capable of taking primary role in their own development, therefore, we encourage their participation in the implementation measures that are relevant to them to the extent they can. Sexual discrimination remains a major problem in most parts of the world. Our cooperation projects strive to combat it from early in childhood by paying particular attention to girls' primary and secondary education.

Before closing, I would also like to mention that the role of Italian NGOs is not to be understated in how much change they can bring through grassroots activism and awareness creation regarding children's rights and protection of their wellbeing.

This commitment involves very qualified intervention methodologies:

- the capacity of direct contacts with the local environment. The openness for dialogue and communication with different cultures is a characteristic of the cooperation and volunteer staff;
- the extreme flexibility that allows to adapt the technical solutions to the environment;
- the high importance given to the development of human resources that includes the preparation for the cooperation and volunteer staff as the training of the local staff. Those are both essential components of every successful cooperation initiative;
- the introduction in every phase of the project of sustainability elements like the use of appropriate technologies, the training of the counterparts and the empowerment of the local institutions. All these components aim to guarantee the sustainability of the benefits reached through the project.

I hope that NGOs will become the focal point of the decisions in the designing and funding of projects. I also hope that the interventions of the cooperation will be included in more detailed short, medium and long term plans of actions that include precise indications of the expected outcomes.

Taking into consideration the relevance and urgency of children's needs, I think that is important to assure an adequate financial allocation for the cooperation, despite the economical difficulties that Italy is having at the moment, in order to enable it to address in an adequate way the children issues and to implement the necessary interventions in this sector.

ITALIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN IN ETHIOPIA: LESSONS LEARNED AND CURRENT INVOLVMENT

Maria Rosaria Notarangeli

Italian Cooperation Child Program Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

Since 1991 the Ethiopian and the Italian Government joined hands to address the condition of children and adolescents in difficult situation living in the country.

The collaboration with the local Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) goes back to 1992, when operational agreements were signed by Ethiopia and Italy, in the framework of a Resource Program.

Since then, activities in support of children have been implemented.

Within the new process of decentralization, the MoLSA took the institutional role to promote and coordinate:

- initiatives in support of children and adolescents
- research and assessment on social issues, and
- regional BoLSA in support of children and adolescents

From 1997 to 2001 a program in Support of children and adolescents living in difficult circumstances has been implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and the Italian Cooperation.

1. CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES PROGRAM

A. General objective of the project was to improve the living conditions of vulnerable children and adolescents at risk of social exclusion.

B. Components of the project

The Program, implemented in Addis Ababa, is divided into 3 components:

1. Support to Rehabilitation and Prevention of Street Children, target: 1000 children and adolescents
2. Support to children and adolescents living in Institutions, target: more than 1.600 children and adolescents both directly implemented by the Italian Cooperation
3. Institutional support to MoLSA in planning and coordinating initiatives in support of children and adolescents in difficult circumstances implemented by UNICEF as implementing agency of the 3rd component of the project.

C. Objectives and activities of the 3 components of the project

C. 1. The Rehabilitation and Prevention Project for Street Children (RPPSC) :

General Objective: improve the living conditions of children and adolescents in specially difficult condition and support their social reintegration in Addis Ababa and Oromia

The rehabilitation and prevention project for street children was focusing its activities on the following main issues:

- **a. educational support** through informal education. 900 children coming from the poorest families of the area and 100 street children attended the after-school activities of the RPPSC Centre of the project, were provided with educational material and stationery and were trained to enter the formal school.

The education support also promoted and implemented recreational activities for children and adolescents such as: theatre, music, dance, other.

- **b. health support** through a first health post within the RPPSC Centre. About 80 children per month were supported by the health post with medical treatments, medicines, etc.
- **c. psycho-social support** through individual and group sections, organized on a monthly base, in order to create a better family environment for those children in problem with their families and the social reintegration of street children.

The psycho-social support also provided a “shelter” program for children and adolescents. The younger, organized in small groups, were placed in foster care to families and involved in the activities of the project. Besides that, training for social workers were organized.

- **d. vocational training:** 120 adolescents, between 14 and 18, attended external vocational training on different field, such as tailor, hairdresser, auto mechanic, wood work etc. After the training, the adolescents attended apprenticeship to different shops and laboratories and provided with instruments, materials and other equipment in order to support them to start their own activities also through the involvement of credit and saving cooperatives
- **e. revolving found:** activities to strength the existing community revolving found system for the poorest family of the area of the project where put in place. About 450 families are the beneficiaries of the revolving found and 275 families became members of cooperatives.

C. 2. Support to children and adolescents living in Institutions

General objective: to improve the quality of the services rendered by childcare institution and to support the reintegration of children and adolescents in the families and in the communities.

This component of the project was focusing on the following:

- a. improve the living condition of children and adolescents fostered by 3 orphanages: Kechene, Bole and Mickey Leland, in Addis Ababa.*

The activities implemented within the institutions, were basically focused on the following sectors:

- Support to education
- Support to health and sanitation
- Support to recreation
- Maintenance of the childcare institution and provision of furniture and household materials.
- Besides that, the project has developed the Guidelines on Alternative Childcare Programs.

b. support to the reintegration of children and adolescents in foster home and the reunification with the families.

The activities implemented under this segment of the project, includes the following:

- Reintegration in the community through economic facilities. In total, 200 young have been reintegrated over the project's life.
- Reunification in the families. In total, out of 90 children, only 30 could be reunified over the project's life due to the absence of the original parents.
- Vocational training and income generating activities have been organized for the reintegrated and reunified young.
- Training on "guidance" and on the promotion of the Rights of the Child have been organized for the staff of the Childcare Institutions and for 85 "house mothers".

C. 3. Institutional support to MoLSA in planning and coordinating initiatives in support of children and adolescents in difficult circumstances

Under this component, implemented by UNICEF, the main activities undertaken were the following:

- Provide technical equipment to MoLSA, in order to enable it to fulfil its tasks
- Capacity Building

D. Strategies of the project

The project promotes the Rights of the Child and the poverty reduction through the following strategies:

- create an environment fit for children and adolescents, where the opinion of minor is heard and the access to basic services is facilitate;
- improve the economic and social condition of families and community;
- differentiate activities following the specific needs of different categories, and gender, of children and adolescents;
- build partnership and collaboration among the institution working in the same field;
- promote vocational training course and work starting for the young;
- promote the Rights of the Child within all the context: families, institutions, communities, etc.

E. Evaluation of the project and Recommendation for future intervention

From the Final Evaluation of the project, among others, we underline here the following aspects:

- the institutional support and the capacity building for the staff of local institutions has to be reinforced and the role of MoLSA as a coordinator of social initiative has to be strengthened;
- the awareness and the promotion on the Rights of the Child has to be strengthened;
- the networking among institution and civil society working in the field of young has to be strengthened;
- the issues of children and adolescents has to be included in the politic agenda;
- the community has to be actively involved at all levels.

2. THE CURRENT: PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN VULNERABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

- The current Italian Cooperation Program in support of children and adolescents in vulnerable circumstances, was formulated while the previous project was still under implementation and picks up the experience and the recommendations came out from that initiative.
- The current program is implemented, at federal level, directly by the Italian Cooperation and at regional level, Addis Ababa and Oromia, by two Italian NGOs.

Major aspects of the current program linked with the previous experience.

The new initiative:

- is the result of a joint work undertaken by the MoLSA, the Addis Ababa BoLSA, the Oromia BoLSA and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- is articulated to support both institutions and communities;
- aims, at institutional level, to strengthen the institutional capacity of MoLSA and the A.A. and Oromia BoLSA and enable them to act as effective agencies in promoting Child Rights, and identifying, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating positive actions in favour of children and adolescents in difficult circumstances;
- aims, at community level, to increase the access of disadvantaged children and adolescents to basic social services such as health and education and to strengthen the communities and families in their tasks to protect children from the worst forms of exploitation: labour, sexual, etc.
- aims to further promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both at institutional level and at community level;
- aims to increase the awareness on children rights at community level ad built the capacities to participate in promoting those rights;
- aims to promote networking and working partnership with other institutions and associations working in the same field.

The Status of Vulnerable Children in Ethiopia and the National Plan of Action for Children 2003-2010

Dr. Bulti Gutema

Head of Children and Family Affairs Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

I. National Plan of Action for Children

On the basis of the UN Declaration and Plan of Action, Ethiopia has developed a National Plan of Action for Children that would serve up to 2010 and beyond. The National Plan of Action is prepared taking into account some basic principles and objectives for the protection and well-being of children.

Overall objective of the National Plan of Action is to realize a "World Fit for Children" which is the outcome document of the UN Special Session on Children. "A World Fit for Children" is one in which all children get the best possible start in life and have access to quality basic education, that is compulsory and available free to all, and in which all children have opportunity to grow up in a safe and supportive environment.

1.1. Priority Areas of the NPA

1. Education: with emphasis to primary education to reach universal primary education for all.
2. Health: with emphasis to preventive and primary community health care.
3. HIV/AIDS: with primary emphasis to promotion and campaign to create awareness of the threats of HIV/AIDS, to change sexual behavior.
4. Protecting children from against abuse, exploitation and violence; with primary emphasis to the protection of child right at any place any time. Building knowledge on CRC and other legal instruments.

1.2. Organizational Arrangement for the Implementation of the NPA

1. There will be a National Children's Affairs Steering Committee.
2. There will be a National Technical Committee/re-activate CRC Committee.

