

# **2013 Annual Narrative Report**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Integrated Family Service Organization (IFSO) is a secular indigenous Non Governmental Organization (NGO), established in January 1995 with a vision “to see a society where children are free from the effect of poverty in Ethiopia” and a mission “working for the survival, protection and development of children to bring them up in a stable family environment, and within their socio-cultural context in Addis Ababa City Administration as well as in other regions of the country”.

Currently, IFSO is undertaking 5 projects, 4 of which are in Addis Ababa Administration and 1 in Amabasel Woreda, Amhara Region. These projects are:

1. Child Sponsorship Project (Addis Ababa-all the 10 sub cities)
2. Counseling Project for Sexually Abused Children(A.A-all the 10 sub cities)
3. Oasis and Children’s Safety Net Consolidation Project (A.A/Shiro Meda and Ferensay areas)
4. Improving Girls Education and Wellbeing Project (Amhara region-Ambassel Woreda of S. Wollo Zone)
5. Supporting Children on the Edge Project (A.A/Nefas silk Lafto Sub city- Woredas 1 & 11 and Akaki Kaliti Sub city-Woredas 9,10 &11&)

The 2013 budget year performance reports of the aforementioned projects are stated here under.

## **1. The Child Sponsorship Project**

### **1.1 Background**

The Child Sponsorship Project is one of the child focused projects that IFSO has been implementing since 1995. In its 17 years journey, a total of 2176 (1022 male and 1154 female) children have received financial, psycho-social, medical, school material and counseling support to enable them pursue their education. Out of these children, 33 beneficiaries (14 female and 15 male) graduated with a BA degree in different fields of studies, like Engineering, Management, Accounting, etc. 42 students (15 female and 27 male) graduated with a Diploma, and 205 students (126 female and 79 male) graduated with a certificate from different private vocational skill training institutions with marketable fields and 95% of them got employment. In Addition, in 2012/13 academic year, a total of 29 children (14 female and 15 male) graduated with degree, diploma and certificate.

In the reporting year of 2013, the total number of the sponsored children was 682(324 male and 358 female). These children are attending their formal school from nursery up to university level.

### **1.2 Major Highlights, Special Events and Notable Achievements**

In 2012/2013 academic year, a total of 29 children (14 female and 15 male) graduated with Degree, Diploma and Certificates. Among these, 11 children (7 male and 4 female) graduated with degree, 2 children (female) with diploma and 17 children (8 male and 9 female) with certificate. The children and their parents'/guardians' expressed their gratitude to IFSO and their sponsors for all the support they have been provided till they reached to their current status. Of these graduates, 50% of them are already employed and became self-reliant while the others are looking for job. We hope that these children are equipped with a professional knowledge and skills and they are competent in the labor market to find job or to start their own business through the government initiatives.

### **1.3 Accomplishment Based on Plan of Action**

#### **1.3.1 Provide a monthly sponsorship allowance**

In the reporting year, out of the total 682 sponsored children (324 males and 358 females), 562 of them (269 male and 293 female) who are supported by ILSOLE (514 Children), CIFA (41 children), and individuals from USA (5 children) have received 300 birr per month while the remaining 120 of them (54 male and 66 female) supported by GMA were given 200 per month as sponsorship allowance.

#### **1.3.2 Provide medical assistance for the sponsored children**

In the reporting year, a total of 78 children (45 female and 33 male) were treated in both government and private clinics and hospitals. This helped them to address their medical needs immediately and minimized the burden of the family economically. On top of this, children have got relief from their sickness which enabled them to lead their normal life and attend school regularly. The full medical expense is refunded by the Project when parents/guardians submit legal receipts from private or government health institutions. If they do not have money to take their children to clinics, they are allowed to withdraw from their saving accounts, which they will deposit it back up on refunding.

### **1.3.3 Provide skill (vocational) training support**

There were 5 children (2 male and 3 female) who were attending private training centers up to the end of the 3rd quarter of the reporting year. But, after these children completed their training, it was not possible to accept new entries because the donors are in difficult financial problem to release sufficient budget as per the project proposal. Therefore, the beneficiaries were advised to send their children to government vocational training centers and other institutions which offer training opportunity for free. Accordingly, almost all the children who completed 10th grade were able to be enrolled in government training centers.

### **1.3.4 Provide financial support for 25 children who lost their sponsors**

From our past experiences, we have learnt that children will be in trouble when they lose their sponsors for different reasons. Therefore, IFSO has discussed with the donors about this problem and reached an agreement to allocate a separate budget line for 25 preparatory and vocational college students who may lose their sponsors. In the reporting year, there were 24 children (12 male and 12 female) who did not have individual sponsors but directly supported through ILSOLE. This support has enabled them to continue their education and rescued them from frustration and becoming dropout. These children are attending university (5 students), preparatory (4 students), vocational college (10 students) and high school (5students) level of education

### **1.3.5 Provide cost sharing support for college and preparatory school students**

Children who are attending in government preparatory classes (11th and 12th grades) and vocational colleges (from level 1- level 5) are required to pay cost sharing. Thus, IFSO covers their cost sharing fee of sponsored children to minimize their financial stress and help them attend their study regularly and properly. In the reporting year, 23 children (12 female and 11 males) requested for this support and IFSO has refunded their cost sharing expenses based on the receipts they produced from their respective preparatory schools and vocational colleges.

### **1.3.6 Identify and counsel parents/guardians who maltreat the children**

Throughout the year, individual counseling was provided for 149 parents/guardians who were identified as mistreating their children and denying support and care. These parents/guardians were made aware of the children's physical and emotional needs and how they can improve their child caring practices. They were told that children need love, affection, care and attention equally as that of their physiological needs such as food. As a result of the individual counseling, it is believed that the parents/guardians will be able to provide love and affection for their children.

### **1.3.7 Identify the children who have behavioral and academic problems and provide counseling**

Throughout the reporting year, individual counseling was provided for 177 children (92 females and 85 males) who performed poorly at school. The counseling focused on how to improve their school performance and use their time properly.

### **3.3.8 Create networks with relevant persons to find guardians and schools for children**

No child was reported to be in need of new guardian or changing guardian

### **1.3.9 Conduct house visit**

In the reporting year, it was possible to visit 64 beneficiaries at their home in order to observe and assess the existing situation of the children in the home environment. Accordingly, on the spot counseling was given on the importance of maintaining good parental relationship, keeping personal and hygiene and environmental sanitation.

### **1.3.10 Conduct school visits**

In the reporting year, 16 school visits were conducted in order to assess the children's school attendance and performance by checking their school report cards and holding discussion with the children and their parents/guardians whenever necessary.

### **1.3.11 Conduct base line survey to select new beneficiaries from among the applications and submit their application to donors**

A total of 90 new cases were submitted to potential donors (38 to Italy and 52 to USA)). Among the 38 children whose cases were sent to Italy, 20 children have got sponsors. Regarding the profile sent to USA, only 5 children got sponsors and no confirmation yet obtained about the remaining cases of children.

### **1.3.12 Facilitate the provision of Additional financial support**

In the reporting year, 12 children have received additional financial support from their sponsors. The children/parents sometimes request for additional financial support when they face financial problems and some sponsors send money in response. Others send money in their own initiative. Before handing over the money sent by interested donors, individual counseling is given on proper use of the money. The parents/guardians, who received such kind of support, are also required to put part of the money in their saving account for future use.

### **1.3.13 Facilitate the provision of New Year gift**

Two of the donor organizations (ILSOLE and CIFA) annually raise special fund from sponsors in order to provide the children with New Year gift. Accordingly, in the reporting year, it was possible to purchase different items such as school materials (exercise books, pens and pencils for ILSOLE sponsored children) and wheat flour, edible oil, school bag, uniforms, soaps and reference books for CIFA sponsored children based on the respective donors' request. All of the children supported by the two organizations have got at least one item as a gift.



