

NCA ETHIOPIA
COUNTRY PROGRAMME
REPORT
2009

March 2010

COUNTRY PROGRAMME REPORT

2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Country: Ethiopia

Year:2009

2.2 Thematic focus and Partners

Thematic Focus	Cooperation partner(s)
Civil Society (CSOs) for Accountable Governance	¹ Action Professional Associations for People (APAP), Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA), Human Rights Council (HRC) formerly known as Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO), Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA), Forum For Social Studies (FSS), Inter African Group (IAG), Transparency Ethiopia (TE) ² Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Union (CETU) ³ African Initiatives for a Democratic World Order (AIDWO), Management Development Forum (MDF), EOC/DICAC, EECMY/DASSC
Peace Building and Conflict Transformation	Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC/DICAC), Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Eyesus (EECMY/Peace office), Ethiopian Muslim Development Association (EMDA)
HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control	Hossana EECMY South Central Synod, Organization for Social Services for AIDS (OSSA), Addis Ababa and Surrounding EECMY
Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation	SNNPRS Water resources Development Bureau, EOC/DICAC, EECMY/DASSC, Relief Society of Tigray (REST)
Address Gender Based Violence	EOC/DICAC, EECMY/DASSC, Kembata Menti Gezma (KMG), Ethiopian Goji Limadawi Drigitoch Aswogaje Mahiber (EGLDAM), African Development Aid Association (ADAA), Ogaden Welfare and Development Association (OWDA), Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia(ECFE),Ethiopia Muslim Development Agency (EMDA)
Food Security and Emergency Preparedness and response	EECMY-DASSC, EOC-DICAC, Relief Society of Tigray (REST), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Section (DRMFSS)

2.3 Which projects were completed during the year?

NCA Project ID	Norad Project No	Project Name
10020	-	Meda Wolabu Community Development Project
10024	-	EOC/DICAC IRDP Dehana ⁴
10913	-	Hossana EECMY/SCS-HIV/AIDS care and support
14135	-	Human Rights, Democracy & Good Governance

¹ These partners have a long-term partnership with NCA-E. NCA supports core programmes of those partners together with other donor groups in consortium. Thus, it should be noted that activities reported to be implemented are not solely financed from NCA budget as donors' consortium employ pool funding system.

² Have long-term partnership with NCA but support is given on project basis rather than long-term programme.

³ These are partners for specific projects and agreement is signed only for one year. The projects of these partners are supported solely by the NCA.

⁴ PID 10024 will continue to another project site with the same partner – with the new project name EOC/DICAC Ensaro & Wayu IRDP

2.4 To what degree have the programmes been implemented as planned, and what results were achieved during the year?

NCA Ethiopia Thematic Priorities

NCA/Ethiopia commits itself to the vision "Together for a Just World". It aims to promote and uphold human dignity through efforts to ensure human development, human rights and human security for the people of Ethiopia. Under its current Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2005-2010), NCA/Ethiopia has been operational in 2009 with six thematic priorities including CSOs for Accountable Governance, Peace Building and Conflict Resolution, HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control, Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation, Gender Based Violence, and Food Security and Emergency Preparedness and Response. Environment and climate change has been taken as an agenda across its thematic priorities. During the year 2009, NCA together with 23 partners has implemented a total of 33 projects in Addis Ababa, Sothern Nations, Nationalities & Peoples' Region (SNNPR), Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, Somalia and Afar Regional States. The total spending for the year 2009 was NOK 21,579,026 / ETB 35,476,382 incl. 18% administrative costs.

2.4.1. CSOs for Accountable Governance

General Overview

The Strategic Partnership between NCA and the Royal Norwegian Embassy was extended for the year 2009 supporting selected local CSOs working on Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance mainly with donors' consortium funding modality. The program has promoted human rights particularly of the rights of vulnerable groups such as children, women and the poor; and enhancing the culture of democracy and Good governance. In the year 2009, a total of 11 projects were supported worth NOK 4,885,000 / ETB 8,329,575 with (23.5% of the annual budget).