1.3. Estimates of Financial Resource Requirement

Birr 52.6 billion (\$6.19 billion) is required to fully implement the NPA. 60% of the expenditure will be covered by the Government, and the remaining has to be sought from international Donors and Local Community.

1.4. Constraints

- Adequate response/resource
- Limited institutional capacity
- Shortage of trained personnel
- Low level of awareness about NPA

II. The Status of Vulnerable Children

In Ethiopian, Child Vulnerability is increasing due to abject poverty and HIV/AIDS pandemic. There are also other factors like drought, famine, conflicts and etc. that contribute to Child Vulnerability.

In the past there were no orphans as such because the extended family and other traditional coping mechanisms assume the responsibility to take care of them. But currently these mechanisms are declining. Due to this fact, there is a need to look for different options to deliver these children with essential services and protection.

A significant number of OVC are receiving various forms of support from governmental and non governmental agencies. The most common form of support provided to OVC is regular financial assistance to help them meet their basic needs as well as school expenses. There are also a smaller but growing number of programs supporting income generation among OVC and their care givers.

A limited number of government and non-governmental orphanages also offer institutional care to orphans and destitute children. A few NGOs provide psycho social and legal support services to OVC mainly in urban areas of the country. Many programs providing basic services are implemented by various NGOs but have limited reach, fragmented, discontinuous not coordinated nationally and concentrate in urban areas.

In general, a national situation analysis revealed that a significant proportion of orphans are facing shortage of daily meals, clothing, school uniforms and supplies. The condition of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS is worse since they are more likely to experience psycho-social problems.

Factors Affecting Responses

At the government level

- Competing priorities (droughts, destabilizing conditions) and limited
- Government national budget
- Capacity at all level

At the community level

- Chronic poverty and food insecurity
- Stretched mutual social support mechanism
- Widespread stigma and discrimination

Family level

- Weakened extended family support system
- Lack of capacity to deal with psycho-social issues
- Chronic poverty and food insecurity

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN 2003-2010: RESULTS OF THE WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY MoLSA AND SAVE THE CHILDREN

Mekdes Gebretensay

Save the Children Sweden, Consultant

Introduction

Save the Children Sweden in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has organized two days workshop for members of the National Steering Committee members at Federal level for the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Children - 2003 – 2010.

The members of the Committee are: Ministry of Health, Education, Information, Water Resources, Finance and Economic Development, Police Commission, Disaster prevention and preparedness Commission (DPPC), Women's Affairs Office under the Prime Minister's Office, UNICEF, HIV/AIDS Secretariat Save the Children Alliance members in Ethiopia and CRDA.

Objective of the Workshop: Familiarization of the new representatives of the committee on CRC implementation in Ethiopia and the National Plan of Action and to Strengthen the monitoring capacity of the committee members on implementation of the NPA in their respective Ministries.

Content of the Workshop: During the workshop, presentation on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, implementation of the CRC in Ethiopia, the NPA and its implementation strategies and good governance in the best interest of the child and child rights programming were presented to the participants.

During the presentation on NPA, the four priority areas of the NPA were highlighted, i.e. Education, Health, HIV/AIDS and Child Protection and the relation ship between the PRSP and the MDG with the NPA and its implementation. Further it was expressed that the government has allocated budget for education and health, which is 60% of the budget, and that the remaining budget gap is to be filled in by donors and the community. It was also expressed the need to initiate the establishment of the National Inter- Ministerial CRC Committee/ National Steering committee composed of vice Ministers of Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Education, Health, Information, Youth, Finance and Economic Development, Water Resources and Agriculture according to the NPA.

Discussion and Conclusion of the Workshop: During the discussion the participants raised the following issues and discussed the need for the:

- Establishment of systematic strategy of awareness raising of the concerned bodies and staffs, and the general public;
- Use of the media like regional radios;
- Intersect oral coordination strategy for cooperation in trainings with the Ministries like for example the Ministry of Health organizes trainings to health extension agents and training on CRC could be incorporated in that program;

- Use of up coming election campaign of Kebele and Wereda to raise awareness for the inclusion of children's agenda in the campaign and program of the competitors;
- Lobbying for the establishment of an independent Children organization;
- Production of Multi disciplinary training manual on CRC;
- Production of core document / children situation analysis;
- To first establish the Inter-ministerial CRC Committee for smooth functioning of the NPA;
- Organization of workshop on NPA for the participation of children in monitoring and the implementation of the NPA;
- Organize meeting of donors to mobilize for the remaining 40% budget required for the implementation of the NPA;
- Strengthening MoLSA in manpower and technical capacity.

CISP IN ETHIOPIA: BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Maria Grazia Dente

CISP Country Representative

1. CISP in the World

The “Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli” (CISP) (International Committee for the Development of Peoples) is an association set up in 1982, when it started to operate through small solidarity projects in support of local groups and associations in Africa and Latin America.

The association was created by a group of professionals, researchers, social operators and technical experts. CISP was legally constituted in 1983 as a non-profit making body and has its head office in Rome (Italy). Aim of the association is to contribute in overcoming social, cultural, economic problems and technical gaps at international level by promoting the co-operation among peoples.

CISP implements development, rehabilitation and humanitarian projects in collaboration with local partners (NGOs, associations, agencies and official institutions).

Priority sectors are: rural and urban health, income generating activities, rural development, fishery and aquaculture on small and middle scale, emergency aid and disaster prevention and preparedness. The most important crosscutting component of CISP projects worldwide is represented by the employment of a concrete gender perspective and protection of the most vulnerable groups.

At the same time, the NGO is engaged in Western Europe and in Italy, in extensive development education, lobby, capacity building and training programs. Aims of these programs are to enable local associations to play a major role in supporting the social integration of European vulnerable groups, to sensitize the European public opinion towards the international solidarity and to offer to European and non European Youth an opportunity to develop a deep knowledge of the main issues related to the international co-operation and the world wide efforts to fight against poverty and social exclusion.

CISP is presently working in 28 Countries in the world.

2. CISP in Ethiopia

CISP operates in Ethiopia since almost twenty years. It was in fact in May 1986 that the first team of our NGO established itself in Pawe, to start the implementation of a multi sector program in support of the populations that had been resettled from various areas of the country.

Starting from 1986, CISP has implemented or supported more than 60 different programs in the Regions of Oromia, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, Afar.

Rural Development, Food Security, Water and Sanitation, Micro Finance, Labour Creation, Education & Child Protection have been the main Sectors up to now.

The funds used to support these projects come from a number of sources, including private donations, foundations and associations, international donors including the European Commission, Italian Cooperation, USAID, UNICEF, WFP, the Ethiopian Social Rehabilitation and Development Fund (ESRDF) and the Dutch Cooperation, to name a few.

3. GOALS, STRATEGIES AND PRINCIPLES Of CISP In Ethiopia

CISP is working in the framework of a comprehensive strategy, which has been endorsed by the Government and edited with the title “Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program” (Addis Ababa, July 2002, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development).

All CISP Programmes involve strong partnerships with relevant government line departments, such as those responsible for natural resources, water, health, education, rural income generation (credit institutions), disaster prevention and agriculture. CISP also maintains a collaborative relationship with a number of Ethiopian NGOs and Community Based Organizations, such as village cooperatives and women’s groups.

In this regard, the real challenge facing an NGO like CISP is the question of what added value it can offer to Ethiopia’s poverty reduction strategy. In other words, what is its mandate and what do government’s institutions, local NGOs or Community Based Organizations expect from CISP?

This is mainly due to the fact that, in the case of non profit NGOs, the definition of a mandate remains complex as it is neither defined *a priori*, nor it is dictated by international laws.

In Ethiopia there is a legal framework under which NGOs operate; nevertheless, although this framework guides the actions of NGOs, it does not indicate what their mandate, or “mission” should be. This is left to be determined by each NGO individually.

In this connection, CISP believes that, in accordance with the principles leading its actions worldwide, and given the current problems challenging Ethiopia, CISP’s mandate in the country should be underscored by the following three principles:

a) *Support the decentralization process by strengthening the link between the local government institutions, communities and grass roots associations.*

“Capacity Building” is about strengthening the technical, financial, logistic capacity of local institutions; training their personnel and thus improving their ability to design, implement and monitor sector policies. CISP is committed to play its part in the process of building institutional capacities at all levels, including CBOs, in the areas where it operates.

The added value of CISP in the current Capacity Building environment, is to act as a *trade d’union* between the newly decentralized administration and local communities, including grass roots associations and private sector.

This objective is consistent with government strategies which aim to make institutions more accountable to their local communities. Seen in this perspective, Capacity Building is linked to community empowerment.

b) Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development

CISP believes strongly in linking relief, rehabilitation and development. The LRRD approach is particularly relevant to Ethiopia, where the context CISP works in is characterized by a heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture.

This, along with other factors, means the country suffers from persistent food insecurity and food shortages are common. Those most affected are the rural poor and dramatic consequences are always experienced by all the families members with repercussions on all the aspects of their life.

c) Supporting the strengthening of local social capital

CISP employs this definition of social capital: networks and relationships which define group dynamics as well as the norms which govern these relationships.

Therefore, by extension, social capital is primarily about social cohesion, economic achievement and social stability.

To be more specific, supporting the strengthening of social capital for an NGO means making the effort to bear in mind and bring together the varying agendas of all actors in the development process.

