

Field Visit Report



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1. Introduction

A field visit was made to three PIP project sites located in Addis Ababa, Nazareth and Meki areas starting the 8th to the 12th of October, 2010. The detail is as presented under each project site below.

2. Visit Made to the Project Located in Addis Ababa

The Addis Ababa area visit was made to the project site run through Action for Self Reliance (AFSR) in Nifas Silk–Lafto Sub City area. The visit was made by the CCRDA/Sida program coordinator, on the 8th of October, 2010, in the presence of project recruited officer, the Hanna Sefere Selam and Lafto Huletegna Zur Meredaja Iddir members, each in their respective areas.

2.1 Discussion Made at Hanna Sefere Selam and Lafto Huletegna Zur Meredaja Iddir Office

Discussion was made with the members of the Iddirs concerning the activities of the project run in collaboration with the Iddir Offices. It was mentioned that the Iddir Offices have been working with the project for the last four years. Based on this, the members mentioned that the 2010 allocated project budget is being implemented focusing on awareness creation against HIV/AIDS, provision of care and support to poor OVC and PLHIV, organizing youths into groups and providing training in different marketable skill areas which include:

- Loader operating
- Hair dressing
- Catering
- Mobile maintenance
- Leather products
- Electrician
- Plumber
- Petty trading
- Market focused vegetable production

As mentioned, the main strategy followed is identifying the jobless youths belonging to the poor families in the locality, organizing them into groups in their interest area and providing them training with the required saleable skill area. Then, the trained youths are made to look for jobs by themselves. To this end, it has been mentioned that changes have been seen with few of the trained youths in terms of getting job security in a manner that enabled to assist themselves and their families. However, it has been also mentioned that the result was not as expected as most of the organized and trained youths didn't get the job ready made and/or didn't get the job within the shortest possible period. As explained, this is because of no feasibility assessment was done on the saleable skill areas prior to providing the skill training in terms of how fast the trained youths would get job after the provision of the required skill area training. This implies that the more they stay idle the more they forget what they have been trained in; also the more they lack practical experiences to get job as the time gap gets longer and longer. Therefore, it has been critically commented as the project should have developed a strategy in which the trained youths would get a start-up capital from the project office provided that the skill training to be provided is within the capacity limit of the project office.

On the other hand, some of the people who have been trained and engaged in petty trading and vegetable production areas have better performance as they have been enabled to access a revolving credit from

the Iddir Offices using the project allocated budget. However, as mentioned, some of the creditors didn't engage in their preferred small business after getting the money and/or didn't discontinue their work because of different reasons. *This may require a clear strategy and strict follow-up guideline concerning how to transfer, in installment basis, the total credit amount to the creditor through performance based approach.* The visited and contacted youths who have been engaged-in petty trading of fruits and production of market oriented vegetables mentioned that their business has been lucrative and have been performing well through paying back their credits. The approach is found to be viable except that it has exclusive type of criteria especially for those who would like to run the business individually. This is because of the priority focus of the approach in this regard is group formation approach. However, the alternative ways should have been also seen so as to make the approach as inclusive as possible.

2.2 Awareness Creation, Provision of Care and Support Services

The performance of the project activity plan implementation related to community awareness creation against HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, provision of house-to-house palliative care and economic support is going on well, as mentioned by the Iddir members. The service is provided through the volunteer youths who devoted themselves to provide house-to-house palliative care to the people identified as PLHIV. Similarly, sanitary materials have been provided to PLHIV on monthly basis while stationery materials have been supported to the identified OVC students including the children from poor families. This area achievement seems encouraging except the priority was not given to the people and OVC who have been affected by and infected with HIV. *The priority should have been given to the people affected by and infected with HIV as the purpose of the project budget was to support those groups of people as a priority focus area.* In addition, there should have been a regular cross check visit from the Iddir or the project office to the beneficiary houses, at least selecting representative sample ones, other than relying on reports and periodical review meetings of the Volunteer Home Based Care Providers (VHBCPs). This is because of the Iddir offices have mentioned that they have done a cross check visit to very few of the nearby located beneficiaries but not to the far located ones. *In this regard, it seems that the project office left all its responsibility to the Iddir offices as no mention was made to explain the existing supplementary regular visit of the project office staffs.*

