

Building Better Lives for Children

World Vision
Ethiopia



Ethiopian Minister, US Ambassador visit World Vision's child labor targeting projects

H.E Mr. Abdulfatah Abdullahi, Minister of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) along with US Ambassador to Ethiopia, H.E Patricia M. Haslach, H.E Dr. Zerihun Kebede, State Minister of MoLSA and Mrs. Margaret Schuler, World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) National Director, paid a visit to World Vision's Ethiopian Fighting Against Child Exploitation (E-FACE) interventions at Gamo Gofa and Wolaita Zones. The visit, which was held from December 2-3, 2014 was also accompanied by Zonal, District and school officials and targeted children.

The objective of the visit was to demonstrate how the project's interventions contributed to reduce child labor in the target areas. Through its E-FACE Project, WVE is working to alleviate the causes of child labor by improving the overall environment of primary schools and thereby significantly increasing the likelihood of young students staying in school.

The guests visited E-FACE supported Sikela Primary School in Arba Minch town, Chimato Primary School at Chencha District and Giorgis Primary School in Sodo town. The visitors also met school communities, teachers and responsible district personnel (District Administrators and Education Office heads) at each of the schools visited. Throughout the visit, the visitors received warm greetings from students and target children and the school principals briefed them about the project interventions and results achieved. The facilities visited include rehabilitated school blocks, libraries, pedagogical and innovation centers, print rich class rooms, student parliament in action, Early Child Care and Education Centers and others.

Besides, two Zonal level meetings were held to welcome the visitors, demonstrate and describe how far the government is committed to combating child labour and how E-FACE is

successfully partnering with the government structures at all level. More than 30 participants were present at each meeting.

Reflection and remarks regarding the successful accomplishment of the project activities and its promising results were also given by the Ambassador and Minister of MoLSA. They appreciated the interventions contribution to the reduction of children's engagement in child labor by providing a better learning environment for children and also enabling their families to get better income to fulfill the needs of their children.

The E-FACE Project is financed by the US Department of Labor and operational in Gamo Gofa and Wolaita Zones and Gulele Sub-city in Addis Ababa. Targeting 20,000 children and 7,000 households, the project comprises of Education, Livelihoods, Youth Employment, Social Protection, Awareness Raising, National/Regional Institutions Capacity Building and Research components.



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\$83.1 million worth program to reach nearly 6 million children

WVE signed a development program agreement worth one billion ETB (\$50m) with the Amhara Region in November 2014, in Bahir Dar town. Another regional level agreement for 862 million ETB (\$43.1m) program was also signed with the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' (SNNP) Region in January 2014 in Hawassa. The signings were made in the presence of the respective Regional office heads and representatives.

The five year programs (FY2015-19) are intended to benefit approximately 8.6 million community members out of which 6 million are children. The major program interventions to be implemented in the five years include livelihoods and economic development; health and nutrition; education, with a strong focus on literacy; improving water and sanitation services, and protection of children.

In connection to the agreement signing, Mrs. Margaret Schuler, WVE National Director stated, "Unlike the previous decentralized

approach which focused on signing agreements at the District level, the new approach enables agreement signing activities to be carried out centrally at a regional level, saving more resources and focusing staff effort on program implementation in the field."

The National Director further emphasized the importance of the partnership by saying, "We know, together we have so much to date and by consolidating our approach, we can do much more." She expounded, "We need to strengthen our partnership at every level so as to succeed in these programs that focus in improving the lives and wellbeing of millions of children."

Mesfin Gebremedhin, Head of the Amhara Regional State Finance and Economic Development Bureau said, "World Vision is one of the key and real development partners in the Region and its interventions are in our priority poverty alleviation areas." He added, "The development achievements in the Region are the results of many partners; however, the contribution of World Vision is immense."

As WVE looks forward to have similar agreements with other regions, its strategy moving forward is focused on the most critical issues impacting the lives of children by ensuring that communities have the skills and capacity to reduce risk, become more resilient and better able to withstand shocks and improve child wellbeing throughout the country.



Over the last three years only, WVE reached 5,808,995 people of the Amhara Region through its different programs.

Canadian government delegates visit World Vision's Project site

A team of four Canada Embassy officials and Canadian Government representatives visited Humbo Farmers Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) Project on December 16, 2014 as a part of an experience sharing visit. The objective of the visit was to learn from WVE how to regenerate depleted natural resources and help people acquire food security through poverty reduction initiatives. The visiting group, along with representatives from WVE, met co-operative committees and held discussions with them. They also visited the project site, grinding mills and the warehouse constructed by Emission Reduction Purchase (ERP)

revenue; and the household beekeeping. The team leader Mr. Tomi Huszar, First Secretary of the Canada Embassy, appreciated the hard work and commitment of the community; "the visit has enabled us to have a better understanding on FMNR and has given us an opportunity to interact with the community at the grassroots."