*Some sponsored children and their parents with their gifts*

## **1.4 Planned but Not Accomplished**

### **1.4.1 Provide seed money for selected beneficiaries to engage in IGA.**

This activity was included as one of the project components based on the recommendation made by Women, Children and youth Affairs Bureau of Addis Ababa Administration to insure the sustainability of the project. The plan was to provide trainings on small business and provide seed money to 40 beneficiaries who fulfill the criteria. Based on the criteria set for the purpose, 20 beneficiaries were selected for the first round provision of seed money. However, it was not possible to conduct the training and provide seed money to selected individuals due to the budget deficiency from the donors' side.

### **1.4.2 Provide award for high achievers (students ranking 1st-3rd) at school**

There were 24 children who have been promoted to the next class with a rank from 1st - 3rd. There were also 11(5 male and 6 female) children who successfully passed the 12th grade university entrance exam in academic year of 2012/2013. Even though, these children deserve the award so that they

become good role models for others, we were not able to do so due to the budget shortage from the donors' side.

#### **1.4.3 Prepare workshops for 700 parents /guardians**

The parents/guardians biannual workshop was not conducted as planned due to the budget constrain stated above. The workshop was rescheduled to be conducted in the 1st quarter of t year 2014, provided that the donors release sufficient amount of money to cover the expence.

#### **1.4.4 Prepare workshops for 700 sponsored children**

The biannual workshop for the children was not conducted as planned for the same reason related to the budget. It is rescheduled to be conducted in the 1st quarter of year 2014 assuming that donors release the required fund.

#### **1.4.5 Hold quarterly meetings for parents' committee**

The parents' committee meeting was not conducted for the same reason related to unavailability of budget.

#### **1.4.6 Establish network with schools (key stack-holders such as teachers, school councilors, unit leaders and directors**

The aim of establishing the network was to enhance the school attendance and academic performance of the sponsored children enrolled in different schools. However, the network was not established due to lack of budget. We rescheduled it for the 1st quarter of year 2014.

### **1.5 Change observed**

Through the sponsorship support, orphan and vulnerable children are rescued from being dropped out and joining street life. Using the financial, psycho-social and counseling support, the children attend their class regularly and their school performance is improved. Some of them even graduated with great distinction from universities and become lectures. Every year, more than 30 children successfully completed their study from universities, colleges and training centers and joined the skilled labor force. These children become not only self-reliant but also productive member of the community.

### **1.6 Challenges Encountered and measures taken**

- There is limited capacity to reach the higher demand for the sponsorship support. There are many orphans, semi-orphan and destitute children in Addis Ababa who need the sponsorship support but the capacity of IFSO is very limited.
- Delay of budget release from donors hinders the smooth implementation of the different components of the project on time as planned. For instance, we were able to cover the monthly sponsorship allowance of the children from September up to December 2013 only at the end of December 2013, following almost 4 months dely.

## **6.2 Measure taken**

- The problem of orphan and vulnerable children is wider in its scope and beyond the capacity of one organization's effort. However, IFSO is trying to reach as many orphan children as possible through requesting our partners abroad to accept new cases and finding new sponsors or replacing children out of program. In addition, there is an ongoing effort to find potential sponsors from America in which the cases of 42 children have been submitted.
- As for the budget delay from the donors' side, repeated reminders were sent to donors to request them send the money on time so that activities can be performed as planned. On the other hand we always keep informing the beneficiaries to engage in some kinds of income generating activities so that we can minimize their dependency on the support.

## **2. The Counseling (Rehabilitation for Child Sexual Abuse) Project:**

### **2.1. Background:**

The Counseling Project has been established in 2002 with the objective of rehabilitating sexually abused and vulnerable children. In the project life, a total of more than 600 sexually abused children have been provided with medical and counseling services, 89 families were provided with one time grant and engaged in income generating activities, 54 school drops out youths were supported to enroll in different marketable vocational skill trainings and 114 sexually and physically abused children (75 female 39 male) have got foster home services.

This project had phased out at the end of 2012. Following the evaluation made by the concerned government bureaus, it has been modified and replicated in a new form since the beginning of 2013. Currently, 210 children (184 female 26 male) are getting the rehabilitation service. Of these, 28 children (20 female and 8 male) are fostered in three foster homes.

### **2.2 Major Highlights, Special Events and Notable Achievements:**

In 2013, the government formulated a new guideline that set the amount of monthly family allowance to be Birr 360.00. Following this, a slight amendment has been made on the activities and budgets of the project, which was appraised and approved by the signatory government bureaus of Addis Ababa Administration and the donors as well.

### **2.3 Accomplishment Based on Plan of Action:**

### **2.3.1 Financial and Medical Support:**

#### **2.3.1.1 Provide Regular Sponsorship Support:**

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2013, the monthly financial support, which had been Birr 200.00 till the end of 2012, became 250.00 following the agreement of IFSO to the donor organization **II Sole**, considering the existing inflation of market price. Later on, it has been raised to Birr 300.00 as the government signatory bodies developed a new guideline on the minimum limit of monthly sponsorship allowance, which is Birr 360.00. However, IFSO has been allowed to pay 300.00 Birr as there are other means of financial support like medical cost refunding, special financial support, IGA, Skill Training etc. Thus, a total of 182 sexually abused children (163 females and 19 males) and their poor families were provided with a monthly financial support of Birr 300.00. Of this amount, 25 % is deposited in their respective bank saving accounts which are opened by the name of the children and their parents or guardians. Accordingly, the families are able to let their children attend their education regularly. Moreover, the economic burden of families becomes less as compared to the previous status.

#### **2.3.1.2 Provide Medical Support:**

This service is to be provided for the beneficiary children as per need whenever they face health problem. Based on the demand of the service, 42 children who faced health problem in the year have been given appropriate medical treatment in the nearby hospitals and their costs have been refunded back by the project. The children have been diagnosed to have the following major medical problems:- Gynecological problem, Leukemia, Food poison, Influenza, Gastric, Skin Allergy, Physical Injury, Abdominal crack, Typhoid and STD. Accordingly, they have got medical treatment in different hospitals and their expenses were covered by the project. Following the medical treatment they received, they have been found in a relatively better health condition.

#### **2.3.1.3 Provide One- time Grant:**

For the purpose of facilitating reintegration of fostered children with their families or guardians, there was a plan to provide One-time grant of Birr 3,000.00. In line with this, 10 needy children whose families live far away and remotest part of the country were given a small grant of Birr 1,000.00 each in time of reunification. The grant helped to cover the transport cost of their families/guardians who came to take them to their respective destination.

#### **2.3.1.4 Provide Special Financial Support:**

This activity is meant for providing special financial assistance for the beneficiaries in case of emergency. Thus, there was a plan to provide emergency support for 5 families. However, due to the existence of more demand, a total of 12 families and an individual client were addressed by the service. The individual client is a girl who was terminated from the foster home as she finished her

stay has been provided with a financial support of Birr 3,000.00. The client is a girl. When she was in the foster home, she attended skill training and graduated in Hair Dressing skill with certificate. Following this, she has started working at a private beauty salon. As there was no family or relative who could admit her during the time of reunification, it was decided by the project to let her start an independent life. Therefore, the emergency support was needed to rent a house and to purchase important house hold utensils. As a result, she has started living alone in a rented house as of the first week of September, 2013. The case of this girl summarized here under (her real name is changed for the sake of confidentiality).

*Merry had been living with both of her parents till her parents got divorced when she was a 10 years old girl. Following the separation of their parents, she started to live with her father in small room which had been serving as a kitchen for other families. However, her father, who had been a drunk, raped her while she was only 12 years old. Then, she left her father and went to her mother. But she didn't disclose the incident as her mother was seriously sick. Since her mother was not able to work, it was very difficult to survive as there was no money even for their day-to-day food consumption. Following this, she was employed as a baby sitter. However, even there, she was again sexually abused by a son of her employer. As a result, she left her job and went away to a place where she didn't know before. While she was crying, sitting in front of a church around Arat Killo, a generous woman found her and took her to her own house. After she spent a night with that woman, she was taken to an NGO called OPRIFS where she stayed for 3 months. At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month, her mother was found around Abware and informed about the status of her daughter. Then, an appointment was fixed to reunify Merry with her mother who was bedridden. Three days after, she was taken to her mother's residence for reunification. Unfortunately, her mother had passed away a day before the schedule of the reunification. As a result, things became so difficult for her. Considering the extreme nature of her difficulties, she was referred to IFSO where she stayed for the last four years. In her stay at our organization, she has been given counseling, medical, financial and foster home services. Thus, as she has fully rehabilitated from trauma and became free from any health problem, she is given an opportunity to attend skill training in Hair Dressing. Then she graduated and employed in a private Beauty Salon. Following this, she is given an additional financial support for house rent, purchase of essential house hold utensils and food items. Now, she has started leading an independent life.*

#### **2.3.1.5 Provide Food Allowance for HIV Positive Children:**

It was planned to provide nutritional food support for 5 children living with HIV/ AIDS. In line with this, appropriate food items which were suggested by physicians were purchased and distributed.