The year has also been a period whereby NCA and most of its partners under this thematic area have undergone a revision of their strategic and operational plans for their future engagement owing to the charities and societies proclamation. It is issued on 13th February, 2009 cited as *the "Charities and Societies Proclamation No. 621/2009."* The proclamation requires that an Ethiopian based CSO must register as national CSO and be able to raise 90 percent of its annual income from a local source for its operation if it is going to be engaged in the areas of human rights, conflict resolution, equality, etc. Hence most partners which were not in a position of raising such fund locally had to revise their program areas in order to rescind their time-honoured activities which are currently prohibited and re-registered as Ethiopian Resident Charities/ Societies to comply with the new legal framework. On the other hand, three of NCA partners namely HRCO, EWLA and TE have determined to remain national and be engaged in human rights and good governance related programmes, thereby strategizing to generate income locally and adapt to the new legislation.

Major Achievements

NCA together with partners has been engaged in capacity building activities including research and trainings, public discussion forums, awareness raising education program. The program has also supported projects aimed at rendering protection of human rights including free legal aid services and monitoring of human rights violations.

Access to justice improved for 22 189 poor and vulnerable individuals: as a means of addressing problems of accessing justice, NCA renders support for CSOs (APAP, EHRCO and EWLA) and provided free legal aid services particularly for women who would have been denied of justice for lack of financial ability.

Serving as a watchdog through monitoring of human rights violations: Regular monitoring of human rights violation is essential means to test out whether government is discharging its duty of protecting and respecting citizens' rights. NCA together with consortium of donors supports EHRCO, an organization which takes the pioneer of serving as a watchdog CSO by monitoring human rights violations in the country. EHRCO conducted a total of 261 investigations of complaints into alleged human rights violations and reported the same based on findings of onsite investigations, complaints lodged by the victims as well as their families and testimonies of witnesses. It also submitted reports to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council and to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The initiative has contributed to exert warranted pressure by citizens, national and international organizations to bring about the practical implementation of human rights in the country and bring an end to impunity for rights violations.

Action oriented researches & public discussions for policy formulation and amendment: NCA partners with well experienced think-tank and research institutions (EEA, FSS and IAG) conducted a number of action oriented researches and facilitated public discussion forums. The research findings and publications delivered inputs to informed advocacy aimed at formulation or amendment of relevant strategies, policies and legislations. The outputs also provided donors with relevant information and alternative views which allows them to make more informed decisions of their development cooperation with government and NGOs. Among the several research & publication projects which NCA has partly funded during the current reporting period include; *Participation of Women in Politics and Public Decision Making in Ethiopia, and The Quality of Foreign Aid to Ethiopia.*

Trends in CSOs for Accountable Governance

NCA had been engaged in this thematic area at a large scale building up its own and partners expertise on account of the Strategic Partnership with the RNE since 2006. Inopportunately, it can no longer be engaged in this thematic area as of 2010 owing to the new CSOs law as elucidated above. Even though NCA can no longer be engaged in promoting human rights and accountable governance as before, however it would keep on its commitment of serving the community with other development projects while keeping on practicing accountable governance in its own structure and operation, and encourage its partners to do the same.

2.4. 2. Peace Building and Conflict Transformation

General Overview

The year 2009 has been successful in terms of peace building and conflict resolution for NCA Ethiopia and its faith-based partners. NCA Ethiopia has managed to bring all faith-based partners including Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC), Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Mekane Yesus (EECMY), Ethiopian Muslim Development Association (EMDA) and the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (ECS). Partners' capacity has been built in terms of religious tolerance, peace building, conflict resolution and reconciliation through different trainings, workshops, dialogues and conferences. This coordinated effort has created a good background and platform to bring stakeholders together for a meaningful societal movement towards peace and reconciliation from a divided past into a shared future. The establishment of National Peace and Development Forum has proven right about the sustainability of Peace building activities through its multiple effects.

