World Vision, its partners mark the ground breaking ceremony of training centre

World Vision Ethiopia funded by World Vision Korea, KIA Motors and KOICA, kicked off a ground breaking ceremony for the new community-run auto mechanic training center on May 27, 2016 at Lideta sub-city, Addis Ababa.

The new community-run auto mechanic training center, with the total cost of USD 2.01 million, is due to be completed in the first half of 2017. The center aims at reducing the percentage of economically vulnerable population by enhancing market participation of Addis Ababa youth, providing comprehensive business skill and market participation opportunities.

Speaking in the opening remark, National Director of World Vision Ethiopia, Edward Brown said, “This KIA-funded KOICA Green Light project is part of the Ethiopian Government strategy to promote skilled labor through vocation trainings to address jobless youth. With a 5-year budget of over $2M USD (44.1 million Birr) it will initially transform the lives of at least 615 youth, of which 220 will become Auto Mechanics and 395 will be trained in Ethio-Handicraft. It will have its own governing structure and continue to train young men and women.”

Kia Motors Executive H.E Mr Jin Hang Chung said, “The establishment of the new centre is part of Kia’s on going global corporate social responsibility program, the ‘Green Light Project.’ And we hope the establishment of the new auto mechanic training centre in Ethiopia will encourage the development of successful, community-operated businesses that can have crucial impact in the country.”

The First Lady of F.D.R.E H.E. Roman Tesfaye officially launching the project stressed that the project has to be very objective in selecting the beneficiaries and need to employ a serious follow up on the progress of the program to achieve the target goals. She added, “Women economic empowerment is not a one-go process and also could not be completed by one actor. It requires a multi-sartorial approach that involves financial sectors, educational institutions, civil societies and the higher political leadership among other.”

When the center opens in 2017 it will employ the local community and take on around 100 young trainees each year. The centers will enable trainee mechanics to work towards national qualifications in their countries.

The new community-run auto mechanic training centre will provide various kinds of vocational trainings equipped with the necessary machineries and vehicle parts. Market opportunity and on job trainings will also be facilitated afterwards.
Message from the National Director

Greetings

First of all, I just want to introduce myself as the newly appointed National Director. I have served in World Vision for over 17 years, including the last six as National Director for WV Zimbabwe, nearly four years in Sierra Leone, over 3 years in Zimbabwe as Relief Director/Chief of Party, 2 years in Angola, and two years in WVUS, where I served as Senior Director for the Humanitarian Emergency Affairs.

It is with gratitude that World Vision Ethiopia shares this Newsletter that reflects just a small portion of the many projects we carry out across the country. Since I arrived in Addis on April 9th I have seen some of these projects that are impacting the lives of many. A common denominator is the importance of partnerships that have been formed with families, volunteers, communities, other organizations, donors and government offices at all levels. I have seen that together we have achieved substantial and sustainable improvements in the lives of vulnerable children. In particular, life-saving humanitarian assistance in communities affected by the current drought would not have been possible without the commitment, support, dedication and professionalism of our partners.

As I look forward to meeting and working with you in the years ahead, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest gratitude for your contribution so far, and kindly ask for your continued support and partnership.

Thank You,
Edward Brown

World Vision Well Represented in AU organized African Child Day

World Vision Ethiopia took part in the celebration of the 2016 African Child Day, which was organized by the AU in Gambella Regional State at Jewi Refugee Camp on June 16, 2016.

The 2016 African Child Day was celebrated with the theme “Conflict and Crisis: protecting children’s right.”

Speaking on the Opening ceremony of the celebration, H.E Madame Bineta Diop, AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security said that wars and conflict has put children in a situation where the right to life, the right to live in a family environment, the right to health, the right to survive and development are violated. She said that the AU is deeply concerned by the negative impact caused by conflict and crisis in Africa.

On concluding her remark, her Excellency noted that if AU is to achieve agenda 2063’s flagship program on silencing the gun by 2020 and achieving peaceful and prosperous Africa, we must ensure the fulfilment of the rights of all children. She further noted that protection of children and promotion of their rights is not an optional but a central tenet for peace, stability and development.

Mr. Patrick Kasumba member of Uganda Parliament, who was once a child soldier shared with the participants how bitter his life was while he was a child soldier and kindly asked the participants to remain committed to fight against child right violation.

Various kinds of events such as panel discussion, presentation, question and answer, music performance were presented to the invited guests. The participant children were given opportunity to ask some pertinent questions on child right issues to her excellence Madame Bineta Diop, Ethiopian Government delegate and other Non-governmental organization representatives including World Vision.

Closing the event, H.E Mr. Gatuluak, President of Gambella Regional State, said that while celebrating the African Child Day we should not forget the conflict and crisis that is hurting the children of Africa. He further said, “It is with deep bitter and sorrow when I recall the recent brutal abduction carried out on our children by the South Sudanese Murle Community member crossing our border. Though most of the children who were abducted are now rescued and back home, this shocking incident is still fresh in the mind of the little children. This inhuman action is calling us, as one African to come together and to ensure the right of children to make our continent favorable for them.”
33 youths graduated taking Youth Ready Project life skill training at Angolela AP

Youth Ready Project life skill training graduation ceremony was held on May 27, 2016 at World Vision Angolela Area Program, some 110 km from Addis Ababa.

WV has been implementing Youth ready project model as a pilot in Angolela AP in order to achieve its goal of “children educated for life.”