The major food items purchased were milk powder, wheat flour, natural honey, strawberry jam, pasta and pine apple juice and other appropriate food items.

**2.3.1.6 Provision of Skill Training:**

Though the plan was to provide skill training for 10 beneficiaries, the late release of the budget compelled the project staff to select only 3 potential trainees who were available and ready for training. All the selected trainees have already started training in Hair Dressing skill based on their own interests. Among these trainees, 1 is a mother, 1 is step mother and the remaining 1 is an aunt of 3 sexually abused children.

**2.3.1.7 Provision of Entrepreneurship Training:**

Based on the plan, a total of 10 parents who were selected to engage in IGA activities have been provided with Basic Business Skill Training for two days so that they can run their own small business in an effective manner. After the training, the trainees reported that they have got basic insight on the following issues:-

- How to select an effective business area
- The importance of saving in business
- Decision making
- Basic Life skills
- The importance of Planning

The trainees were given transport allowance of Birr 40.00 for each during the training time. Moreover, an experience sharing program took place between the newly selected 10 parents and other 10 parents who were already engaged in the IGA program and become effective in their business.

**2.3.1.8 Provision of Seed Capital for IGA:**

Following the provision of Basic Business Skill training and experience sharing programs, the selected and trained parents were advised to open a saving account by which they can save their profits. Then, they were given an initial capital of Birr 30,000.00 (Birr 3,000.00 each) and have started their own small business. The type of business and amount of money provided stated here under:

No.	Previous Source of Income	Type of Business	Amount of Money Given
1	House Maid in Saudi Arabia	Selling Enjera	3,000.00
2	Baking and Selling Enjera	Selling Enjera and coffee	3,000.00
3	Preparing and selling raw materials for food	Preparing and selling raw materials for food	3,000.00

4	Needle Work	Needle Work and Selling clothes	3,000.00
5	Selling drink	Selling food and drink	3,000.00
6	Petty Trade	Petty Trade	3,000.00
7	Daily Work	Petty Trade	3,000.00
8	Fire wood collector	Baking and Selling Enjera	3,000.00
9	Needle Work	Petty Trade and Needle Work	3,000.00
10	Daily Work	Petty Trade	3,000.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>

## **2.4 Psychosocial Support:**

### **2.4.1 Provide Counseling Service:**

In the reporting year, among the planned 726 counseling sessions, 419 have been conducted. The accomplishment is less than the plan for two major reasons. The primary reason is the engagement of the senior counselor into other managerial activities as he is assigned by the management for performing the duties and responsibilities of the Deputy Director of IFSO. Moreover, the engagement of the counselors with other unplanned activities like follow up the court and medical process of the clients were the other reasons for the under accomplishment of this activity. Considering the coincidence of the unplanned activities, more attention has been given for recently admitted and highly traumatized beneficiaries.

Those children who were provided with the psycho-social counseling service are found in a relatively better psycho-social status. In addition to this, the counseling service helped the counselors to identify the major problems of the children for additional support.

### **2.4.2 Provide Group Counseling:**

This activity was accomplished as planned. Thus, a total of 4 group counseling were organized for 50 children who were recently admitted and stayed at the service for long time. In line with this, appropriate issues have been raised, discussed and addressed. Following this, the children who attended the group counseling sessions especially those who are newly admitted to the service were able to vent out their feelings and get the opportunity to share experience from each other. The participants of the group counseling themselves reported that the sessions let them share experience and help them understand that sexual abuse incidence could happen to anyone at any time.

### **2.4.3 Conduct Home Visits:**

214 home visits were conducted in the reporting year. The home visits were effective enough to make exhaustive assessment of the existing situation in the home environment of the beneficiaries and collect inputs for counseling intervention. Following this, burning issues of the visited families have been

discussed and addressed by the co-effort of the counselors and the families. On the spot, family counseling was provided to enhance the family interaction, personal hygiene and sanitation.

#### **2.4.4 Conduct School Visits:**

This activity is assumed to be conducted as per need when the counselors need some more information about the clients for counseling input and whenever there is a report by parents, guardians or school principals. Based on the need aroused, 3 school visits have been conducted. Following this, the cases of 3 clients who faced difficulties in their academic life have been assessed, discussed and solved by the co- effort of the counselors and the school principals.

#### **2.4.5 Provide Therapeutic Trainings:**

The Therapeutic Trainings are meant for facilitating the rehabilitation process of the clients who are highly traumatized. Thus, for the purpose of rehabilitation of these children, it was planned to conduct 52 therapeutic training sessions. Among the planned 52 sessions, 44 have been conducted in the reporting year. The difference between the plan and the accomplishment occurred because of the late release of budget. Accordingly, 91 needy children have been selected and attended four types of trainings such as Music, Drama, Photograph taking and Video recording skills.

#### **2.4.7 Organize Reproductive Health Training:**

In order to create appropriate awareness among adolescents, there was a plan to provide Reproductive Health Training for 100 selected children who are above the age of twelve. In line with this, a one-day training was organized and conducted four times for an average of 25 adolescents (both Male and Female). The main issues of the trainings were personal hygiene, menstruation cycle and related changes, contraceptive device, HIV/ AIDS and the use of condom etc.

### **2.5 Education and Entertainment:**

#### **2.5.1 Annual Festival and Refreshment with Music Show:**

For the purpose of conducting Annual Festival with Music Show, Meta Abbo (which is found in Sebeta City, 30 KM to the South West of Addis Ababa) has been selected. The site has been selected after a team of the project staff made an assessment visit to check whether it is convenient for children or not. As a result, the place had been found to be appropriate for 3 major reasons. The first reason is that the site is not far from A.A as the visit had to be completed with a round trip in a day; the second reason is there is an appropriate play ground which is green and free from interference of any other visitors; the last reason is that it was possible to access both food and soft drinks from the recreation centre with comparatively fair price. Therefore, the Therapeutic Entertainment program has been conducted in an organized way as compared to the previous years. As a result, all the children who attended the program were able to interact each other and refresh their mind very well through the entertaining components of the program.

### 2.5.2 Organize one day Educational and Entertainment program:

This activity has been accomplished as planned. Thus, a total of 162 children (both regular beneficiaries and those children who live in the foster homes) attended the program. The program included of the following activities:-

- music show by Fire Music Band;
- dance, music and talent competition among the children;
- rewarding ranked students who achieved high result in their academic performance and those who joined university;
- refreshment program

During the program, the counsellors reported that they have observed their clients (the sexually abused children) were able to interact and share experience among each other. Moreover, the program created a good opportunity for the children to vent out their emotions.



Figure 1 Music and Dance Show



Figure 2 Rewarded Students with the Executive Director

### **2.5.3 Provide Good Parenting Style Training:**

In order to create appropriate awareness among the parents of the targeted children on relevant issues, there was a plan to provide training on good parental style, which has been accomplished as planned. Accordingly, 182 parents and/ or guardians of the beneficiary children have been given trainings which consisted of issues related to child rearing, personal hygiene, environmental sanitation, economic independence and prevention of HIV/ AIDS. The training was provided in four sessions for an average of 45 participants per session. Following the training, the parents and guardians, reported that they benefited a lot from the training; and recommended for the continuity of similar content training as they have a paramount importance.