The total spending on Peace Building and Conflict Resolution for the year 2009 was only NOK 205,000 / ETB 409,484 (1.2% of annual budget).

Selected Results

1. Dessie – Dialogue for Religious Tolerance and Peace

Dessie Town, located in the Northern part of Ethiopia, has been well known for both Christians and Muslims to live harmoniously for quite a long time. Surprisingly, one can find both Christian and Muslim within one family. Unfortunately, in the year 2009 a conflict started between Christians and Muslims over a plot of land and three persons lost their life during the attempt to quell the violent situation by the government.

EOC in collaboration with NCA made a quick assessment and proposed for peace and reconciliation trainings where 85 and 182 participants took part respectively. The training focused on conflict transformation, religious tolerance, peace building and related topics. Participants were drawn from the government, religious institutions, women & youth associations, CBOs and local elders. All-inclusive committee was set up to follow up the problem and come up with peaceful solution. A dialogue primarily started between the conflicting parties (Muslims & Christians), with the assistance of the government.

As a result of series of meetings and dialogues the two religious representatives, the Amhara Regional State Muslim Council, and the government reached to a consensus to calm and stable followers of the two religions. These three parties with the community have committed themselves to further strengthen relationships appreciating their religious differences based on mutual respect and understanding. Currently, the normal relationship has been mended, peace restored and focus is directed towards development.

2. Horn of Africa Religious Leaders Meeting: In July 2009 a two day Regional Meeting for the Religious leaders in the Horn of Africa took place in Addis Ababa. This was a historic event, which took place in the conference center of the African Union. The meeting was attended by Religious Fathers from Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya and Uganda. Somalia was represented by two NGO representatives. Eritrea could not participated due to lack of responses and communication. The main aim of this first meeting was to get together in order to learn to know each other and develop a platform for future dialogue on peace. The meeting was facilitated in cooperation with FECLEHA and ACRL in Nairobi.

Trends in Peace Building and Conflict Transformation

NCA-partners facilitated Peace and Development Forums are expanding throughout intervention areas addressing conflict issues at the grass root level on their own. However, these forums need close monitoring and assistance in order to continue with this motive and direction. There is also a great need to bring on board Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (ECS) and Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia (ECFE) and create a strong partnership for peace building and peaceful coexistence. Working with the media is very important to support advocacy activities and influence strategies and policies. The African Union should also come into the picture which is working on peace and security issues of the continent.

In spite of all these efforts, the promotion of peace building, conflict resolution and reconciliation is prohibited for foreign CSOs under the new "Charities and Societies Proclamation" which will significantly challenge the engagement of NCA in this area. Therefore, NCA partners and other stakeholders should look for a solution on how the efforts made will continue in the future.

2.4.3. Water and Sanitation

General Overview

Water Development is one of the key thematic priorities where NCA is engaged and recognized as partner of The Ministry of Water Resources. The program has been operational mainly in SNNPR and partly in Oromiya and Tigray Regional States. The program aimed at improving access to potable water supply and sanitation facilities in order to benefit rural communities to achieve reduced water borne diseases, reduced women workload, improved access to girls' education particularly in remote and marginalized areas in the country. Spending during the year 2009 was a total of NOK 2,491,713 / ETB 5,865,458 (16.5% of total budget).

Major Achievements:

Access to potable water supply improved for 22,500 people: In the year 2009, it was possible to drill 42 water wells and construct 33 cloth washing basins benefiting more than 4,500 households in Awassa town, Malga Woreda, Badawacho Woreda, Yem and Konso Special Woredas. All water points constructed for rural communities were made to have water and sanitation committees. A total of 329 (160 females and 169 males) Water and Sanitation committee members and caretakers from Angacha and Malga Woredas were trained on basic water supply scheme and financial management issues.