For example – an intervention which aims at improving access to potable water involves many different stakeholders such as regional offices, Zone and Woreda offices, contractors, peasant associations, local communities, technicians, people in charge of maintenance, suppliers of spare parts, donors etc.

Each of these groups has its own agenda and expectation of what they hope to gain from involvement in the project varies considerably.

CISP's role is to help make the various agendas complementary and consistent, rather than exclusive, of one another, to build mutual trust and ensure that the process is actually led by those who need the final main outcome.

CISP believes that working for positive lasting change means acting as a mediator between differing agenda and priorities; helping to bridge the gap between government and local communities as well as encouraging the involvement of the private sector in strategies aimed at reducing poverty and its debilitating effects.

In accordance with the three principles mentioned, CISP is presently implementing 5 Projects in Oromia and 2 in Benishangul- Gumuz Regional States.

Project	Geographical Area	Donor
Capacity Building and Replicable Actions for Rural Development	5 Waredas (B/G Regional State)	Italian Cooperation
Nazaret & Burayou Vocational Training Centers	Nazareth & Burayou (Oromia Regional State)	Italian Cooperation
Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights	Kamashi Zone (B/G Regional State)	European Commission
Reinforcing Rural Livelihood through an Integrated Food Security Approach	Fedis & Gorogutu Woredas (East Hararghe , Oromia Regional State)	European Commission
Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education	Yabello, Dire & Telelle (Borana, Oromia Regional State)	USAID/OFDA
Water supply & Education	Tole Wareda (Shoa, Oromia Regional State)	Private Funds
Programme in Support of Children in Difficult Circumstances	Chiro Wareda (West Hararghe, Oromia Regional State)	Italian Cooperation

CISP believes that one of the most effective way to promote the interests and the rights of disadvantaged sectors of the society is to support local – private or public – bodies that operate in favour of these groups.

With regard to the promotion of the rights and needs of children, the action of CISP is addressed towards the following objectives

- To contribute to the strengthening of the institutional network of protection of vulnerable children, reinforcing the capacity of the public bodies as well as of private associations to reach the goals endorsed by the Country through the ratification of international conventions regarding the children' rights and;
- To reduce the number of children that live in difficult condition, with a particular reference to children subjected to abuse and worst form of labour exploitation, adolescents in conflict with the law and adolescent girls at risk of sexual exploitation.

CISP believes that no any sustainable result can be achieved in this field unless the entire society is actively involved and committed, including the public sector, the private sector, religious leaders, police forces, etc.

A special attention is also given to the promotion of the specific needs and interests of the girls and of the children belonging to minority groups. In this area, the focus is put on public advocacy and awareness raising, as well as on the empowerment of local groups and associations representing these groups.

CISP is basing its work towards the promotion of the rights and needs of disadvantaged children in Ethiopia even on the experience gained with the implementation of several projects in other Countries.

The child protection is a priority area of CISP interventions particularly in Somalia, The Gambia, Bosnia, Lebanon, Colombia, Guatemala and in very peculiar situation as that of the Sarawi Camps where emphasis is given to the right to education, health and nutrition.

From lesson learned during projects implementation, CISP has elaborated several documents on child protection and promotion of Child Rights...just to mention the most recent ones:

- Paolo Dieci "*Child and Adolescent protection in emergency situations*". Paper prepared for the Seminar on "Elaboration of Child and Adolescent Protection Guidelines" organised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome May, 27 -1998);
- Maria Alessandra Verrienti "*Children victims of conflict: the CISP's Project in Bosnia*". Paper prepared for the Italian Cooperation Day at STOA. (Ercolano- Naples November, 23 -2004)
- Maria Grazia Dente "*The Gambia: Addressing vulnerable children and mothers by supporting Health and Rural sectors in the framework of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy*". Paper prepared for the Workshop "From War to Classroom. From Crisis to Recovery. The Italian Cooperation for the West African Children." (Freetown, Sierra Leone 19-20 November 2004)

To conclude, I would like to thank all CISP staff and the staff of our partners for their constant effort in helping us to implement projects with and for the people in need.

Thank you all for the attention.

COOPI IN ETHIOPIA: BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Fabio Gaggi

COOPI Country Representative

COOPI is founded in Italy in 1965. Committed to fighting against social injustice and poverty of the South and to support improving adequate living conditions in respect of the peoples rights, COOPI has carried out more than 600 development projects and emergency interventions in 50 countries.

Among others, the promotion of access to water, the right to proper health and education services in poor communities, the immediate and long-term aid to populations hit by war or natural disasters in Africa, Latin America, Asia and in Eastern Europe were carried out.

COOPI is dedicated to reducing poverty in the global south also through advocacy activities in Italy to help fighting the cause of the serious economic gap between the North and South.

Working together with local institutions and communities to find the best solutions to problems is an important element to develop programs. Respect of cultural values and differences are taken into consideration too as a key for sustainable development.

Efforts in enhancing effectiveness and innovation are constantly ongoing to improve COOPI' s capabilities for guaranteeing sustainable interventions, long-term vision and high-level know-how.

Sector wise, COOPI envisages improving healthcare services and establishing preventive health programs, with particular focus on children and mothers. By guaranteeing drinking water, water infrastructures, health and sanitation services, hunger and disease are alleviated. During actions preparation, due consideration is given to the environment and, for natural areas at risk, specific interventions are addressed.

Human rights protection of communities and promotion of cultural differences are areas of main concern to create conducive development processes.

Capacity Building and Training programs are supported to empower people and increase the sustainability of all interventions.

Promotion of awareness and knowledge on the causes of the differences between the North and the South of the world are actively undertaken in Italy.

In Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, COOPI started working in 1995 in south Oromiya (Borena) implementing rehabilitation projects for displaced people. Since then, projects started in Amhara, Tigray, Afar and Somali.

In all these years, various projects, from relief to development, were implemented.

The main focus being on sectors like Water Supply and Sanitation, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Capacity Building and Training.

Recently, child rights protection became a new area for intervention for strengthening development in line with COOPI' s principles.

COOPI Ethiopia intervenes assuring adequate adherence to the international and the country strategies.

Community participation, stakeholders' involvement, and cost sharing mechanisms are followed to improve sustainability of the actions.

Partnerships with local NGO is promoted and achieved at different stages in accordance with the environmental features.

Efforts to work at grass root level involving local associations, cooperatives, self-help groups and other community organizations is steadily practiced.

**THE CURRENT PROJECT OF THE ITALIAN COOPERATION ON VULNERABLE CHILDREN:
IMPLICATION OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN 2003-2010 ON THE
PROMOTION OF CHILD RIGHTS**

Antonio Piccoli

COOPI Child Project Coordinator

Good morning ladies and Gentlemen,

I' m here to present the Program in support of Children and Adolescents in vulnerable circumstances, with the intention of summarizing what is the program, and with which strategy and methodology is implemented.

Many are the activities at different levels foreseen by the program and it is not the intention of my presentation to bore you with a long list of actions and works will be executed by the project.

So let' s focus on the philosophy and the strategy of this program.

As stated in the general objective the project intends to strength the protection network for children with the aim of improving the condition of living of children in especially difficult circumstances. And that means to improve the institutional, social and physical environment of the children.

This result can be achieved by improving the capacity and the motivation of the institutions, who are dealing with children, by improving the awareness of the community with the intention of making real the rights of the children, by facilitating the access of the vulnerable children to basic health and educational services, by supporting, socially and economically, the integration of the most vulnerable families by providing to the children and youth spaces where to socialize, carry out educational and recreational activities.

To respond these requirements, the project aims to achieve two complementary objectives,

One The Institutional Capacity Development objective aims:

To strengthen the institutional capacity of the MoLSA, Addis Ababa and Oromia Bureaux of Labour and Social Affairs and enable them to act as effective agencies in promoting child rights and identifying, planning, implementing, monitoring as well as evaluating positive actions or initiatives in favor of children living in difficult circumstances.

The second, The Community Services objective aims:

To increase access of disadvantaged children and adolescents to basic social services for example health and education and to strengthen the communities and the families (especially mother headed families) in their task to protect children from the worst form of child labor, or sexual exploitation, and to support children and adolescent in conflict with the law.

The intervention takes place at different level: the Institutional Capacity Building takes place at federal and regional level, at MoLSA and at Regional Bureaus. The strengthening of community based services for children and adolescents is realized at Merkato area for the Addis Ababa Municipality, and in West Hararghe Zone, Chiroo Woreda for the Oromia Region.

The areas of intervention have been selected based on the indication of the concerned Bureaus on the bases of Children and Adolescents situation, considering the levels of malnutrition, lack of shelter, poor access to education and health services, child abuse or exploitation, and the level of children and adolescents in conflict with the law or victims of social exclusion about the implementing agencies:

At federal level the program is implemented directly by the Italian Cooperation, while in the targeted area of Oromia Region, the project is implemented by the Italian NGO CISP. And in the other selected area in Addis Ababa municipality in the area called Merkato, the program is implemented by the Italian Ngo COOPI.

Important is to point out and explain the main points on the Strategy and Methodology of the implementation.

As already mentioned, the Program is articulated in two main components strictly interrelated: one focus on the Institutional Capacity and the second on the Strengthening of Community Services for Children.

Networking among the institutions or NGOs dealing with children, development of human resources, strengthening of research and information systems, are strategic factors for an increased capacity of the entire Child protection structure to perform his task.