## **2.6 Meetings:**

### **2.6.1 Conduct Monthly Meetings of the Parents and Steering Committee:**

For the purpose of evaluating the effective implementation of the project activities, parents' committee which comprises 5 members has been established and worked in collaboration with the project staff. As usual, the committee members are elected on yearly basis. Thus, the former committee members have been replaced by newly elected ones in the general parents' assembly which is held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the fiscal year. Thus, among the planned 4 meetings, the committee has conducted 3. In these meetings, the Committee members raised and discussed different relevant issues and forwarded suggestions for improvement of the service.

### **2.6.2 Conduct Parents' Annual Meeting:**

It was planned to conduct the general parents' assembly once in the fiscal year. Accordingly, the activity has been accomplished in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the year. Accordingly, 153 parents and/ or guardians of the clients gathered at IFSO compound and made intensive discussions on relevant issues. The participants have evaluated the project services and forwarded feedbacks for the staff which can help improve the quality of the services being delivered by the project. In addition to this, the parents/ guardians have elected committee members who can hold quarterly meetings to evaluate the effective implementation of the project activities and discuss with the project staff concerning different relevant issues on behalf of the parents/ guardians of the beneficiary children.

## **2.7 Foster Homes:**

### **2.7.1 Selecting and Fostering Children:**

For the purpose of fostering sexually abused and vulnerable children, 3 foster homes have already been prepared and fulfilled with all the necessary material and human power. Following this, it was planned to foster home 24 seriously affected, sexually abused, Orphan and Vulnerable children in the

fiscal year. The accomplishment, however, becomes far above the plan. Thus, a total of 43(30 female and 13 male) have been identified and fostered the 3 foster homes. Following this, the fostered children have been provided with appropriate care and support. The children are referred mainly from the Federal 1<sup>st</sup> Instance Court, Gandhi Hospital Child Center, AAWCYAB, CPU of the different sub cities' police stations of A.A and partner NGOs. Children who fulfill the criteria are fostered temporarily till they are rehabilitated, complete their court process and get permanent safe residence and responsible person.

### **2.7.2 Reintegration of Fostered Children:**

The plan was to reintegrate 15 children who are comparatively rehabilitated and whose families are traced. However, a total of 18 children (13 Female and 7 male) have been reunified as more children had been fostered and completed their court process. These children have been fostered in the 3 foster homes for different length of time and received all the necessary services including shelter, counseling, medical support, food, cloth etc. Consequently, considering the improvement of their psycho-social status and availability of parents or guardians, they have been reintegrated back to their respective families.

## **2.8 Planned but not Accomplished**

### **2.8.1 Provide Secondary Traumatic Counseling for the Staff:**

Considering the transferable nature of Trauma, there was a plan to provide Secondary Traumatic Counselling service to avoid (reduce) the burnout to provide in-service trainings to update the knowledge of counsellors of counsellors. Despite this, it has not been possible to do so as there was no budget released for the activity from the donor side; neither a trainer has been sent from the donor organization that could provide the training for the concerned staff.

### **2.8.2 IEC Material Production and Distribution:**

In order to create appropriate awareness among the targeted beneficiaries in particular and the community in general, there was a plan to produce and distribute brochures and postures. Nevertheless, budget constraint did not allow the project staff to do so.

### **2.8.3 Standard Meetings of External Advisory Unit Members:**

In spite of the fact that the External Advisor Unit Member meeting has a great advantage for improving the service of the project, it was not possible to conduct it due to unavailability of budget.

## **2.9 Change Observed in the Lives of the Target Community:**

As a result of the services rendered by the project, the following changes have been observed in the lives of the beneficiaries.

1. The provision of counseling (individual and group) facilitated by home and school visits, Therapeutic Trainings, educational and entertainment programs made the rehabilitation process fast and more effective. As a result, the psycho-social condition of the 182 sexually abused children has shown visible improvement.
2. The refunding of medical cost helped 42 needy children who got appropriate medical treatment in recognized hospitals. This results in fast recovery of the children who suffered with health problems.
3. Due to the provision of the monthly financial support, initial capital, entrepreneurship and skill training, the incomes of 182 families have been improved. Thus, it was possible to reduce the burden of the families who had been suffering from serious financial problem. As a result, families of the targeted children are able to let their children attend school regularly and lead stable life.
4. 100 Adolescent girls and boys who attended reproductive health training become aware of the biological changes during the period of adolescence and their consequences. Besides, they become aware of the usage of different contraceptive devices and condom.
5. The trainings provided for the parents and/ or guardians helped to bring improvement on the way the families' rear their children, keep their personal hygiene, environmental sanitation and house management.

## **2.10 Challenges Encountered and Measures taken:**

### **2.10.1 Challenges Encountered:**

- The major challenge the project and its staff faced in the reporting year is the delay in the appraisal of the project. This is because of the request of the A.A bureau of WCYAO for a slight modification of the project. The Bureau demanded IFSO to increase the monthly financial support to Birr 360.00 per individual/ month.
- The second challenge of the project was budget constraint. As there was a delay in budget release from the donor organization, it was so difficult for the project staff to accomplish all the planned project activities on time.
- Moreover, the coincidence of unplanned activities like preparation of new project proposals in accordance with the new guideline of the government challenged the project staff from accomplishing all the project activities as planned.

### **2.10.2 Measures Taken:**

- Following the announcement of the A.A WCYA Bureau, the project coordinator together with the Executive and Deputy Directors of IFSO made attempts to convince the bureau representatives by making continuous discussions.
- The management of IFSO has been making continuous discussions with the donor organization to solve budget problem. As a result, the budget problem has been partially solved as part of the annual planned budget has been released from the donor side. Besides, effort was made both by the management and relevant staff of the organization to prepare new project proposals and look for new donors.
- To address the burden of the counselors, discussion has been made among all the project staff. As a result, the duty of taking foster home children to hospital and court has been given for the Community Worker of the project.

### **3. Extension of Oasis and Children's Safety Net Projects**

#### **3.1 Background**

The Extension of Oasis and Children's Safety Net Projects was designed to address the recommendation outlined by the consultants of the previous two projects (The Oasis and Children Safety Net) to be considered in the extension phase and started operation as of June 2013. The operational areas are Gulele Sub City, Woreda 1 and 6 and Yeka Sub city, Woreda 1, 2, 4 & 10.

The objective of this project is to sustain all the implemented activities accomplished during the previous projects by filling the identified gaps.

#### **3.2 Major Highlights, Special Events and Notable Achievement**

25 computers were purchased and distributed to 5 government schools on December 25, 2013 with objective of strengthening each school Computer Centre. The handover of the computers was held in the presence of IFSO management staff and representatives of each school. The purpose of providing computers to the schools was to familiarize the needy children with the technology. On the occasion, one of the school representatives reiterated that the computers they received will help at a great extent to acquaint children of poor families, with computer knowhow who had no opportunity before even to touch and see the device and he extended his thanks to the project staff and management of IFSO for identifying the problem and fulfilling the gap.

#### **3.3 Accomplishment Based on Plan of Action**

##### **3.3.1 Conduct orientation meeting on the importance of consolidation project:-**

Orientation discussion was organized on the need to extend (consolidate) the Oasis and Children Safety Net projects and conducted at Arat Kilo Education and Sport Centre on June 28, 2013. The meeting was attended by 24 participants (12 female and 12 male) drawn from A.A. City Administration Education Bureau, Yeka and Gulele Sub City Education Offices, Woreda education office, schools, peer education members, CBRHAs, and Idir associations. The objectives of the discussion were to:

- explain the importance of the newly established project
- share responsibilities and roles among the stakeholders; and
- aware the stakeholders; the transformation of responsibilities and roles to the community at the end of the project life span.

During the meeting, the participants were sub-divided into small groups at institutional level to discuss on what to do on the upcoming project time. The group discussion was focused on three thematic issues namely, education, child initiated problems, and health. Accordingly, the group participants have tried to pin point problems in regard to their respective thematic areas and possible solution as well.

In general, the participants voiced the importance of networking between the government bodies and NGOs for the execution of basic development activities. The discussion was very lively and interactive, which enabled participants to air out their opinions with a view of enhancing the development process.