Capacity of area mechanics built for maintenance of failed water supply schemes: 12 area mechanics (10 male and 2 female) from Malga and Chuko Woredas were trained on installation and maintenance of hand pumps. It is not normal that women are engaged in water scheme operation and management and NCA in its program areas is encouraging women to be part of the process in all opportunities. Spare parts and tools for hand pump schemes were purchased and distributed for 5 program Woredas. The spare parts were part of the capacity building initiative for program Woredas to establish spare part shops.

Hygiene and sanitation practices promoted: Health extension workers from Malga Woreda were given capacity building and refreshment training on Participatory, Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) enabling them create awareness on basic hygiene and sanitation practices. In addition, 450 pit latrines were constructed in Malga and Chuko Woredas.

Trends in Water and Sanitation

For more than two decades, NCA's intervention in the sector was mainly on improving physical access to water supply schemes. However, on the basis of internal reviews and external evaluations of the program, attention was given to strengthen hygiene and sanitation education where encouraging results have been achieved. The WDP has also made a strategic decision to increase its capacity to have additional drilling rig and accessories, to be taken over from the NCA Kenya Program. Owing to the new CSOs law and NCA's expertise in the sector, the water development program will continue to be a major engagement in Ethiopia.

2.4.4. HIV and AIDS

General Overview

Ethiopia has adopted UN general assembly resolution 60/261, also known as the political declaration on HIV and AIDS that includes a commitment by UN Member states to move towards the goal of Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care and support services by 2010. Since the declaration calls for each country to set national targets, the country has set its own target and has been working towards achieving the targets. Accordingly, The prevalence rate is 2.1% showing overall stabilizing trend but an increasing prevalence rate in small rural towns due to rural – urban migration and consequent engagements in commercial sex works and other not yet known reasons. Number of people enrolled for the Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART), and voluntarily testing has been increased. Efforts to reduce mother to child transmission also showed progressive increment in coverage, though not as per the desired speed and volume. Awareness raising efforts, however, were not accompanied by behavioral changes. High risk sexual behavior and high risk groups are increasing in number and type. The youth, students from high school & university, and women sex workers are the most at risk population.

In alignment with the government's targets for universal access for prevention, care and treatment, NCA and partners have been working towards contributing to the target set including ensuring access to sexual and reproductive Health services, empowerment of

People Leaving with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA), and engaging faith communities to work against stigma and discrimination. In the year 2009, a total of five (5) projects worth NOK 795,000 equivalent ETB 1,472,247 (4% of the total budget) were implemented together with three (3) partners.

Major Achievements:

Access to PMCT and VCT services improved through awareness raising education and community conversation CC: More than 641 (314 male and 327 female) trained as peer educators and it was possible to reach out to 11,520 (3600 Female and 7920 male) to enable access HIV and SRH information. Moreover, 59 regular youth targeted edutainment programs, 26 community conversation sessions, and 76 FM media sessions were organised. As the result, a total of 198 pregnant women and 106 people (32 male and 74 female) have accessed PMCT and ART respectively. A total of 9190 (2858 Female and 6332 Male) have also accessed VCT service from which 295 (185 Female and 110 Male) tested positive.

Care and support provided for about 117 OVCs and 70 PLHIV: A total of 11 orphans vulnerable children (OVCs) have graduated from various colleges; 21 OVCs newly joined to University; 29 OVCs are attending college education; and 39 OVCs have passed for pre-college. Moreover, 37 OVCs and 8 ex-female sex workers engaged in income generating activities and rehabilitated fully; started to live decent life. Twenty Eight (28) HIV positive kids were provided support for nutritional supplement and improve their overall health condition. Faith communities have also been engaged to address stigma and discrimination, especially in the areas of access to ART treatment, VCT, resource mobilization to OVC and support to female sex workers.

Integration of hygiene and sanitation in HIV and AIDS program has been facilitated: a total of 24 OVC care takers, 12 HIV positive children, 72 OVCs, 23 PLHIV, 17 Home based care counsellors, were trained for 3 days in hygiene and sanitation. Moreover, HTP/FGM has been integrated with ongoing SRH and HIV and AIDS program.