The program strongly believes on the Beneficiaries and Community Participation, the beneficiaries and community members will be involved in the planning, in the identification of the priorities and needs and the implementation at field level, as well as they will be asked to promote actively child rights in their surroundings.

The community members will be actively involved in the organization and in the monitoring of the centers for no formal education, recreational activities for children and youth, and in what is concerned the reintegration of the most vulnerable and socially exposed families and youth.

At the same time, participation and empowerment of local organizations is one of the main strategies of the program, NGO as well as Community based organizations will be qualify as program partners. The local organizations will benefit from the capacity building support and will ensure an approach tailored to the social and cultural specific environment.

Again, the project considers human resources as the main instrument for the development process. The maximum effort will be made to design specific trainings as to improve competence and sensitivity in dealing with children and adolescents. The trainings will include persons from institutional bodies and community.

About the Support to the informal sector. In rural as in urban areas, the informal sector, with the thousands of micro activities taking place in the corners and along the streets, is the main provider of occupation and the main source of income for the vast majority of disadvantaged household.

Most of the micro entrepreneurs engaged in these activities are women who invest their small income in their children health and education. Again maximum effort will be on the identification of the best, and innovative practices and strategies in order to help the most vulnerable families, with particular attention on single mother headed families.

In order to empower and to strength this vulnerable category of beneficiaries, the program intends to facilitate the organization of micro entrepreneurs associations.

About Flexibility. Since the conditions of children in difficult circumstances both in urban and in rural areas can be affected by a variety of rapidly changing factors, and in consideration of the participatory methodology adopted to identify and realize the intervention in the community, the program incorporates a flexible execution mechanisms, which will be executed by project management, institutional counterparts and the beneficiaries.

EXPECTED RESULTS

At Federal level, the program will be implemented directly by the Italian Cooperation, and it is expected to improve:

Capacity of Ministry of Labor to collect, analyze and disseminate data on children. This result will be achieved by the establishment of a Working Team, by performing assessment of the existing system of data collection and flow of information, and developing and testing procedure and format for data collection with definition of research modalities,

Child Rights Convention will be further promoted in the Country by strengthening the Child Rights Committees, training the members and awareness activities.

Upgrade the National Guidelines on Alternative Child Care, as child care institutions, foster family care, Community based Child support programs and child family reunification and by improving the follow up mechanism and put into practice

At the same time, the two Regional elements expect to achieve the following result:

Upgrade the capacity of the Regional Bureaus to collect, analyze and produce comprehensive and updated information on children and adolescents in difficult circumstances.

A improved networking and the establishment of a information system consequently will improve the capacity of the bureaus to strengthen the coordination.

This coordination will facilitate the development of a common framework of interventions in Child protection. The new documentation centers set by the project, will be accessible to all interested parties and will collect, produce and elaborate information on children's and adolescents' situation, as well as the all the existing documentations related to children and adolescents.

As part of the sector study and for a better identification of the vulnerabilities and their origin, the program will conduct a Participatory Rapid Appraisals and baseline survey in the Program areas.

As well as studies and researches will be conducted to identify the factors to children's marginalization and to the worst forms of child exploitation, violence and abuse.

The regional bureaus also will benefit by the maintenance and the upgrading of the structures, and the documentation center will be provide with internet to facilitate the sharing of information.

Community based Services for Children Component will aim to:

Increase awareness and enhancing the capacities of the communities to promote and implement Children's Rights through campaigns and the organization of seminars, training for teachers, community leaders, and families, and the support and establishment of Children and Youth clubs.

Increase awareness and knowledge on Sexual transmitted diseases as HIV/AIDS especially among adolescents and female population, through organization of sensitization campaigns, training of health professionals, community and religious leaders and members of the communities.

Improve the quality of life of the children and adolescents living in the targeted communities through an increased access to basic services and increased opportunities of rehabilitation for children and adolescents in conflict with the law or at risk of social exclusion. This will be accomplished by contributing to the school and health expenditure for disadvantaged families or children. The program also intends to support the community organizations to establish kid centers, where the children can find a tutorial support, basic education, no formal education and literacy classes for youth and adults as well as an appropriate library. Through NGOs will be established and support a psychological and legal service for children and adolescents in conflict with the law or at risk of abuse or violence. The Police officers will be also trained on the Child Rights and child protection issues.

Maintain and up grade Community Infrastructures, this will be executed after an appropriate assessment with the participation of the community. The assessment will focus to estimate the needs of maintenance of public and community facilities, as kinder garden, schools, community halls, libraries, as well as water and sewage system. According with the result of the assessment, works will be carried out.

Improve the socio economic conditions of women of disadvantaged households with children in difficulties or foster orphans a preliminary survey on local resources, opportunities and constraints will be conducted in the project areas, with the aim to plan the income generating activities with better and appropriate methodologies.

Activate the Decentralized Cooperation this result is in order to create interest on cooperation initiatives among the Italian local institution, this concern will be achieved by the production of publication in English and Italian on the program and their dissemination.

The number of beneficiaries will benefit of the program in both sites areas is:

2,000 children in difficult circumstances of Merkato in Addis Ababa, and Chiroo Woreda in West Hararge (Oromia Region) will have access to basic services;

300 children will receive legal and psychological support;

200 children will be rehabilitated and reintegrated in their community;

2,000 women or poor families will be supported by training and monetary inputs for Income Generating Activities;

10,000 women and youth will receive health education on family planning, HIV/AIDS and other Sexual transmitted diseases on the preventive and controlling methods;

20,000 students of primary and secondary schools will be informed and sensitized on children's rights;

50,000 people of the selected Woredas/Kebeles sensitized with training, information and financial support in order to protect children.

At the same time, all national Child Protection sector will benefit from the capacity building component of the program.

I'm committed as well as all the project staff, to accomplish this three years project in the way to achieve all the results as mentioned, sure that the welfare of the children is the priority to ensure a better and prosperous future.

Thanks to all of you for your kindness

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN ETHIOPIA: THE ROLE OF LOCAL NGOs AND CBOs

Samson Birhanu

Youth and Children Forum Coordinator, CRDA

The state of children in Ethiopia

- About 52% of Ethiopia's population is below 18 years old, while those below 15 years are 44%.
- The primary GER at national level was 61.6% in 2001/02 (51.2% for girls and 71.7% for boys)
- Infant, under 5 and child mortality rates are 113, 188 and 85 per 1,000 live births respectively, and a large number of infants have low birth weight.
- Over 50% of infant mortalities are associated with malnutrition.
- Recent study by MoLSA and others (2003) shows that there are about one million HIV/AIDS orphans in Ethiopia and the number would be 1.8 million in 2010. The World Bank put the figure to be 1.2 million in 2002.

CSOs/NGOs entry points in CRC implementation

- National legislations that promulgate the rights for assembly and forming of associations.
- International instruments the country ratified. The case in point is the CRC which clearly stipulate the engagement of pertinent bodies like NGOs in the implementation and monitoring of the CRC. In this regard the following article 45 of the UN CRC can be gateway for NGOs active participation in implementation and monitoring of the CRC at national and international level:

"The Committee may invite the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other competent bodies as it may consider appropriate to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Convention in the areas falling within the scope of their respective mandate"

The policy , legal and governance environment

- Ethiopia has ratified the UNCRC in 1992.
- Ethiopia has adopted a new Constitution in December 1995, which improved in many ways the legal protection of children.
- Article 36 of the Constitution pertains specifically to the rights of children, and it is drafted taking the provisions of the CRC in to account.
- FDRE government has also established Inter-ministerial Legal Committee to review national legislations and their compatibility with the provisos of the Convention .
- Two consecutive National Plan of Actions for Children that stipulate strategic actions of the government in addressing the children rights have been adopted.
- Human Rights Commission and Ombudsman are established .

Article 36 of FDRE Constitution

- Every child has the following rights :
 - The right to life
 - The right to obtain name and nationality
 - The right to know and be cared for by his parents or legal guardians
 - The right to be protected from labor exploitation and not to be forced to undertake work that may harm his/her education, health and well being
 - The right to be free from harsh or inhuman punishments that may be inflicted on his body ,in schools or child care institutions.

NGOs role in child rights works

The development of CSOs/NGOs in Ethiopia

- First generation NGOs: These are NGOs that are founded before 1974 and characterized by addressing social welfare issues such as: disability ,orphan children, emergency etc.
- Most of these NGOs were religious based and few are international .
- Examples of these groups: Ethiopian Red Cross Society, Save the Children UK, Sweden/Norway.
- NGOs in the Derg regime

NGOs in DERG regime

The Derg regime was characterized by its hostility towards NGOs and other independent Civil Society Organizations.

It is only after the successive outbreak of natural disasters it slightly opened the space for NGOs work.

However, most of NGOs that registered during the Derg time were international or Northern NGOs that operate relief works.

The development projects run by NGOs in this time were small scale projects strictly circumscribed by government policy and government regulations

NGOs in FDRE

- The last decade has seen the growth of a large number of NGOs in Ethiopia.
- Due to the introduction of more liberal social and economic policies numerous CSOs/NGOs have come into existence.
- The partnership with the government has improved compared to that of the Derg.
- The engagement of NGOs has also diversified by moving out beyond the traditional role of welfare work. These include mainly community empowerment works and policy advocacy initiatives.
- As late as 1999 an estimated 20% of all non-emergency development assistance to Ethiopia from all sources came through NGOs.