Finally, the participants pledged themselves to actively participate in the implementation of the extension (consolidation) Project.



Education Representatives



Peer educators



CBRHAs members

**3.3.2 Conduct Training for substituted Para Social Workers:**

Among the 42 Para social workers who were trained and had been working since the inception of the social support project, 12 of them could no longer be involved in the service due to their own reasons; mainly change of working area. Therefore, it was found necessary to substitute them with new ones. Accordingly, a training program was organized and conducted on June 8, 2013, which was attended by a total of 12 participants (7 female & 5 male).

The participants were coming from different institutions of the community. Three of them were from communal idirs, five of them from elementary schools, 3 from police stations and one from health extension office.

The training secession included all components of the para a social worker training manual and different kinds of tools like role play, group work, life experience exchange, lecturing, brain storming and presentation.

### **3.3.3 Conduct Case Management training for the newly recruited Para social workers**

Following the recruitment of the Parasocial workers, a one day long training on case management skills was given to them on June 19, 2013 at Arat Kilo Educational and Sport Center. The themes of the training include:

- Case identification and pre-assessment;
- Coordination of resource ;
- Committed engagement;
- Mandated work force; and
- Immediate response to problems;

### **3.3.4 Conduct Social network analysis workshop**

A one day workshop was organized on social network analysis, which was conducted on June 27, 2013 at Arat Kilo Educational and Sport Centre. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the awareness of participants on how social network formation influences the success of social support and the need to make a concerted effort. The workshop was attended by 24 participants (10 males and 14 female) drawn from woreda administration staffs, youth forums, women forums, Addis Abeba Education Bureau, Gulele and Yeka Sub Cities education offices and Gulele woreda 01 and Yeka woreda 01 education offices.

In general, the workshop was participatory in which every participant gave their opinion and promised to contribute their share of responsibility.

### **3.3.5 Conduct orientation session on the social support program:**

A half day workshop on how to make the social support program sustainable and long lasting was organized in collaboration with Sign Language Training and Social Service Association ( SLTSSA) and conducted at Soramba Hotel on June 29, 2013. The Workshop was attended by 24 participants

who came from Addis Ababa Education Bureau, Gulele and Yeka Sub Cities Education Offices, woreda education offices, schools, peer education members, Community Based Reproductive Health Agents (CBRHAs) and Idir associations. At the workshop, the participants forwarded valuable recommendations as to how to sustain the social support program. Establishing the social support program as a club in every school, including the social support activities in educational planning at all levels, disseminating information about the importance of the program, etc were among the important issues raised during the Workshop.



*Participants invited by IFSO and SLTSSA while discussing together.*

### **3.3.6 Conduct discussion with parents /guardians:**

A half day discussion was conducted with parents/guardians who are considered to be Village Child Well being Promoters (VCWP) in good parenting style. The discussion was focused on the following main issues

- ✓ Child development stages
- ✓ Possible Community child protection methods
- ✓ Positive discipline
- ✓ Work against child abuse

In the discussion, 100 parents/guardians (33 male and 67 female) drawn from three sites of the project areas (Le'ele, Keyber and Wolayta Sefer) have participated. The whole purpose of the discussion was building local capacity to support children and families.



*Child wellbeing promoter groups during discussion.*

### **3.3.7 Conduct workshop on child Participation:**

A half day workshop was conducted, which was attended by 83 children (48 male and 35 female). The main objective of the workshop was to enhance children's intervention in different levels (at home, in their surrounding, at school) that concern their life. The children have actively participated in the discussion and finally suggested the importance of involving parents/guardians in such kind of discussion.

### **3.3.8 Identify talents of children and youth for child initiated activities**

Child initiative activities which, previously, was limited to football match, has been diversified to include art, drama, and literature, vocal and dancing. Accordingly, children and youth of the target areas have been grouped and formed clubs in the above mentioned talents based on their interests.



*Registering children according to their talents*

### 3.3.9 Create school community networking (child to child forum):

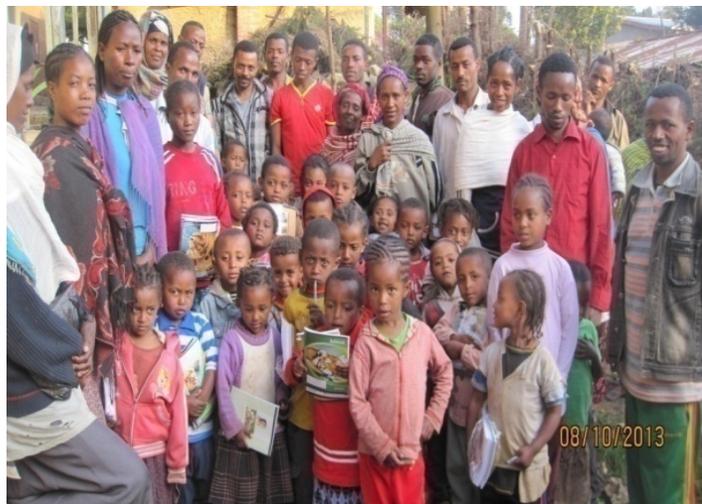
The school community networking meeting was held on December 14, 2013 at Arat killo Youths Sport Training Centre, which was attended by 25 participants (18 male and 7 female). The participants were drawn from school principals, school guidance councillors, Para Social Workers and welfare club leaders. The following were the main objectives of the meeting:

- Establish a net work system among the above representatives since they work for the best of the children
- Familiarize them with child to child Trust (CTC) and promoting the principle of children helping and supporting each other.
- To discuss about the implementation process of the new approach

At the end of the meeting, participants appreciated the innovative approach and expressed their pledge to implement the Child to Child Trust (CTC) Activities in their respective areas.

### 3.3.10 Purchase and distribute school materials:

Educational materials (Exercise books and pen) were purchased and distributed for 355 ABE and elementary school students (165 male and 190 female). The materials were distributed for students attending at Wolo Sefer and Ankorcha ABE centres, and also Qusquam elementary school. In addition, 192 exercise books and 50 ball points were given to Ferensay Idir counsel to be distributed for needy children of poor families. Furthermore, teaching aids such as English and Amharic Alphabets, and storytelling books were purchased and provided for the newly started Qusquam ABE centre.



*Qusquam ABE centre students after receiving the school material.*

### 3.3.11 Construct latrine for Qusquam ABE centre:

The ABE is established adjacent to Qusquam Primary school. The school management wanted to renovate the existing pit latrine with 8 holes instead of constructing a new one. Thus, IFSO management accepted the demand and the renovating activity has been carried out.

### 3.3.12 Conduct Annual Sanitation Day:

The Annual Sanitation Day was celebrated in Qusquam, Miazia 23, Salayish and Tigilenetsanet government primary schools. In the event, school management staff, teachers, students and other supportive staff participated. The main objective of the day was to clean the school compound and remind the school community to make sanitation activity a routine habit. On the Day, T-shirts, depicting the importance of clean environment, were distributed for the participants.



*Two different school communities celebrating the sanitation day.*

### 3.3.13 Provide computers for 5 primary schools:

25 computers were purchased and distributed to 5 government schools on December 25, 2013 with objective of strengthening each school Computer Centre. The handover of the computers was held in the presence of IFSO management staff and representatives of each school. The purpose of providing computers to schools was to familiarize the needy children with the technology.



*Handover of computers*

### **3.3.19 Conduct refreshment workshop for peer educators, Community Based Reproductive Health Agents (CBRHAs) and Community Health Workers:**

A half day workshop on networking of CBRHAs, Peer Educators and Community Health Workers, with objective of sustaining health intervention program, was conducted on August 15, 2013. The workshop was attended by 4 Health Extension workers, 10 Peer Educators and 13 CBRHAs. During the workshop, the participants expressed their commitment to work together in order to sustain the implemented health activities after the termination of the project.