Trends in HIV and AIDS

While maintaining the current intervention to reduce morbidity and mortality for PLHIV, more emphasis needs to be given for HIV prevention through Multi-sectoral plan of action for universal access as one of components of PASDEP. Involvement of FBOs CBOs and CSOs and the private sector must be recognized and appropriate support need to be provided. Mechanisms to strengthen OVC and PLHIV care support need to be intensified. NCA will also continue working on HIV and AIDS by re-defining interventions in the new country strategic planning process.

2.4.5. Gender Based Violence (GBV)

General Overview

Bringing behavioral change to address GBV requires concerted effort and timing. Emphasis should also be given for integration and community based interventions with thorough understanding of societal norms and socio-economic conditions of the community. To this end, NCA together with partners have been engaged in addressing GBV (FGM in particular) with the application of different approaches and strategies including community conversations, media campaigning, engaging FBOs and grassroots community structures and integrating with HIV and SRH projects . A total of eight (8) projects with the cost of NOK 1,724,800 / ETB 3,007,584 (8.5% of the total budget) have been implemented in this thematic program.

Major Achievements

Community conversation (CC) has brought attitudinal change in reducing FGM practice: CC has been tested and proved to be effective as indicated by UNICEF study where 23,347 communities participated in regular cc meetings, facilitated by NCA's partner KMG, has contributed to a greater extent for the reduction of FGM practice in Kembatta area. Partners have continued training of CC facilitators to reach out communities. A total of 1040 (349 male and 691 female of these 236 uncircumcised girls) were trained as CC facilitators and 1312 cc meetings conducted in more than 30 sites. 2032 (1109 female and 923 male) and 498 girls only cc groups participated in the meetings. In Tesmay and Erobo, the community decide to stop child killing, rape, and abduction and required HIV testing before marriage. As a result, more than 565 people tested for HIV; 7 *mingi* children rescued, 2 cases of abduction reported to district law enforcing bodies; 10 early marriage cases were cancelled and girls resumed their education; 5 *Idirs* include FGM in their bylaws; and 19 practitioners (circumcisers) publicly declared to abandon the practice.

Faith community leaders engaged in addressing FGM and other HTPs: NCA in partnership with Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia (ECFE), more than 500 church leaders and 8 theology schools were engaged in series of consultations. Theological reflection document (40 pages) on HTPs/FGM was produced. Moreover, ECFE issued "zero tolerance" with 5 points declaration and made public pledges representing 31 evangelical denominations. The declaration was publicly submitted to the Minister of Women Affairs. On the other hand, NCA together with Ethiopian Muslim Development Agency and Islamic Supreme council facilitated the first of its kind national consultation among 70 top Muslim leaders representing from all regions of Ethiopia. Muslim Women Association, top Islamic scholars and Muftis were represented on the two days consultation. The consultation was on Islamic view of FGM, and the issue of *Sauna* and total abandonment of FGM. Consensus was reached that Islamic Scholars to conduct research and come up with clear position on the issue of *Sauna*.

Media campaigning has contributed in the fight against FGM: NCA together with EGLDAM and Save the Children Norway jointly commemorated the anti-FGM day on 6th February 2009 with a national TV coverage. FGM network website has been developed; 15 minutes English version documentary film on FGM entitled "Battling an Ancient Tradition" broadcasted on ETV; series of Radio spots aired on FGM and other HTPs in four local languages; and forum of volunteer journalists against FGM has also been established for which a number of articles on FGM aired and published in public media.

Integration of HTPs/FGM with SRH and HIV and AIDS programs strengthened: Collaboration and experience sharing among SCN and NCA partners, FGM network members, and with women affairs ministry, law enforcing bodies and district offices enhanced the coordination of anti-FGM and HTPs engagement. Partners integrated prevention of FGM activities together with HIV and AIDS interventions programs. The engagement of men and boys has been improved.