Growth of Local and Int'al NGOs in Ethiopia 1994-2000

	1994	1996	1998	2000	2003
Local NGOs	24	96	160	246	291
International NGOs	46	96	119	122	128
Total	70	192	270	368	419

NGOs role in service delivery

- Ethiopia's CSOs/NGOs sector has been in the past engaged more in filling developmental gaps that were not addressed by either the community or government.
- NGOs have played and still are playing key role in addressing the socio economic problems of needy children and communities. The following are major engagement areas of NGOs in service delivery aspect:
 1. Relief and emergency work
 2. Health
 3. Education
 4. HIV/AIDS
 5. Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Services

Relief and emergency works :

- According to DPPC report drought affected an average of 10.5% of the country's population each year between 1981 and 1995. This figure reached a peak of 17.5% in the 1999/2000 drought.
- According to DPPC between 1984 and 1996 an average of 6.5 million people have benefited each year from NGOs relief operations.
- NGOs have been involved in activities such as: distribution of relief items to beneficiaries, managing feeding centers and health services, maintaining cattle camps, veterinary services and distribution of fodder, running supplementary nutrition centers and transportation and distribution of donated materials.

Health

- NGOs have played active role and scored achievements in maternal and child health, family planning, immunization, nutrition education and safe water provision.
- NGOs provide about 7 to 8 % of the health service coverage.

- At present there are around 200 clinics and 9 hospitals operated by NGOs and religion based agencies.
- NGOs supplement the provision of essential drugs, equipment and medical supplies and funds to government health facilities.

Education

The role of NGOs in education has many forms.

- Educational Inputs: construction and furnishing of schools, upgrading and refurbishing old schools, supplying books and teaching materials, and training of school personnel
- Innovation and Alternative Routes to Basic Education: many NGOs are operating alternative basic education for children and adults. Particularly NGOs have played key role in piloting Alternative Basic Education system that is currently being scaled up by regional governments and contributed greatly in increasing school enrollment and realization of children right to education.
- Advocacy and lobbying: NGOs are jointly working for effective implementation of Global and National Plan of Actions on education, like education for all goals.
- Capacity Building: NGOs are supporting the capacity development of CBOs, government agencies etc

HIV/AIDS

- NGOs have played the following roles in the national HIV/AIDS prevention and control endeavor:
 1. Implementation of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control program
 2. Networking and coordinating of efforts.
 3. Advocacy and lobbying: National HIV/AIDS Policy formulation, PLWHA rights, ARV Treatment
 4. Capacity building and resource mobilization
 5. Provision of psycho social support and medical for people affected by the pandemic.
 6. HIV/AIDS databank and resource center-information and communication
 7. Impact alleviation and vulnerability reduction
 8. Research and learning

Social Welfare and Rehabilitation

1. NGOs are plying lead role in addressing the needs of OVCs and particularly promoting the social infrastructure for OVC support.
2. Different NGOs are implementing social welfare and rehabilitation programs that address vulnerable children like: street children, abused and neglected children, disabled children and children living with HIV/AIDS.
3. NGOs are becoming the main channels for care and support schemes that target children orphaned due to AIDS. In the absence of sustainable care and support mechanisms for these group of children it is NGOs that serve their social, economic and psychological needs

NGOs role in CRC promotion

From the NGOs/CSOs perspective the most utilized and tried public policy advocacy and awareness raising issues are the children and women rights. Contrary to the right issues NGOs were advocating for their realization even during previous times. This is the main engagement of most child right NGOs .

Number of NGOs are currently engaged in development of awareness about children right at all levels of the society: form family to local administrative structures.

This is being done through conducting various awareness raising pilot projects.

Parallel to developing the awareness of the community on child rights NGOs are also operating different projects that aim for alleviating the socio economic problems of vulnerable children.

Some NGOs are also involved in public education sphere and are utilizing the national and regional radio stations for the purpose.

NGOs have also played key role in promoting the participation of children in national level programs/ engagements that affect their well beings.

NGOs role in policy research, advocacy and lobbying

▪ Research

Even though the research and data management issue is the much weak area of stakeholders engagement, NGOs are playing the lead role in coordinating surveys and researches and disseminating the outputs for policy formulation and other relevant purposes.

For instance child focused NGOs have been conducting various researches that revealed the situation of children in the different parts of the country.

▪ Advocacy

- Since impoverished and vulnerable children of whom voice NGOs try to magnify are from marginalized sections of the society NGOs and other stakeholders take the responsibility of advocating for their interests on their behalf.
- NGOs have played key role in advocating for formulation and implementation of polices and legislations that are instrumental for the realization of UNCRC in Ethiopia. Eg. NGOs working on women rights have contributed a great deal in the formulation of the national family law. Child right NGOs are also advocating for appreciation of children in issues in the PRSP/SDPRP.
- NGOs have also advocated and contributed for the reformulation of legislations that were hampering children rights. The case in point is the concerted advocacy work of NGOs conducted in the formulation of the Penal Law.
- NGOs have also contributed for the establishment of the Ombudsman and Human Rights Commission.
- The most remarkable NGOs involvement in the child rights work is their active engagement in the promotion of the UN CRC and their involvement in national and regional organs that coordinate the CRC work at respective levels.
- The other cardinal advocacy role of NGOs is their effort in monitoring the implementation of the UNCRC in Ethiopia. NGOs have prepared two supplementary reports that critically examined the state of CRC implementation in Ethiopia.

Children and Youth Forum of NGOs

- *Established* : 2002
- *Current Number of members*: 81

Major Objective

To ensure the well being of Children and Youth through advocacy and lobbying for effective legal and policy reforms and their implementation with the participation of Children and Youth

Specific Objectives

- To advocate and lobby for legal and policy reforms pertaining to issues of Children and Youth
- To establish and strengthen partnership among government, NGOs and Civil Society
- To follow up and collaborate on implementation, monitoring and reporting of national and international legal instruments concerning children and youth
- To enhance the participation of Children and Youth in issues affecting their well being

Workshop
*The Promotion of the Rights of the Child within the framework of the new
National Plan of Action for Children 2003-2010*

AFTERNOON SESSION

**ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRC AND THE
IMPLICATION WITHIN THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN 2003-2010: THE
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AND THE ROLE OF THE CRC COMMITTEES**

Facilitator: Dr. Tibebe Bogale

SC Finland Country Representative

Participants

Local Government, federal and regional
Local NGO,
International NGO,
UN Agencies,
CRC Committee members

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Local Government

Dr. Bulti Gutema

Head, Children and Family Affairs Department

A. Key activities accomplished by Government in the area of Child Rights

- Establishment of CRC Committees at Federal, Regional, Zonal, Woreda and Kebele level
- Development and propagation of the Ethiopia's National Plan of Action for Children (2003-2010)
- Awareness creation program was executed in nine regions using nine different languages
- Development of the National Plan of Action for orphan and vulnerable children (2005 – 2007.)
- The government is also on the way to develop and implement National Plan of Action on the area of sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Symposiums and workshops conducted to create awareness on CRC.
- Policies ratified to promote Child Rights
- Family law and educational law are revised in the way to protect the rights of children.

B. Challenges to implement National Plan of Action

1. Legal limitation

- ☛ There is no legal punishment by the Government regarding the provision of corporal punishment by parents (at family level).
- ☛ Children in the age group 15-18 are treated by ordinary legal treatment. Due to age of criminal responsibility is not changed.
- ☛ There is a lack of legal provision for children working in informal sector.

2. Institutional limitation

- ☛ Lack of awareness among the community regarding sexual violence;
- ☛ Weak coordination both on government organization and non government organization;
- ☛ Having poor data system;
- ☛ Weak program intervention and implementation;

3. Solutions

- ☛ Reactivate the established committee;
- ☛ Work with CBOs;
- ☛ Lobby for budget allocation.

Integrated Family Service Organization (IFSO), Local NGO

Luleseghed Irkihun

Program Officer

1. Introduction

IFSO was founded in Addis Ababa in January 1995 to mitigate the plight of very weak households and alleviate the helplessness of vulnerable orphaned children.

IFSO believes that family is a natural environment of children so that children need to grow up within their families in their origin of countries and within their cultural context. So IFSO arranges a place for OVCs to live with their (single) parents, extended families, biologically unrelated guardians. If this is not possible, arrange residential places without separating the siblings and without exceeding the size form the average size of the normal family in the locality.

In all forms of placement, the OVCs are exposed to different forms of abuses. To minimize these, IFSO provides individual and group counseling services for parents/guardians to treat the children as a human being rather than as a criminal. Children are explorers and not criminals. It is natural that children frequently touch and test things around them to explore and not to commit crime. Thus, parents/guardians should help them rather than prohibiting and punishing the children not to do so. Corporal punishment is prohibited.

The children have also biannual meeting to speak out their voices.

2. Rights, empowerment and participation of children

2.1 Basic rights of children

One of the basic rights of children is to develop clear and practical policies complying with the child's needs. In this regard, the constitution and its subsidiary laws as well as the adoption of the CRC are recognized children's rights. But much has to be done in implementations.

- The voices and opinions of children have to be heard and respect
- Society and government should support the children. Any assistance given to children should be considered as discharging responsibilities and not as stretching hands for charity
- Children should get basic information about their fates and have to be given choices to change their situation
- Respect specific rights of children in care, such as the right to an identity, the right for siblings to stay together, the right to privacy, etc.