### **3.3.20 Follow up and strengthen the Social Support Program**

As a result of the social support program and active role of para social workers it was possible to support:

- 400 children (120 female and 180 male) who were in need of food by organizing food bank in school.
- 1321 children (713 female and 581 male) have been provided with school materials such as, pencil, exercise books and uniform in collaboration with Idir Associations and other NGOs.
- 32 children (24 female and 11 male) have been rescued from labour abuse and resume their education through discussion with their employers.
- 78 cases (24 female and 54 female) of conflict arose between children and parents/guardians were mediated through discussion and counselling.
- 25 children( 15 female and 10 female) were helped to get medical treatment through mobilization of money by the social welfare clubs
- In collaboration with school teachers and police, 13 abandoned children(7 female and 6 male) have been reunified with their parents/guardians

### **3.3.21 Documentation process:**

The TOR for the preparation of document is formulated, which will help to identify appropriate consultant and start up the process.

## **3.4 Planned but Not Accomplished**

### **3.4.1 Entrepreneurship and experience exchange workshop for 20 previously trained youth,**

Not performed due to time constraint.

### **3.4.2 Provide Refreshment training for 30 SMCs:**

It was found that the previously trained CBRHAs became inactive and some of them have left the area. Thus, it was necessary to replace them by the new one. Accordingly new members has been elected and the training is postponed to the next budget year

### **3.5 Change Observed**

- As a result of educational programs conducted through discussion with parents, teachers and SMCs, the children enrolment to the ABE has been improved.
- Due to the holistic Social Support program provided by the 42 volunteer Para Social Workers, 1321 poor children (713 female and 581 male) have got access to education.
- The project activities are served as important means to inform the community about child protection, reproductive health and other related issues.
- The computer support made to the 5 schools has enabled children, who had no access and opportunity before, acquaint themselves with the technology.

### **3.6 Challenges Encountered Measures Taken**

#### **3.6.1 Challenges**

Getting approval of the project proposal was a major challenge, which has taken almost six months.

#### **3.6.2 Measures taken**

Attempt was made to go through all the process with close and frequent contact with concerned government offices.

## **4. Improving Girls' Education and Wellbeing:**

### **4.1 Background**

This project has been implemented since 2012 in Amhara Region, Ambassel Woreda of South Wollo zone. The project is entitled "Improving the Livelihood and Education of Girls". The objective of the project is to promote education for girls through provision of educational materials, construction of school facilities and enhancing the economic capacity of poor women in the Woreda. The major performances of the project for the reporting year are the following.

### **4.2 Major Highlights, Special Events and Notable Achievements**

- A project proposal worth Birr **1,852,912** was developed and submitted to Japan Embassy for the construction of 5 class rooms, a library, latrine, guard house, water reservoir and fence for Wuchale Primary School, which was followed by a site visit with the Embassy's representative. The proposal, after having appraised and approved by the Embassy, has been sent to Tokyo for final Approval.
- The hostel service organized and being provided for 30 girls is found to be very encouraging in which the girls have registered excellent academic performance and are now preparing themselves for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade National Exam.

### **4.3 Accomplishment based on plan of Action**

#### **4.3.1 Improving School Facility and Educational Support**

##### **4.3.1.1 Follow up of the construction and renovation of class rooms and toilets**

- 9 classrooms were constructed in Wuchale Primary School in collaboration with Ambasel Woreda Administration and the community, which increased the admission capacity of the school. Continuous follow-up was made by IFSO Head Office and Branch Office staff together with the Woreda engineer in order to ensure that the construction has been carried out as per the design and within the scheduled time.



*Partial view of the newly constructed classrooms*

#### **4.3.2 Organize Girls' Hostel for Secondary School Students**

- A Girls Hostel was organized for 30 girls who are good in their academic performance but in difficulty of perusing their education due to poverty and unavailability of school in the residential areas. The girls have started getting the service when they passed grade 8 national exam and enrolled 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Almost all of these girls are promoted to grade ten with excellent academic results.
- Regular follow-up activities were done to check the school attendance of the girls.
- Effort was made to ensure the daily provision of basic services for the girls at the foster home by employing a mother and a cook.
- Individual and group counseling service was given periodically and as the need arise.
- Additional tutorial class was arranged on English language and other subjects which was delivered by IFSO staff and other teachers with a view of strengthening their academic performance.

- The girls are participating in environmental protection by planting trees in their compound. They are also growing different vegetables in the compound to augment their daily food needs.
- The girls are conducting weekly meeting and discuss on social and educational issues. They are also organized into small groups having 5 members each led by outstanding colleagues to help one another in their study.
- Positive change has been observed as a result of life skill training they acquired earlier especially in resisting peer pressure that would hamper them from achieving their goal



*Girls' Hostel beneficiaries*

#### **4.3.3 Provide Prize for Ranked Students**

- 69 students (all female) attending grades 1 to 12 and who ranked 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> in their academic performance were awarded different educational materials as encouragement. Surprisingly enough, out of the 11 ranked students from grade 9, 9 of them were from the Girls' Hostel. The prize was given at a special ceremony held on June 25, 2013 in the presence of local government officials, parents, students and staff of IFSO. After receiving the award, one of the awarded students from the Girls' Hostel expressed her feelings on behalf of her colleagues as follows:

*In our residential area, we used to commute 3 to 6 kilometers to reach the nearby school. We had been exposed to a risk of quitting school due to forced marriage and or abduction. We are fortunate enough to get such opportunity. IFSO nurturing us like our father and mother. We are now proud of ourselves and become confident that we can perform even more compared to our male counterparts. Had it not been for the support we are getting, our fate could have been migration to the Middle East or employment as house maid in different cities.*

On the occasion, IFSO's representative received a recognition certificate from the Ambasel Woreda Education Office for the good contribution that the organization has made towards improving access to the provision of education for the poorest of the poor.

- Routine follow-up visits were conducted to different schools with a purpose of checking the 100 primary and 30 high school students, who are supported by the project, are attending school properly.

#### **4.3.3 Provide support for school girls' club**

- Continuous follow-up is underway to strengthen the capacity of girls' clubs which are participating in environmental protection and working on ensuring girl's rights at school. Further to this, the club members are supported to engage in income generating activities to increase their financial capacity. As a result, they were able to produce some needle works which were on sale during Parents' Day.

#### **4.3.4 Create network with local authorities and NGOs**

- 10 government sectors and NGOs working in the area have formed a networking forum for joint follow-up of project implementation. Accordingly, the members of the network have been participating in the monitoring process of the project.

#### **4.3.5 Awareness Creation Workshop for the Community**

- Awareness workshop on the importance of girls education was organized and conducted from June 3-5, 2013, which was attended by 100 participants drawn from parents, school community, local authorities, Idir members, and representatives from religious institutions. As a result of the workshop, many students who had been dropped out of school were identified by the community and the Education Office of the Woreda has taken the responsibility of bringing them back to school.

### **4.3.5 IGA (Income Generating Activities)**

#### **4.3.5.1 Provide Revolving Fund for Poor Families**

- 75 women had been selected from the woreda (25 from Wuchale town and 50 from the rural parts of the woreda). The selection process has been made as usual by the selection committee which comprises members from different pertinent government offices and the staff of the project.
- Following this, the selected women have been provided with an entrepreneurship training which focuses mainly on basic business skills like how to choose and start business, book keeping, saving and credit, etc.
- After the provision of the training, the women have been grouped in to Self Help and Saving Groups (SHSGs) and loan collaterals have also been formed to enhance saving.

- A total of Birr 225,000.00 was disbursed as a revolving fund, which was given Birr 3000.00 for each beneficiary.
- The repayment rate is encouraging. Accordingly, Birr 120,000.00 has been repaid back so far, which is 53.3% of the total Birr 225,000 disbursed.
- Previously, it was planned to distribute IGA loan for 150 women in two phases, in the first phase 75 women had taken and they are all nearly completing their repayment and thus, the beneficiaries for the next phase have been selected.

#### **4.3.5.1 Follow up IGA beneficiaries**

- Home visits were conducted to IGA participants and technical support was given in the usage of book keeping which helped them to register their capital, debit and credit. Furthermore, progress assessment sheet has been developed and utilized to assess the performance of selected beneficiaries.
- From total 75 women who benefited from the revolving fund, over 99% are actively participating in income generating activities. As a result, they have gained some additional income to support their families, which they are happy about it, comparing to their previous life.
- 25 women were organized in to Saving and Credit cooperative with fund sub granted from Union of Ethiopian Women coalition Association (UEWCA). The cooperative supported with Birr 37, 500 and the members so far they saved 18,880.00 birr.