Capacity building and awareness raising trainings provided: NCA together with Women's and Children's Affairs bureau of City Government of Addis Ababa Kirkos Sub City kebele 02/03 raised the awareness of 170 high school students on Gender Equality and HIV and AIDS.

Income generating activities (IGAs) have improved economic status of women in IRDP projects: Recognizing the multi-dimensional problems of women and the need for their equal participation in all development efforts, Messanu IRDP project has participated 40 women in income diversification activities such as bee-keeping and poultry, production and small-scale business activities. It also trained 40 individuals on gender mainstreaming and sensitization, with the objective of institutionalizing gender in all its development interventions.

Armachiho project has also provided 254 sheep on credit basis for 62 women of which 37 are widowed, landless and socially neglected members of the community. Further 10 Modern Beehives with accessories were provided to 5 model farmers and trained to prepare 30 transitional beehives using local materials.

With similar objective, NCA also supported Tiret women with disabilities bamboo and wood work team enterprise to purchase hand tools essential for them carry out woodwork activities. The support enables sixteen women with disability who are members of the association to generate income by undertaking woodworks.

NCA together with Ethiopian Media Women Association (EMWA) celebrated the International Women's Day March 8 with male journalists in the spirit of this year's International Women's Day theme: "Women and men united to end violence against women and girls" by holding a half-day panel discussion participating 40 male journalists and other members of EMWA. A general consensus was reached among the participating journalists on the need to establish a network of male journalists against VAW in line with the motto of the day "Male Journalists Speak on VAW."

Selected Results

Enabling Churches to address FGM and other HTPs

In some cases, religion has been given as a justification for FGM practice. In countries like Ethiopia where religion plays significant role in people's daily life interventions that are sensitive to the cultural and religious importance of FGM believed to be crucial in abandoning the practice. Considering the immense role and capacity of religious institution, the church holds the moral authority by virtue of being in a better position to respond for the social ills. The church should also give clear directions for any beliefs or legitimacy the community give with the pretext of religious beliefs.

In view of this context, NCA in partnership with ECFE has initiated the project aimed at enhancing the role of church leaders to enable them and involve in addressing FGM. NCA approached ECFE to enable church leadership to come up with clear evidence based biblical understanding on FGM that would serve the church to clearly declare its position and proactively respond to the situation that would ultimately rescue multitude of girls and women who undergone to the practice with life long suffering. ECFE has membership of 31 denominations with more than 30,000 local churches and 62 Para-church organizations within Ethiopia and 15 Ethiopian evangelical churches abroad. ECFE represents 99.6% of Evangelicals in Ethiopia with more than 16 million followers. The fact that ECFE organized as an umbrella Fellowship puts in a better position to mobilize followers and establish networks with other likeminded institutions to respond on FGM.

NCA seized the opportunity to sensitize the top leadership on the situation of HTPs and FGM in particular during ECFE annual General Assembly meeting where 250 denomination leaders participated representing all evangelical denominations in the country. 250 DVD documentary films on FGM were also distributed. The meeting was also used to collect evidence based information that would serve as an input for on-going efforts. Accordingly, survey was conducted to assess reflections of different groups including denomination leaders on issues related to FGM. The findings were presented to the leadership to discuss further on the issue. Finally, 40 page theological reflection document produced and endorsed by ECFE and consensus reached to issue position statement.

Following the position statement, ECFE board issued a 5 point declaration in response to FGM. The declaration was submitted to the Ministry of women's affairs formally to the Minister. The event was attended by denominations leaders, other FBOs, civil society delegates, embassies, UN agencies, government representatives and the media. As witnessed by the participants, the event was the first in its kind where the church has acted in union to address such an important social issue. The event has got wider media coverage and ECFE's position statement has also distributed to more than 30,000 congregations. The Women's Affairs Minister, *Mrs. Muferihat Kamil*, in her speech highly appreciated the initiative and promised to collaborate with ECFE to scale up the effort in other denominations as well.