2.2 Empowerment and participation

Empowerment and participation are interweaved to increase opportunities to control one's own life to have power to:

- Put things on the agenda;
- Negotiate on issues
- Make decision;
- Have their voice heard;
- Challenge past customs and develop power within them and
- Own the decisions and participate in full for its implementations.

Exercising of empowerment of children brings about more responsibilities of adults.

In view of this, IFSO is determined to help the OVCs. As the problems OVCs are multidimensional, integrated family service project components are designed and implemented. Thus, the organization designed a sponsorship support for OVCs, a skill training project for school dropout OVCs, an integrated rehabilitation project for sexually abused children and a saving and credit scheme for women in charge of poor households with full participation of children and other stakeholders.

3 Child sponsorship support

An integrated support is given for orphan vulnerable children in Addis Ababa to have time to think, plan and prepare for their futures by providing them with their present needs of survival and safeguarding them from their every day difficulties through family-based welfare provision and educational support so that they become future self-assertive community members.

3.1 Types of support

At present 1364 children are getting financial and technical support. The organization is providing financial assistance for all sponsored children. That is, Birr 100 for 82 children, Birr 130 for 549 children and Birr 150 for 733 children each a month depending on donors' affordability. In addition to the enrollment of formal government schools, further education at certificate, diploma, and degree levels in different fields of training are arranged in cooperation with private training centers and colleges. Together with these services, others like house renovation, medical support and supply of educational materials and uniforms are included in the service. Further more, the organization periodically visits the households and provides group and individual counseling services.

3.2 Achievements

The sponsorship support improved community participation; the Needs and Rights of Children are addressed to a certain extent; the capacity of children and families is built and become self-assertive community members; and orphan children are prevented from joining a street life.

4. Skill training service

4.1 Background

One can ask a question of what happens to the children when the parents are died? And when no relatives are existed to assist them.

In such circumstances, elder sisters stop going to school and start working to feed the siblings. Though IFSO believes that children are mentally and physically incompatible to lead a family, the situation has forced to accept it.

Thus, a skill-training project is developed to scale up the skills of orphan girls in charge of orphan families with the objective to increase:

- The relative income and social sustainability of orphan households.
- The social participation and acceptance of orphans and children of marginalized households in the community.

To achieve these objectives, IFSO established its own training center in the project area and is providing training in hotel and childcare skills together with common courses like english language, health education and counseling.

4.2 Achievements

The result shows that until the 7th round training program, **42 boys and 288 girls, a total of 330 trainees graduated from the skill-training center.** Of these, 70 percent are placed in different hospitality industries. The eighth entree, which consist of 14 boys and 63 girls, a total of 77 trainees enrolled in the center as of June 2005.

The results achieved by the Skill Training Center include build the capacity of orphan, semi orphan and destitute households; enhanced the financial incomes of the families; and retained the siblings to live together

5. Counseling and rehabilitation center

Children are more prone to victimization than adults because of their weak, small physical stature and dependent nature. They are easily tricked with petty gifts. Therefore, orphan or destitute children, disabled and mentally retarded girls are highly vulnerable for sexual abuse.

Taking this into account, FSO established a rehabilitation center for sexually abused children, who were suffering alone without sharing their problems to others, due to its nature of stigma, discrimination and neglect with the objectives to recover the physical, and restore the mental and social well being of the victims

5.1 Major Activities of the Center

The major activities of the project focus on (1) rehabilitation and (2) prevention. The rehabilitation aspect comprises financial, medical, counseling and skill training support of the victims. At present 204 sexually abused children are registered in the center.

Regarding the rehabilitation intervention, the counseling of IFS center provides:

- Regular sponsorship support of Birr 200 per month each for 161 extremely destitute children.
- Counseling and psychotherapy services: each child is counseled for several sessions depending on his/her level of traumatic stress disorder.
- Medical support: so far 6 children contract HIV/AIDS due to rape. So, the center is providing special assistance such as nutrition and healthy lifestyle.
- Skill training: Children who discontinued schooling are provided skill-training service.

The center undertakes networking with professionals, local authorities, schools, police, hospitals, line bureaus, etc. to provide integrated services for the victims in line with counseling, housing, proper schooling, treating and research.

6. Results

- Psychosocial traumatic stress disorders of the victims are reduced.
- Victims are treated and recovered from physical problems.
- Victims revealed from financial stress.
- Community recognized the problems.

7. SAC

IFSO provides saving and credit support for women in charge of poor households

- Two savings and credit cooperatives are formed.
- Birr 111,000 is granted for the cooperatives to be used as seed capital.
- A loan of Birr 100,000.00 is also deposited at Addis Credit and Saving Micro Finance Institutes and provided loan for 107 clients.
- The cooperatives are now running their firms on their own.

Italian Center for Children Aid (CIAI), *International NGO*

Azeb Adefrisew

Country Representative

The Italian Center for Children Aid (CIAI) is an Italian international NGO established in 1968. The main focus of CIAI Ethiopia is child development. Thus, our organization is presently working in the area of Sponsorship, Shelter, Inter-Country Adoption, Credit and Saving Scheme and Capacity Building. The best interest of the child is the main guiding principle in all our program activities that contribute in ensuring the rights of the children benefiting from the different program activities to survival, development, protection and participation. Disability and HIV/AIDS are also mainstreamed in our different activities.

Capacity Building Program of Administrative Bodies and Institutions

The Capacity Building Program in favor of Administrative Offices and childcare institutions is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Addis Ababa Social and Civil Affairs Bureau and the Orphan and Vulnerable Children Network.

The main objective of this Program is to ***‘create a favourable environment for promoting children’s development’*** by upgrading and enhancing the knowledge, capacity and skills of professionals, community workers and other practitioners of administrative bodies and selected childcare institutions working for and with children at grass root levels. The main focus of the Program is the implementation of the CRC and the provision of alternative childcare services.

According to the Regional guideline CRC committees are established at Regional, Sub City and Kebele levels. The members of the committee at the Kebele level are the Health, HIV/AIDS and Women’s Affairs Extension Workers, the Educational Experts, the Heads of the Kebeles and the Public Organisers.

In order to realize the objective of the Capacity Building Program, a Capacity Needs Assessment was undertaken by collecting data from a total of 261 respondents who are expected to be members of the CRC Committees at Sub City and Kebele levels as well as practitioners who work with children within childcare institutions.

From the total number of respondents, 133 were from three Sub Cities (Yekka, Kirkos and Arada) and some 28 Kebeles within these Sub Cities, 83 were from five selected childcare institutions while 45 of them were from the Rehabilitation Institute for Child Offenders. The draft report of the assessment was then disseminated and enriched by organizing a workshop attended by all parities involved in the assessment.

Findings of the Assessment in Relation to the Administration Staff & the CRC

The following are a few of the major findings of the assessment related to the CRC:

- Although Kebele Extension Workers and Education Experts should be involved in the CRC Committee, 41.9% stated that they are not members.
- Among the Kebele Extension Workers and Education Experts only 38% had training on the CRC.

- The category that received the higher number of trainings in the last two years was the Women's Affairs extension workers: almost 50% of them had been trained on the CRC
- Among Kebele Extension Workers and Education Experts who are members of the CRC committees 55% have not received training on the CRC.
- From the professionals in the Sub Cities and Kebeles only 39% of the respondents have been trained on children's rights; even though, 61% of respondents stated to be members of CRC Committees.
- Among the CRC committee members in the different Kebeles, only 45% had actually received training in children's rights.
- Most respondents lack adequate knowledge in topics related to social issues such as alternative care, guidance and counseling, CRC, child upbringing, disability and OVC.
- Main factors hindering the CRC committees work are found to be budget related problems, low interest and lack of coordination.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Since a large number of the respondents declared not to be a member of the CRC committees, it was concluded that not all the CRC committees are operational and that they are not enjoying the active participation of all the members.

- Not all the CRC committees are active and/or whenever in place the committees don't enjoy the active participation of all the suitable members.
- Moreover, the fact that almost half of the CRC Committee members didn't have training in children's rights is a very serious gap that needs to be addressed urgently. If these workers who are expected to aware the community did not get any training at all in the thematic area, this means that they will not be able to have any input towards realizing the objectives of the committees.
- The difference in the responses of the ones who received training in the CRC and the ones who did not was not so great. This indicates a need for more intensive and effective training.
- The findings of the assessment revealed that there is an overall need to enhance knowledge related to children's rights, the implementation of the CRC and other child related issues. Training in this topic is, therefore, suggested for all the different workers and professionals.
- Mobilising local funds for sustaining the initiatives of the CRC and for avoiding dependence from external aid is considered crucial. Thus, the ability of the personnel, in particular of those at higher level, to advocate for children's rights and to raise funds needs to be improved. This is very important for the functioning of the CRC Committees.

Workshops and Seminars

Having identified the gaps in knowledge and skills the partners have planned to organize workshops and seminars in areas where there are gaps in providing adequate services for children, implementing the CRC and finding alternative child care options for children.

The general topics of the training and awareness raising workshops will be advocacy and awareness raising; psychosocial support (including CRC and alternative child care); project management and health.

UNICEF, UN Agency

Alessandro Conticini

Head Child Protection

Under the lead of UNICEF, the National Task Force on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) agreed to develop a Campaign for orphans and vulnerable children to ensure that their issues are addressed by local politicians and potential parliamentary candidates.