Youth ready project model has been implemented with two phases: phase one viability foundation and phase two supportive pathway. The youths graduated after taking three months of phase one Youth Ready model life skill and basic skill training.

Mrs. Felekech Bahiru, WVE Education Manager said the project is designed to address out of school youths.

Saving institutes leaders, government officials and experts explained that the model is very unique from the former models as it works a lot on life skill and shaping the attitude of the youth before they are grouped for entrepreneurship.

After the training the entrepreneur group prepared their own group business plan and presented for the participants and guests on the celebration. The youths planned their business on the areas of poultry, fuel saving stoves production, bread baking, cattle fattening, vehicle cleaning and wheel service.

They expressed their commitment to change their life and hoped to be productive because of the impact of the life skill training which they obtained.

The government official recognized World Vision project initiatives and showed their commitment to support graduating youths.

Communities, government officials and saving and credit institution groups, Youth/Adolescent development specialist and WVE staffs at different levels attended the event.

WV Ethiopia launches 280,978 EURO Acacia Project in Tigray Region

World Vision Ethiopia launches Acacia Saligna Phase II Project, a farmer led agroforestry worth 280,978 EURO in partnership with the Tigray Agricultural Institute, Mekele University, and Winder University on the 11th of May 2016 at Wukro town of the Tigray Region.

Phase I Acacia Saligna Project, March 2010 to September 2014, has been implemented in three districts of the Tigray Regional State as part of ensuring food security and environmental rehabilitation in the dry land areas of northern Ethiopia. The project is worth 300,000USD benefitting 17,000 people in the region.

In his keynote speech at the launching ceremony, Beyene Geleta, World Vision Program Development and Quality Assurance Director said, “This project is part of the overall effort of addressing food security at household level in general and we believe it will contribute a lot to the wellbeing of children in particular.” He also highlighted WV’s active involvement in the country over the past 40 years in emergency response particularly in northern part of Ethiopia, while noting that WV Ethiopia’s intervention to the current response to the El Nino Food Crisis across the country.

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General Director of Tigray Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Eyasu Abraha (PhD), on his part said “The launching of this project is timely for it is more pronounced in a country where 85% of its population is dependent on agriculture for its livelihood.” WV Ethiopia in partnership with WV Australia and Tigray Agricultural Institute are addressing food security and climate adaptation issues which are crucial for the livelihood of the farmer, he added.

Acacia Saligna Phase I project was implemented to attain improved food security, livestock feed, environmental rehabilitation, and increased capacity and awareness according to Nigussie Hagazi, World Agroforestry staff based in Addis. It is highly adopted to degraded lands with high biomass (drought tolerant and fast growing), while remaining green throughout the year and flowering twice a year which in turn helps as forage for bees during dry season.

In the first phase of the Acacia Saligna Project scores of outstanding achievements have been registered, according to review of phase I project presented at the launching workshop.

“IT has been proven that Acacia Saligna is offering a number of benefits farmers ranging from household fuel to food consumption from livestock feed to honey bees feed. As a result we are forced to scale it up,” said Abadi Girmay (PhD) Natural resource department director of Tigray Regional State Agricultural Research Institute.

Introduced decades ago, Acacia Saligna is growing abundantly in Tigray Region and is expected to diverse benefits of more 20,000 targeted population in three districts of the Tigray Region; namely, Atsibi Wemberta, Tseada Emba, and Kilte Awulalo.
Child Health Now (CHN) Campaign Organized successful forum

More than 150 cabinet members from 11 woredas and three city administration offices in Awi Zone attended two days June 19-20, 2016, at Enjibara, forum organized by WVE in collaboration with zonal administration. The forum was held with the theme; discussing the challenges in achieving universal coverage of skilled birth attendance for women and new borne health.

In the event the political affairs head of the Awi Zone, Ato Addis Beyene, mentioned that we must be accountable for every woman and every child starting from conception until they reach their full potential. In this journey, he added, the political leaders of zone and woreda should take the lead and take measures as necessary.

The forum analysed the causes of low skilled birth attendance at woreda level and recommendations were given to the low performer woreda administrations.

W/ro Yenigusnesh Abiye, zonal head of women and children’s affairs indicated in her official speech solving the problems of women and children has to be a priority in all the sectors of government ministries.

World Vision has also got time to show the gaps in addressing the bottlenecks of achieving Every Woman Every Child commitments and targets using policy briefs, traffic light reports on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH), CHN documentary distribution and presentations.

Various officials and community representatives, zonal and woreda level cabinet members, religious leaders, child parliament representatives, and technical experts’ women and child affairs, and Banja AP specialist attended the forum. At the end the event was covered by the Amhara Regional TV and radio.

Media-based campaign conducted in Wolayita zone, Humbo woreda

Media-based campaign which was organized by World vision Ethiopia Child Health Now campaign, was conducted in collaboration with Wolayita zone Humbo woreda communication office, in partnership with local broadcasters in May, 2016.

The objectives of the campaign was to improve knowledge, attitudes and behaviors toward key maternal, newborn and child health issues in the community. The media professionals and the local media agency journalists after having refreshment trainings, discussed on Maternal Child Health (MCH) issues especially on the importance of skilled delivery with invited participants selected from different sectors, trained Community Care Coalitions and model women health development armies from the community.

At the end of the discussion the radio program produced 20 minutes awareness raising programs in two local languages (Amharic and Wolaitigna) to allow for the widest possible reach (approximately 1 million populations) to target audiences in the campaign areas.