In conclusion, encouraging findings were observed mainly in the renewed commitment and interest of the leadership to work on FGM and the potentials of the church were demonstrated with further capacity support in FGM response. Moreover, the theological reflection document and the findings of the assessment found to be evidence based resource material for the church to use in its future engagement. For NCA and other partners, the exercise has created an opportunity to learn more about church's potential, gaps and indentified strategies and areas to collaborate in the future and keep the momentum.

Trends in GBV

Understanding of gender bias is central to understanding of HTPs in general and FGM in particular. Despite nationwide social mobilization efforts and promising provisions in the Ethiopian Constitution and the family law, FGM is still practiced in most regions of the country. There is an increased knowledge on its negative consequences among the community but still with low rates of attitudinal and behavioural change to practice. In some areas, there is a trend of shifting to sauna type and also mutilating girls in secrecy.

The new CSOs law prohibited international charities and societies working on gender equality and promotion of child rights among others. This will have impact on NCA's engagement to address gender inequality and related issues. However, during the re-registration process, NCA managed to include "Women Development" as one of its operational area with condition to work on the socio-economic development of women and FGM and other HTP issues to be treated as sexual and reproductive health issues of women and girls.

2.4.6. Food Security, and Emergency Preparedness and Response

General Overview

Integrated rural Development Projects (IRDP) had passed number of phases implementing relief and development activities with due consideration of the dynamics of development approaches and prevailing community needs. Currently, the projects have focused intervention in the food security sector using the watershed development approach. Specifically, the projects integrated different components including; conservation of natural resources, small-scale irrigation development and introduction of high yielding and drought resistant crops, provision of potable water and safe sanitation services. A total of six projects have been implemented together with 3 partners and NOK 4,426,044 / ETB 7,063,202, nearly 20% of the total budget was spent in this thematic program.

Major Achievements

Small scale irrigation has improved food security and increase adaptive capacity to climate variability and change: In the year 2009, a total of 340 meters main canal with its structures constructed and lined bringing additional 20 hectares of land under irrigated agriculture in Medda Wolabu Development project (MCDP). Besides, 12 underground water tankers with water holding capacity of 60m³ each were constructed to supplement irrigation activities in Messanu IRDP project. Support has also been given to previously constructed river diversion irrigation schemes enabling farmers to produce 2-3 times in a year. Though the schemes were handed over earlier to the community and concerned government offices, the projects have close supervision and support through the provision of 32.67 quintals of vegetable seed and high value crop varieties, 17,860 fruit seedlings, scions, suckers and rootstock to poor and women headed irrigation users. Three (3) Water harvesting check dams were also constructed with the aim to rehabilitate gully formation and at the same time to supplement crop production at times of early rainfall cease or erratic distribution. In total, 626 households (more than 3,130 people) benefited from small scale irrigation initiatives in MCDP, Messanu, Rama and Dehana IRDPs.

Women headed and landless poor households' income has increased: It was possible to reach out food insecure households using different resource utilization and management

approaches including revolving funds (IGAs on credit basis), matching funds (depending on the nature of the activity). Accordingly, 112 landless youth and poor households were engaged in income generating activities (beekeeping, shoat and dairy production, petty trade and management) in MCDP, Messanu, Rama, Dehana and Armachiho IRDPs.

Access to potable water supply has improved: During the year 2009, two (2) spring development, 6 hand dug wells and one pump water supply schemes were constructed improving 2,525 people access to potable water supply. Besides, construction of four water harvesting ground cisterns, rehabilitation of one cistern and a water supply system has been completed. In total, about 16,454 agro-pastoralists have benefited from these schemes. Sanitation and hygiene promotion activities have also been supported through 50 private pit latrines construction as models infrastructures and awareness raising education is provided for more than 400 people.