The campaign has got three main steps. One of them is called “*Hearing their dreams*”: it is a competition for children to express, either in writing or verbally, their feelings about their future and how their dreams can be achieved.

Their “dreams” have been collected and composed in a book. Today, I would like to thank all the children that have participated in this great work.

Dear children and young people of Ethiopia,
the first thing I want to say is a huge ‘Thank you’ for all your amazing contributions to the book. Thank you for sharing your dreams for the future. Thank you for opening our eyes to the many issues that concern you.

You have helped us understand many things about the daily lives of children and young people in this country.

You told us how much you value education when you wrote: ‘Children are eager to learn. They are like sponges. They take everything in’.

You told us about the obstacles and prejudices you face when you wrote: ‘Some people do not have any hope for children such as orphans and street children. They do not have any positive opinion about what these children are and can become’.

You told us about how much you grieve and suffer when you wrote: ‘God punished me with the death of my parents and the misery of my life, but I still pray to Him all the time. I ask Him to give me something better to look forward to. I will never blame God for what He did to me. He just doesn’t love me’.

You told us about your inner strength and your hope for a better future when you wrote: ‘I strongly believe that love, equality and education are essential for me and everyone to achieve our dreams’.

What is a dream? A dream is a wish that still has to be realized. In this book you have told us about your dreams for yourselves, your communities and your country. One thing that I feel certain about is that these dreams can come true – with your hard work and with the support and commitment of all the people of Ethiopia together with the various groups and organizations that work with children and young people here.

We still have a lot to do to make your dreams a reality in Ethiopia. There is a long road ahead of us and many steps to be taken. But remember, you are not alone on this journey. Many people and organizations are running ahead of you on the road to your dreams, doing their best to clear the way.

Many people are walking alongside you, hand in hand. Others are walking quietly behind you, doing vital work to support you as you travel.

May every single step that Ethiopia takes towards development be one more step towards your own dreams.

Good luck to all of you and, once again, thank you very much.

Chiro Zonal Labour and Social Affairs Bureau (BoLSA) , Local Government

Abdo Mohamed

Head of BoLSA

1. Introduction

West Hararghe Zone is one of Zone of Oromiya Regional State, which is divided in to 11 woredas (Districts). It is known that infertility of the soil, the poor natural resource management, the lack of infrastructures, the high mortality rate, the lack of access to basic education and health services, the clean water availability drought etc. lead the people of the zone to different social economic problems and poverty. To avert this deep poverty strong collaboration of NGOs and GOs is needed and a lot has to be done.

2. The Situation of Children in Chiro Woreda

The Woreda of Chiroo is situated in the western Hararge Province (Zone) with a total population of about 430,895 units (214,166 female and 217,729 male). 945 of the population is found living in rural areas. The children under 5 years are estimated to be the 20% of the total population; between 5 to 15 years around 275. 505 of the population is estimated to fall under the age class 15-60 years and only 3% above 60 years.

The situation of children in this Woreda is in difficult circumstances due to different reasons.

Although the magnitude and the depth of the problem of children is paramount it is suffice to mention few points about the situation of the children in the zone in general and the Woreda in particular. To begin with large number of Woreda's children are exposed to malnutrition, different diseases street children life dropping out of School, early Marriage lack of access to basic social, economic etc. services. In other words according to the Zonal and Woreda Social and Labor Affairs Office several Children in Rural Kebele are victims of physical punishment, labor exploitation, earl marriage and harmful traditional practice. Many Kebeles people are living in substandard housing and unsafe environmental condition these highly challenge the life of the Children. It is also reported that 227 females and 229 male children whose age are 0 to 12 are orphan due to HIV/AIDS dropping (abandoning) children on streets and others absence of adoption center at zonal or Woreda levels aggravated those orphans problem.

According to Chiro Woreda Education Office the total number of Children form 0 -18 age including age of school are 82,089 and 42,467 and 39,622 are male and female respectively. From the total of 70,678 school age children (37541 male, 33137 female) only 27,867 female and 14,676 male are enrolled to primary education and about in the year 7,000 students are drooping school the rate of childhood education (i.e preprimary education of kindergarten). Current official data collected by Chiro Woreda Capacity Building Reported that problem of food insecurity, school distance, lack of school facility (teachers, equipment books and documentation), lack of drinking water and family problem increasing drop out rate of school children.

3. Activities and Achievements hat of the Worda

- The Worded Social & Labor Affairs established Children's Affairs steering Committee for the implementations of NAP (National Plan of Action) from Woreda to Peasant Associations. The committees were established in forty nine Peasant Associations while three committees were established in the urban kebeles of town of Chiro.
- The members of the Committees are drawn from different government institutions at Woreda level and peasant structure, school, elders, religious institutions leaders etc.
- In terms of the number of members there are committees with minimum of nine and maximum of twelve members
- The committees lack strength and depth awareness on CRC and need training, workshop and other supports
- In response to these members of the committees are included in list of trainees identifies, proposed and submitted to CISP by the steering and technical committees for the TOT trainings of OA&PCM and Children Rights Planned to be given by CISP and including other institutional capacity building activities to make the NAP for Children and the committee more operational.
- The Woreda level committee chaired by the administration met three times with the facilitation of CISP since September 2005 to discuss on the planning, implementation etc of the support to Children and Adolescents Living Vulnerable Conditions in Chiro Woreda funded by Italian Cooperation.
- In collaboration with NGO, CISP (Comitatio Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli – International Committee for the Development of Peoples), the committees and Social and Labour Affairs during entry phases and currently the implementation of Support to Children and Adolescents living Vulnerable conditions in Chiro Woreda substantial activities have been implemented and under implementation in awareness creation, reorganizing the Woreda Children's Steering Committee and the technical informing and providing the committee the guidelines extracted from NPA for children Committee etc.
- Children run cubs are established in different Schools.
- Awareness creation activities involving children government institutions, kebele communities have been conducted at different level by Woreda Social and Lour Affairs and the committees.
- Different posters Convention on the Rights of Children etc translated into community language were distributed for the club committee member etc whith the support of CISP
- Facilitate and Support money amount 190 Birr per Child for HIV/AIDS Victims Children, support stationery (School material) and School uniform for students with UNICEF.

5. **Problems**

- Lack of office materials (i.e Computer, Fax and Photocopy Machine) and Audiovisual materials at the Zonal and Woreda Level of Social Labour Affairs Offices.
- Problem of Vehicles
- Shortage of Books, relevant documentation pamphlets reliable to Children issues.
- Lack of budget to create awareness on CRC Gender issue, HIV/AIDS, Family Planning and Family guidance. Child care to the member of the Children's Affair Steering Committee and the society a whole to make them more operational.
- Lack of any center helping the disadvantage children in the Zone and Woreda an temporary accommodating/supporting center(s) for children who needs adoption until they get adopting organization etc.

Finally, We appreciate CISP (International Committee of the Development of Peoples) effort to support the Children and Adolescents Living in Vulnerable Conditions in Chiro Woreda of our Zone with in the framework of the NPA Children in partnership with concerned stakeholder as this is the area which is not yet well addressed and indeed need the collaboration of all development actor.

We, therefore recommend that other GO and NGOs to work with us for the bright future of our children,

Thank you!

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

Conclusion

- ☛ Ethiopian government has ratified the UNCRC in 1992
- ☛ Steps were taken by the government to implement the CRC effectively
- ☛ Developed a National Plan of Action for Children and translated into nine languages
- ☛ NGOs and MoLSA are working on the implementation of Child Rights
- ☛ Local NGOs are being doing well in promoting the CRC

- ☛ Regarding the challenges there are still challenges even if the law is ratified
- ☛ Large number of children in Ethiopia needs support, they're violated
- ☛ In the past NGOs were focusing on children to empower them having a thought that if the children are empowered they will stand for their rights. But it didn't work. So in order to do an effective work, GOs and NGOs should also focus on adults
- ☛ The Penal Code has to be revised concerning the punishment of under aged perpetrators of criminal acts in consideration on what stated by the CRC
- ☛ CRC committees are very weak and less active even if the government has established the structure
- ☛ More budgets have to locate for education and health.

Recommendations

- Lobby with the Government to mainstream the CRC in the governmental agenda
- Strengthening the Child Rights Committee at different level
- Awareness raising to sensitize on the CRC and to increase criminal responsibility
- Promoting Children participation

CLOSING REMARKS

Andrea Senatori

Head of Italian Development Cooperation in Ethiopia

Dear guests.

I am very happy to have been given this chance to say a few words to close what has been an interesting and successful workshop. I promise I will be prompt and won't keep you long.

I believe all of us understand the importance of giving attention to Children's Rights in order to effect sustainable development in a particular country.

Children determine the courses of the nations they will represent as adults. It is the next generation that can continue and improve works begun by all of us. Therefore, investing in their future, we can say with no exaggeration, determines the future of our world.

On this day, we have focused our discussions on the problems Ethiopian children face and the struggle to ensure their rights are protected. The plight of children in Ethiopia is alarmingly deep; they face the brunt of political, economic, and social problems the Country goes through. But we should not let the sheer volume of the problem discourage us. Instead, we should use it as a motivating factor that pushes us to create effective mechanisms for designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programs that aim to make a difference in the lives of children.