#### **4.3.6 Monitoring**

The periodic monitoring visit was conducted on quarterly basis the Head office management staff. Accordingly:

- Project activities were visited;
- Discussion was conducted with the project staff on the progress made so far, problems encountered and solution sought while executing the project
- Discussion was held with the Girls Hostel beneficiaries to assess their feeling regarding the support in relation to their educational achievement. The girls have expressed their happiness and satisfaction with the opportunity they have been given and they confirmed that the whole conducive environment helped them, at a great extent, to improve their educational performance.
- Discussion was also conducted with IGA beneficiaries with a view of encouraging them to work hard in the area of business that they are engaged in.

#### **4.4 planned but Not Accomplished**

##### **4.4.1 Production and distribution of IEC materials**

- The draft content of the brochure was prepared and approved by the donor organization, which is going to be printed in the first quarter of the coming budget year.

#### **4.5 Change Observed**

- The 30 girls who are benefiting from the Girl's Hostel service have shown a commendable progress in their educational performance and most of them considerably improved their class ranks. They always express their determination to study hard in order to pass the coming Ethiopian School Leaving exam of grade 10 National Exam.
- As a result of the newly built classrooms, the teaching learning process is being carried out in a standard classrooms and clean environment.
- Those women who benefited from revolving loan have witnessed that the loan has helped them to augment their income and support their families and they saved a total of Birr 48,400. Their individual saving reached ranging from Birr 540.00 up to Birr 820.00.

#### **4.6 Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken**

##### **4.6.1 Challenges Encountered**

- Lack of access to internet services has been a problem to have smooth communication with the Head Office and donor organizations.
- The topography and long distance of the project sites in the rural parts of the Woreda coupled with lack of vehicles is another challenge for the project staff to carry out their routine monitoring activities.
- Lack of photograph camera is also found to be a problem when there is a need to take photos of different beneficiaries and event full activities for documentation purpose.

##### **4.6.2 Measures Taken**

The problems are communicated with the donor organization, CIFA to seek ways of solving the aforementioned problems.

## **5. Supporting Children on the Edge**

### **5.1 Background**

- Supporting Children on the Edge Project has been implemented as of August 2012 in Nifassilk Lafto Sub City (Woreda 1 & 11) and Akaki Kality Sub City ( Woreda 9, 10 & 11). The general objective of the project is “to see children and youth in the project sites live with and cared in a family and community where men, women and youths can develop their potential to become active members of the society”.

In order to achieve its desired objective, the project is undertaking different activities targeting children, youth and community in the project sites. The detail annual performance report of the project is narrated as follows.

### **5.2 Major Highlights, Special Events and Notable Achievements**

- One of the ABE Center, which was built for Airtumajo area of Nifas Silk Lafto Woreda 01 has been inaugurated in the presence of invited guests from respective government offices and IFSO’s staff. It was reported that Birr 236,000.00 expended to construct the three rooms ABE Center. Besides, as explained by the Deputy Director of IFSO, the required educational materials such as text books, exercise books, Instructional materials, students’ uniform, etc were purchased and distributed accordingly. On the occasion, the Woreda Education Office Head, Ato Tariku expressed his heartfelt thanks on behalf of the beneficiaries for the effort made by IFSO to address the education need of vulnerable children. The inauguration ceremony was fully prepared and conducted by the community members. Currently, the Center is providing education for 76 needy children of the area.
- A 5 day Para-social workers training was given for 22 participants from October 25- 27 and November 01-02, 2013 at the CCRDA Training Center. The objective of the training was to offer basic social work skills to different social groups based on their level of understanding. Topics covered in the training include: Ethics in social work practice, Communication skill, Life skills, Counseling, Appreciative inquiry (AI), Resource mapping, Conflict mediation and parenting approach. The training approach has enabled trainees to actively participate in the whole process of the training.

At the closing ceremony of the training, the Executive Director of IFSO remarked that the training is vital in addressing the social, psychological and economic problems of

disadvantaged children and their families because participants are more closely available and can understand the challenges faced by their clients than the IFSO staff.

### **5.3 Accomplishment Based on the plan of action**

#### **5.3.1 Observe International Family and African Child Days**

- IFSO has celebrated the International Family Day on December 21/2013 and December 29/2013 together with children and their families in two Woredas (Woreda 01 of N/L and Woreda 11 of A/K Sub cities ). The theme for 2013 International Family Day was “*Advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity*”. On the occasion, children presented songs and there was also a discussion with parents about the importance of family in the community in relation to proper upbringing of children. On the occasion, t-shirts depicting the Day was distributed to participants
- Similarly, the yearly African Child Day was celebrated at Hidassie Primary School and in Woreda 11, Nifassilk Lafto Sub city, which was attended by 1000 students and invited guests from respective government offices and community representatives. On the Day, T-shirts were distributed to participants with a printed message “Let us fight together to alleviate harmful practices that affect children”. Furthermore, children recited poems for the public that tells about the day and also staged a role play (drama) related to the objective of the Day.

#### **5.3.2 Provide educational support for Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC)**

- 500 very needy children, who were identified from 5 schools (two in Akaki Kality and 3 in Nifassilk Lafto Sub Cities), had been provided with educational materials. From each school, 100 OVC were identified needed such support.

#### **5.3.3 Enhance the capacity of schools and school clubs**

- Based on the gap identified in each school, two home work clubs have been established at each school, in which in all ten clubs a total of 409 academically poor students (175 male & 234 female) have attended tutorial classes. As reported by the teachers, those students who participated in the homework classes have shown improvement in their educational performance.
- Four schools were equipped with mini-media materials and all the media have started functioning.
- 5 girls clubs and 5 Anti HIV Clubs were re-strengthened and provided with financial and technical support.

- A workshop was organized and carried out to create awareness on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS issues for two girls clubs in two schools (Hana Mariam and Hedisa primary schools)

#### **5.3.4 Construct and furnish ABE centers**

- Two ABE Centers were constructed and furnished in Woreda 01 and 11 of Nefasilk-Lafto Sub City. Furthermore, In Akaki-Kality, wereda 11, a volunteer individual gave his own house to use for free till the project secure a plot of land and build the centre.



*One of the newly constructed ABE centre in Woreda 11 of Nefas Silk Lafto*

#### **5.3.5 Select and train ABE facilitators**

- ABE Center facilitators (2 for each ABE Center) were selected using agreed upon criteria in collaboration with the respective woredas of Education Office and Idir leaders. Following the selection process, pedagogy and lesson preparation training has been organized and conducted for eight days. At the reporting period a total of 174 children (82 male and 92 female) were attending their education in the three ABE Centers. The children have been provided with all educational materials including uniforms

### **5.3.5 Select and train School Management Committee(SMC)**

- School Management Committee (SMC) having 5 members each were established for the three Alternative Basic Education Centers(ABE) Centers and they were given a one day training regarding importance of education, roles and responsibilities of SMC, school management committee and communities. Currently, the SMCs are actively engaged in the follow-up of the teaching learning process at their respective ABEs.

### **5.3.6 Construct latrines and water points in schools**

- 3 laterines ( Kilinto primary school, Eritumajo ABE Center and Hanamariam ABE Centre) and a water point at Hedasie primary school were constructed in which the students benefited at a great extent by getting the service. Prior to the construction, the children were suffering from lack of properly constructed latrine. On the other hand, the water point constructed with reservoir has helped children to have all time access for pure water.

### **5.3.7 Construct public water points and latrines in the target areas**

- According to the plan, the constructions of two water points have been completed in Akaki-Kality Woreda 10 &11. As a result, a greater number of children and families have started getting potable water within the vicinity of their residence. Availing potable water points, as explained by the beneficiaries, have reduced their burden of searching water from faraway places. Furthermore, it is believed that the availability of clean water reduce the exposure of the community member for water borne diseases. In addition to this, 2 public latrines were constructed in Woreda 11 Nifas Silk Lafto and Woreda 09 Akaki Kality Sub cities. Accordingly, the residents in the area have got access for latrine service instead of using open fields.