2.3. Systems Laid-down for Implementing Project Objectives

It has been found important to work with the local level institutions, the Iddir Offices, to implement project plans as they can play role to sustain the project results after the phase out of the project *if their involvement has enabled them to gain knowledge and skill.* To this end, the boundaries of their responsibilities should have been clearly defined based on the goal and objectives of the project to be implemented. *However, it seems, the full project office responsibility has been handed-over to them in a manner that the project office is there only to keep an eye on them.* As a principle of enabling and empowering the local community, we may accept the approach but from practical point of view the project implementation may suffer from lack of quality and result focusedness unless we are sure of their maturity level to shoulder such responsibility. *To cite example, identifying, organizing and providing skill oriented training to the local jobless poor youths may not be by itself the final result. The result is when the trained poor youths are engaged-in the envisaged work having livelihoods improvements in their life and their families as well.* From this point of view, the Iddir Offices have mentioned that most of the trained poor youths didn't get job yet except the very few ones. This might have required thinking of other alternatives such as allocating them with a start-up capital on individual or group base, as the case may be, provided that the business is within the project capacity limit.

2.4. Conclusion and Recommendation

It has been realized that the project is being implemented with full participation of the local community. To this end, the project plans related to awareness creation against HIV/AIDS, Provision of Care and Support to PLHIV through Volunteer Home Based Care Providers (VHBCPs), Poor OVC support through stationery and closing have been done well. However, engaging the jobless poor youth indifferent IGA areas through providing skill training of their interest area is not satisfactorily done as only few trained youths got job so far. On the other hand, some of the poor youths and PLHIV who got the access to revolving credit scheme has got encouraging performance as realized from the visit and the discussion made with few of the targets.

Therefore, the project office should strengthen its follow-up mechanisms so that result focused project plan implementation would be there. Especially, the project should look into the ways of implementing project plans in such a manner that it would be result focused instead of output (intermediate result) focused.

3. Visit Made to the Project Located in Adama Town Area

The visit was made to the project site run through Moringa ATAFSE Association located in Adama Town area in the presence of the Swedish Ambassador, Mr.Jens Odlander, and the National Program Officer for CSO Support and HIV/AIDS Program on the 9th - 11th of October, 2010. Prior to the visit of the Ambassador, on the 11th of October, 2010, there has been a field visit on the 9th & 10th of October, 2010 together with the Sida program officer, the CCRDA/Sida program coordinator and the Moringa ATAFSE project office staffs to organize the visit program ahead. The results are as presented herein under the following subtopics:

3.1 Moringa ATAFSE Project Office Level Briefing

Office level briefing was delivered to Mr.Jens Odlander, the Sweden Ambassador to Ethiopia, by Mr. Tesemama Goskora head of the Moringa ATAFSE organization in the presence of the Adama Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Office head and the representative from the Disaster Prevention and Food Security Office. The Ambassador has been briefed on the situation of the local, when and why the project is initiated and its implementation modalities, who have been the beneficiaries of the project, what changes/improvements have been registered as well as what will be of the future focus of the project.



Ato Tessema Briefing the Ambassador



The Ambassador Observing the Office Level Demonstration Activities

3.2 Field Visit

Mr. Jens Odlander, Ambassador of the Sweden Embassy, has paid a random field visit to some individual beneficiary households of the Moringa ATAFSE project in Mermersa area located at about 15km north-east of the Adama Town. He has observed the different development efforts going-on through individual households related to the development and promotion of Moringa (Shiferaw), Cassava, improved Sweet Potato and different fruit tree species as a means of adaptation strategies to climate change caused effects. To this end, he appreciated and encouraged the use of Moringa and Cassava in a regular food menu by the beneficiary community groups of the Moringa ATAFSE project.