The National Plan of Action prepared by the government of Ethiopia is a spring board that can guide all actions and programs aiming to improve the wellbeing of children in this country. We can use it as a blue print to plan and coordinate activities in such a way that make the greatest impact.

Before each of us walk out of this workshop, we should renew our commitment and to remain unwaveringly steadfast at the long and difficult road ahead of us towards creating a brighter future for each and every Ethiopian children.

Let us all be bearers of hope where there is little --- in the mind of a child that lives in heart-wrenchingly difficult circumstances.

Thank you for coming.

Workshop
*The Promotion of the Rights of the Child within the framework of the new
National Plan of Action for Children 2003-2010*

ANNEXES

SCHEDULE OF THE WORKSHOP

THE PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN 2003 - 2010

NOVEMBER 25 - MORNING

8:30-9:00: Registration of Participants

9:00-9:15: Introduction to the Workshop
Andrea Senatori
Head of Italian Cooperation in Ethiopia

9:15-9:25: Welcoming remarks
H.E. Raffaele de Lutio
the Ambassador of Italy

9:25-9:35: Opening remarks
Ato Girma W/Giorgis
the President of FDRE

9:35-10:00: Children Show + Filadelphia Corus

10:00-10:15: Italian Guidelines for Children and Italian strategies for the promotion of Child Rights
On. Giovanni Giacco
Member of the Italian Parliamentary Commission for Children

10:15-10:30: Italian Development Cooperation support for Children in Ethiopia: lessons learned and current involvement
Maria Rosaria Notarangeli
Child Program Coordinator, Italian Cooperation

10:30-10:45: The Status of vulnerable children in Ethiopia and the National Plan of Action for Children 2003-2010
Dr. Bulti Gutema
Head of Children and Family Affaires Dept. MoLSA

10:45-11:05: The implementation of the National Plan of Action for Children 2003-2010: results of the workshop organized by MoLSA and Save the Children Sweden
W/r Mekdes Gebretensay
(SC Sweden Consultant)

11:05-11,25: Coffee Break

11:25-12:10: The current project of the Italian Cooperation on vulnerable children: implication of the National Plan of Action for Children 2003-2010 on the promotion of Child Rights

Maria Grazia Dente, *CISP Country Representative*

Fabio Gaggi, *COOPI Country Representative*

Antonio Piccoli, *Project Coordinator*

12:10-13:00: Children Circus

13:00-14:30: Lunch Break

NOVEMBER 25 - AFTERNOON

14:30-14:50: The implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Ethiopia: modalities and instruments from local NGOs

Ato Samson Birhanu

CRDA, Coordinator of Youth and Children Forum

14:50-15:40: Round-Table Conference on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the implication within the National Plan of Action for Children 2003-2010 : the awareness campaign and the role of the CRC Committees

Facilitator: Dr. Tibebe Bogale

SC Finland Country Representative Ethiopia Program

Participants:

Representative of Local NGOs-IFSO, FSC

Representative of International NGOs-Action Aid

Representative of MoLSA/BoLSA

Representative of UN Agencies-UNICEF

Representative of CRC Committee

15:40-16:30: Discussion

16:30-16:50: Collecting and presentation of Re-commendations

Facilitator: Dr Tibebe Bogale

SC Finland Country Representative Ethiopia Program

16:50-17:00: Conclusion and closing of the workshop

Andrea Senatori

Head of Italian Cooperation in Ethiopia

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

THE PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN 2003 - 2010

<u>Attendance Sheet</u>			
1	Waineselssie Hailu	WCDO	Health Facilitator
2	Lyne Hope	Sanford School	Humanities Coordinator
3	Frosse Elso	Italian School	Teacher
4	Habtamu Wondemu	Psychology Faculty - AAU	Professor
5	Walter Zucconi	Italian Embassy	Program Coordinator
6	Ketty Tedeschi	Italian Embassy	Program Officer
7	Getachew Dimisse	AFSR	Director
8	Aberra Regassa	NACID	Delegate Coordinator
9	Hailu Hagos	HADEA	Director
10	Morgillo Maria Pia	Italian Embassy	
11	Abraham Tasew	Unity	
12	Menber Kemale		
13	Kassa Royissa	S. C. Canada	Program Coordinator
14	Tesfaye Mengasha	Birhane W.Y. Welfare	Project Coordinator
15	Asham Assazew	A.A.U Student	M.A Program
16	Abdo Mohamed	Zone Soc./Lab/AGG	Team Leader
17	Kibret Abebe	Integrated Family Org IFSO	Program Coordinator
18	Workiye Tegaye	Finland Embassy	Edu. Adm
19	Belay Girmay	Ministry Foreign Affaris	Councilor
20	Samson Birhanu	CRDA	Youth Forum Coordinator
21	Italo Rizzi	LVIA	Country rep.
22	Cosimo Chiesa	CIAI	Project Coordinator
23	Biruke Wlysis	Philadelphia	
24	Virginia Ercolano	Italian School	Teacher
25	Eammauel Habafes	Italian School	CBP
26	Aszeb Adfesew	CIAI	Country rep.
27	Tilahune Tefera	A.A Bolsa	Head
28	Hirut Melakew	COOPI Expert	Sociologist
29	Emenet Tadesse	COOPI Expert	Psychologist
29	Lelissa Chalchissa	ILO	NPC
30	Almayhu Gudissa	AVU	Student
31	Antonio Piccoli	COOPI Expert	Child Project Coordinator
32	Alebachew Tirune	Italian Cooperation	Education Expert
33	Belete Demissie	Italian Cooperation	Expert
34	Rebecca Alffram	SIDA Sweden Embassy	
35	Dr.Bulti Gutema	MOLSA	Head Dep
36	Dr Getnet Tadesse	A.A.U	Ass. Prof

37	Hirute Delbo	MOWA	
38	Getachew Melese	CSAB	Head of the planning
39	Gemechew Taye	CISP	Area Coordinator
40	Asfaw Mekuria	DPPA	Team Leader
41	Belachew Giema	Let me be a Child	Deputy Manger
42	Yimer Mohamed	Yeteem	Executive Director
43	Giletu Abili	Italian School	
44	Carlotta Carpi	VIS	Deputy Country Rep
45	Yohannes H/Iemariam	AAMWBCR & do	Program Officer
46	Renato Longo	Italian School	Teacher
47	Lelise Duga	AAMWBCR & do	Program Facilitator
48	Caterina Tazza	Italian School	Teacher
49	Vittorio Malgari	Italian Business	Leader
50	Benoit Leandro	Inlaave	Program Officer
51	Eyob Tadesse	Philadelphia	
52	Luigi Bottura	Bosco Children	Social Worker
53	Fetwt Hagos	Bosco Children	Social Worker
54	Laura Gethune	IOM	Counter-trafficking
55	Khadja Jivan	Save the children Canada	Hiv/ Aids Program
56	Tezra Gewe	Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia	Executive Director
57	Lulesged Erkihune	IFSO	Program Officer
58	Mammo Kelhedesh	ANFEAE	Director
59	Tekalign Gujifo	Social Worker	Social Worker
60	Ayelne G/mariam	BYWSWO	General Manger
61	Anchnalu Sisay	BYWSWO	
62	Derge Wole	AAU	Director AAU press
63	Girma Woldetasdic	ADB	Social Devel.
64	Kassye Hailu	NACID/Alisei	Director
65	Mariarita Capirci	Italian Cooperation	Expert
66	Melese Mamo	Social Labour Affair	Expert
67	Mekedes Gultemu	SC Consultant	Consultant
68	Mesfin Neyey	AAU	
69	Mulugeta Gebru	AAU	
70	Birhanu Gona	E.E.P.C.O	Manger
71	Surafafel Sahile	Philadelphia G	Singer
72	Zafe Tefra		
73	G/selase Hailu	Naphyele	
74	Kasshune Gedlu	Philadelphia	Singer
75	Rahel Worku	Philadelphia	Musician
76	Wondowssen Baue	AAU	Student
77	Ferehiwote Shewoangizaw	AVU	Student
78	Dr. Belaynhe Yifrew	FMOH	Expert
79	Giovanna Angiolini	Italian Embassy	
80	Metasebia Mammo	OPRIFS	Executive Director
81	Negash Mohammed	AVU	Student

82	Eng. Tekaba Getachew	Hope 2020	Manager
83	Carla Dicarolo	Insiemeper	Chartered Member
84	Emanuale Fantini	Italian Cooperation	Consultant
85	Israel Yeshak	Cisp	Logistic. Dpt
86	Tigist Hailu	Save the Children USA	Project Coordinator
87	Mohamed Bedru	EMRDA	Program Manager
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89	Sonia Pasqua	Children Association	President
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91	Emilio Manfredi	Il Manifesto, italian newspaper	Reporter
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111	Rossella Morselli	Italian School	Teacher
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113	Nanda Mollica	Italian School	Teacher
114	Maria Luisa Loliva	Italian School	Teacher
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117	Morgante Iolanda	Italian School	Teacher
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123	Minilik Tefraa	Italian School	Teacher
124	Bonelli Lara	Italian School	Teacher
125	Tibebu Bogale	SC Finland	Country Rep.

PICTURES FROM THE WORKSHOP



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H.E. Girma W/Giorgis (*The President of the FDRE*)



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H.E Luigi Giacco (*Italian Parliamentarian*)
H.E. Girma W/Giorgis (*The President of the FDRE*)
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Children Show (Organized by Pro Pride, Local NGO)



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