### **5.3.9 Conduct awareness workshop on Reproductive Health and Family Planning Issues**

- Workshops have been conducted for community members to increase their understanding on the issue of family planning and reproductive health. Accordingly, 460 community members (411 females and 49 males) of the target areas have attended the Workshop.

### **5.3.10 Select and train Community Based Reproductive Health Agents(CBRHAs)**

- Twelve mothers were selected From Nefas Silk Lafto Sub City of woreda 01&11and took training to serve as CBRHAs on a voluntarily. Following the training, 528 pills and 4320

different types of condom were purchased and handed over to the trained CBRHA's, which they distribute to appropriate beneficiaries in their community.

### 5.3.11 Identify Child initiated activities

- Following identification of potential talents and interest, training was conducted on acting and script writing for 48 contact hours, which was attended by 20 children ((16 female and 4 male). The objective of the training was to enhance children's cognitive and communication skills. The 20 children were selected from the out skirt of Addis Ababa which is commonly called GelanGura and Kilinto sites of Akakai Kality Sub city. The trainees graduated on September 2, 2013 in the presence of invited guests and their parents.

### 5.3.12 Select and train male agents

- From all five project sites, 25 male agents were identified and trained on the issue of male as a partner. The training was conducted in two areas. The aim of the training was to make males a partner of the effort to alleviate sexual gender violence. The topics of the training included the difference between gender and sex, ways of identifying types of violence in their respective area, the solution to the problem and how they / the male/ become agent to protect violence against woman.



*Trained male agents*

### **5.3.13 Conduct good parental workshop for influential individuals**

- Workshops on good parental relationship were conducted on December 20, 24, 26 & 30/2013 in Nifas silk Lafto Sub city Woreda 01 and in all Woredas of Akaki kality Sub city of the target area. The workshops were attended by a total of 98 participants (85 male and 13 female)

The main objectives of the workshops were to create awareness on better parenting approach and getting experiences of community members' on child raising practices. In the workshop it was revealed that most of the participants were practicing the authoritarian kind of parenting style. After the workshop, however, they expressed their readiness to adopt the democratic or participatory way of approach to lead their families.

### **5.3.14 Give award for Model Parents**

- The notion behind awarding model parents was to motivate community members to have better family lives by taking as a model those families selected by the community for having good parental relationship. Accordingly, the award was given for fifteen parents who were selected from five sites (three from each site) of the project areas. The award was a blanket and a pair of bed sheets. The model parents were selected by the community themselves and the criteria were:
  - A parent who is leading his/her family in proper manner
  - A parent who has good relationship with his /her spouse.
  - A Parent who is respected by the community members
  - A parent who follows his/her children education

### **5.3.15 Conduct entrepreneurship skill training for the unemployed youth**

- A 3 day entrepreneurship skill training was given for a total of 113 youth (43 male and 70 female) unemployed youth of the target areas. The main objective of the training was to provide basic skills of entrepreneurship and to inform how a given person can be successful in running her/his own business. On the training, the following main issues were covered:
  - Concept of entrepreneur
  - Traits of good entrepreneur
  - How to run successful business
  - Preparation of business plan

The trainees were given ample opportunity to discuss in groups and prepare business plan on a kind of business they want to run (poultry production, Juice corner, stationery and computer center, and barber shop). It was observed that the unemployed youth have great potentials to see available resources in their surrounding and also have the zeal to start up their own business. The numbers of trainees are presented hereunder by area.

#### **5.3.16 Conduct workshop for mothers on how to look after children**

- The awareness raising workshops were conducted on December 07 – 08, 2013 (A/Kality) and December 15-22, 2013(Nifassilk Lafto). The workshops were attended by a total of 319 mothers.

Issues discussed in the workshop include child rearing practice, sanitation, abusing and neglecting of children. The participants were informed that children need care and support which help them to grow up in positive way and become productive citizens. Finally, the participants agreed to avoid all wrong handling of children and do their at most contribution towards the protection of children.

#### **5.3.17 Conduct awareness raising workshop on the importance of education**

- Awareness workshops on the importance of education were given to 260 parents in the three cites of the project. The workshops were aimed at discussing the issue in a participatory manner in order to enhance participants understanding so that they strictly follow their children's education.



*Workshop on importance of education*

### **5.3.18 Provide emergency support**

- Emergency support was provided for 100 needy families which were identified in collaboration with Women, Children and Youth Affairs Offices of the target areas. Each of the identified families have received Birr 500.00 in order to help them cover some of their basic needs

### **5.3.19 Select and train school management committee (SMC)**

- 15 school management committee members(SMCs) were selected among the community members of three cites and they were given a one day training regarding importance of education, roles and responsibilities of SMCs, school management committee, schools and communities.

### **5.3.20 Conduct awareness workshop on hygiene and sanitation**

- The workshop was conducted in which a total of 410 people (22 male and 388 female) participated. The workshop focused on informing participants about the importance of personal hygiene and environmental sanitation through participatory discussion.

### **5.3.21 Organize and conduct sanitation campaign**

- The sanitation campaign was conducted in Nifassilk Lafto Subcity, Woreda 01 and 11, in which a total of 250 residents participated. Side by side, orientation was given to residents to make sanitation a habit rather than campaigning once or twice a year.

### **5.3.22 Train Para-social Workers**

- A 5 day para-social workers training was given for 22 participants from October 25- 27 and November 01-02, 2013 at the CCRDA Training Center. The objective of the training was to offer basic social work skills to different social groups based on their level of understanding. Topics covered in the 5 days training include: Ethics in social work practice, Communication skill, Life skills, Counseling, Appreciative inquiry(AI), Resource mapping, Conflict mediation and parenting approach. The training approach has enabled trainees to actively participate in the whole process of the training.

## **5.4 Planned but not accomplished**

### **5.4.1 Cross visit among school clubs**

- Home Work and Welfare Clubs were established and strengthened in all five government primary schools of the project areas. However, the experience sharing program was not conducted as planned due to time constraints and postponed to the coming budget year.

#### **5.4.2 Identify and organize workshop for immigrants**

- It was not possible to organize the workshop due to time constraints and postponed to the coming budget year.

#### **5.4.3 Conduct experience workshop between the role youth models**

- The role models were planned to be selected from the entrepreneurship skill trainees. Since the training was given recently, it was not possible to see its effect and then to select role models. Thus, the activity is postponed to the next quarter

### **5.5 Change observed**

- Implemented activities have positively affected the lives of many targeted children and their families Some of the changes observed include:
  - 174 children (82 male and 92 female) have got opportunity to attend education in the three ABE Centers, These school age children were not able to go to school due to unavailability of nearby formal school and also due to the poverty of their family.
  - 500 Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) have continued their education for they have been supported by educational materials uniforms.
  - The latrines constructed for the community use have contributed towards creating clean community environment
  - Availing potable water through construction of water points, as explained by the beneficiaries, has reduced their burden of searching water from faraway places. Furthermore, it is believed that the availability of clean water reduce the exposure of the community member for water borne diseases
  - As a result of the reproductive health education, 193 family members (80 females and 113 males) have started using contraceptive methods such as pills and condoms.

### **5.6 Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken:**

#### **5.6.1 Challenges Encountered:**

- Lack of qualified facilitators within the locality of the ABE Centers which negatively affected the teaching learning process
- Since most of the target communities are agrarian, they are busy in all week days, which made it difficult to carryout activities as planned.

- Getting land for ABE Center, latrine construction and appropriate space for water point construction was taking longer time than expected, which required the staff to pass through long bureaucratic process

#### **5.6.2 Measures Taken:**

- Attempt has been made to recruit qualified facilitators from other nearby kebeles by considering adjustment of salary in consultation with the donors.
- Arrangement was made to carry out trainings and workshops in the weekends.
- It was required to make continuous visit to the project sites and conduct routine discussion with the concerned government officials.