Government, community organize farewell for World Vision

After 23 years of humanitarian and development operation's service, WVE was officially phased out from the Badawacho District on September 30, 2014. WVE's Shone Area Program started its operation in Badawacho District, in the SNNPR, in 1991. The East Badawacho District Administration along with the community organized a farewell program from January 16-18, 2015, in recognition of World Vision's contribution to children's wellbeing and community. Over 1,000 community members, Regional and Zonal government officials and WVE Senior Leadership were present at the event.

District Administration Advisor, Mr. Mathewos Lelore said, "World Vision has significantly bridged the development gaps of the East Badawacho District in the last 23 years. Meanwhile, today East Badawacho District and community assure World Vision that we will take the responsibility of sustaining the development efforts achieved so far."

He also highlighted WVE's contributions to safe water supply, sanitation, hygiene, food security, environmental rehabilitation, education, health and nutrition, HIV and AIDS, gender, child protection and others for the benefit of children and community. He went on to recognise WVE's significant impact on the children's lives and the community through emergency relief food aid and enhancing food security situation through adopting improved agricultural technologies and improved practices that paved the way for boosting production and productivity.

WVE participates in global network forum

WVE participated in the Social Enterprise Empowerment Programme (SEEP) 2014 Annual International Network Conference that took place from September 22 – 25, 2014 at Renaissance Hotel, Washington DC. Organized by SEEP Network, under the theme "Scaling Impact in Inclusive Market Systems," the conference attracted over 800 participants across the globe with more than 45 organizations represented from INGOs, multi/bilateral donors, Micro Finance and research institutes.

The conference served as a platform to promote learning and exchange around proven and emerging approaches, strategies and models for reaching substantial numbers of poor and vulnerable populations on a sustainable basis.

The event was a good opportunity for WVE to showcase its work in saving groups and local value chain achievements. During the event, WVE participated in a panel session entitled, "Are Inclusiveness and Scale Mutually Exclusive? What World Vision is Learning by Doing?" as well as exhibition.

Celebration of International DRR Day along with partners

WVE partnered with stakeholders to promote the senior citizens' role in resilience during the 2014 commemoration International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) under the theme "Resilience for life." The Federal Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector, together with its development partners including WVE, organized a conference reflecting the current challenges senior citizens are facing. Delegates to the function held at the Hilton Hotel on October 13, 2014 included H.E Mitiku Kassa, State Minister of Agriculture, representatives from the UN and AU, different government officials, development partners, members of civil society.

While presenting a paper entitled "Climate Resilient Initiatives" during the occasion, WVE's Climate Change and Environment Specialist, Mr. Hailu Tefera said, "WVE is working on adaptation actions that strengthen resilience capacity of vulnerable populations, livelihoods and ecosystem since climate change greatly affects the vulnerable groups like old aged people."



DRR Club Members presenting role play on DRR

Fostering partnership with government offices

In the months of October and December 2014, WVE's Senior Leadership Team had brief meetings to four Ministry Offices. These are: Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs; Environment and Forest; Education; and Agriculture. The meetings were aimed at fostering WVE's image through short briefings of its engagement in the development arena and furthering the partnership with government offices at federal level.

In each of the meetings, a short briefing was made by WVE delegates, mainly Mrs. Margaret Schuler, WVE's National Director, on WVE's main projects with special focus on areas of common interest and discussions held.

In one of the meetings, H.E Mrs.

Zenebu Tadesse, the Minister of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, noted that the visit enabled her to widely understand WVE's engagement in multiple developmental activities in the country.

The meeting with the Minister of Environment and Forest, focused primarily on WVE's new project aimed at carrying out research on the Acacia tree. During the meeting, discussion was held on the viability and possible pros and cons of the project. As a follow up, WVE was requested to produce concept note and the Minister, H.E Mr. Belete Tafere, commented that his office would make further analyses and promote it further to scale up in other areas.

The Minister of Education, H.E.

Mr. Shiferaw Shigute, on his part, affirmed his office's commitment and willingness to collaborate with WVE.

During the meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Minister, H.E. Mr. Wondirad Mandefro, appreciated WVE's engagement in addressing the issue of rural youth unemployment through value chain and market linkages along with other significant engagements. Finally, the Minister expressed his office's willingness and commitment to collaborate with WVE to meet the common goal. In all the meetings, the Ministers confirmed the openness of their respective offices to work with World Vision.



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