The Ambassador discussing with the Beneficiary Farmer



The Ambassador closely observing the Pollarded Moringa Stenoptela Vegetable Tree and its succulent Leaf Development



The Ambassador Closely Observing the Preservation of Dried Moringa Leaf



The Ambassador Observing the Way Sweet Potato is produced And the Performance of the Sweet Potato Tuber



The Ambassador Testing Cooked Cassava and Sweet potato Tubers



The Ambassador Testing Baked Injera with Cooked Cassava and Moringa Leaf Stew



The Ambassador Observing the Way Cassava Tuber is Produced

In addition, he has observed the diversification efforts of the beneficiary households in order to sustain and maximize their livelihoods income. To this end, he observed the promotion of silkworm production newly introduced to serve as a supplementary income generation activities of the households. Connected with this, he also observed the promotion of Caster plant so as the leaf could be used to feed the silkworm using a feeding tray, the constructed silkworm production mud-house and wooden feeding tray.



Silkworm Production Tray

3.3 Conclusion and Recommendation

The field visit made by Mr. Jens Odlander, Ambassador of the Sweden Embassy, was very effective and informative because of the pre-hand attention given by the program office to organize the field visit in collaboration with the concerned project office staffs. To this end, the beneficiary households have prepared meals from Moringa and Cassava and invited the Ambassador to eat and feel the taste. This has made the Ambassador to practically see the level of adoption among the targeted area beneficiary groups in particular and the local communities in general. He also got realization about the attitudinal changes of the local communities to regularly include Moringa leaf and Cassava tuber as a component of their daily diet. *Generally, the visit has enabled the Ambassador to observe the effort done towards building the sustainable resilience capacity of the targeted area communities; the aim being alleviating the multifaceted food insecurity problem caused as a result of climate change inflicted effects.*

Therefore, Mr. Jens Odlander, Ambassador of the Sweden Embassy, has suggested the importance of further promoting the Moringa and Cassava development practices in a manner that enable to reach-out the communities reside in unreached areas of similar nature.

4. Visit Made to the Project Located in Meki Town Area

A field visit was made to the project site run through OSHO located in Meki Town and its surrounding areas in the presence of Ato Abdulhady Mohammed, National Program Officer for Sida CSO and HIV/AIDS support program – the Swedish Embassy on the 12th of October, 2010. Included in the visit were the project staffs and Voluntary Home Based Care Providers (VHBCPs). The summary of the detail is as presented herein under:

4.1 Briefing

Ato Abdulhady Mohammed has been briefed by the project staffs about the project interventions, implementation modalities, area coverage, total number of project beneficiaries, the achievements so far registered, observed changes and the future plan of the project. In addition, he has been briefed about the function of the youth centre and its constituent parts which include Library, Cafeteria and different entertainment parts such as DSTV, indoor and out door games.



Ato Abdulhady Being Briefed about the Project General Performance at the Youth Centre



Youths Watching Film within DSTV Show Room

Hereafter, he has visited the different development activities of the project within the Meki Town; which include DSTV and Film Show Room, Cafeteria, Library, Embroidery trainees, Sheep and Cattle Fattening Centre established by 10 PLHIV women with a financial support of the project. The briefing and the visit enabled him to get practical observation and realization on the efforts of the project so far done towards achieving the set objectives.



Ato Abdulhady Visiting the Youth Centre Library



Ato Abdulhady Visiting Participants of the Embroidery Trainees



One of the Visited PLHIV's Sheep and Oxen Fattening Centre

4.2 Conclusion and Recommendation

The visit made, by Ato Abdulhady Mohammed, was very successful and informative because of he has been enabled to realize about the successes of the project. Especially, he realized the status reached in bringing attitudinal change with the targeted area beneficiary community in terms of fostering community based HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control practices. This has been attributed to the project's integrated approach to address the multi-faceted problems of the local area. Worth mentioning in this regard is the establishment and running of youth centre which has been well equipped with the necessary service providing parts such as Cafeteria, DSTV and Film Show Room, Library, In door and out door games. In addition, the visit also enabled him to get realization about the improvement of life with the beneficiary PLHIV and OVC population through engaging them in alternative livelihoods income generating activities. Finally, he suggested the strengthening and

continuation of the already achieved results in a manner that address the problem of similar groups that reside within same or different areas.