2.4.7. Environment and Climate Change

General Overview

Like any other Southern Sahara African (SSA) countries, more than 80% of Ethiopian farmers' livelihoods are mainly dependent on natural resources and also vulnerable to environmental degradation as being accelerated by climate change. Human ignorance and greed cause irreparable damage to the environment. A more just and sustainable distribution of resources is required to enable people to rise out of poverty and destitution. Natural resources must also be managed for the common good of all humanity and for the benefit of future generations. Human induced climate change is one of the most dramatic environmental crises of our time. Its negative consequences primarily affect the poor though their contribution to the causes is insignificant. As part of food security and natural resources management NCA together with its partners has continued to work on giving priority to assist poor and vulnerable communities to adapt to climate change through strengthening local adaptation strategies. Environment and climate change has been considered as cross-cutting issue and there is specific budget allocated for the implementation. It has been mainly covered from food security and WASH projects.

Major Achievements

Partners were engaged in planting various ecological friendly tree seedlings and area closure activities intending to address environmental degradation caused by loss of trees and vegetation cover. During the year 2009, Rama and Armachiho IRDP projects have achieved remarkable results in natural resource conservation for which the Tigray and Amahara Regional Governments awarded a certificate as model projects. IRDP projects have been mobilizing the community and raising awareness on environmental degradation and climate change related issues. The projects are known for their approach "enclosure of degraded land" where the natural fauna and flora rehabilitated through natural regeneration with no human and livestock intervention, reforestation and gullies reclamation. As a result, the communities enclosed a total of 470 hectares of degraded land and a total of 583,544 different types of indigenous & exotic tree seedlings planted on degraded areas in Rama, Messanu, Armachiho and Dehana projects.

Activities related to climate change have also been incorporated in the IRDP projects. These include introduction of climate change adaptive crop varieties, expanding moisture retaining and water harvesting technologies, scaling up apiculture production in enclosed areas, experience sharing on climate change adaptation mainly on moisture adaptive technologies among NCA partners and research institutions.

A workshop has been organized on the theme "Adapting to Climate Change through Integrated Watershed Development" in one of NCA partner operational area (Gondar). It was organized with the objective of creating awareness, sharing experiences, and strengthening engagements with better understanding of climate change linking with integrated watershed

development approach. About 40 participants attended this workshop and a way forward has been developed in the future inclusion of climate adaptation in the IRDP projects.

National Civil Society Network on Climate Change (NCSNCC) was established last January 2009, with the participation of sister agencies (NCA, DCA, CA) and other likeminded organizations. The network is established with the aim to raise awareness on climate change, support capacity building and action oriented research and dissemination of activities designed to influence public attitudes and policies, establish platforms which synergize civil society's efforts in combating climate change, and facilitates consultations among stakeholders on climate change issues. The network has three working groups where NCA is actively participating in the research and advocacy working group.

Selected Results

Migulat Community Managed Area Closure, Rama IRDP

Migulat Community Managed Area Closure was established in 1994 at the beginning of the Rama IRDP project. The area covers about 300 hectares where 40 households benefited from the developed enclosed area. The enclosed area has been administered and managed by a watershed development committee comprising of seven members.

Migulat Community Managed Area Closure was started through community awareness raising education and community mobilization efforts undertaken by the Rama IRDP project. After a thorough discussion, the Migulat area was selected and decision was made to enclose the degraded land by prohibiting or limiting cutting of trees and grazing of livestock; giving opportunity for the land to rehabilitate and regenerate naturally with some assisted plantation and moisture conservation practices. Through a participatory process, the amount and specific boundaries of the site to be enclosed was discussed and proposed by the community and Tabia Development Committee. Agreements were signed by the community upon identification of appropriate land tracts and with the acceptance of established norms (local by-laws) which was reinforced by the local (Kebele) social courts. Based on the agreed by-laws, the community determined when and how wood collection, cutting of forage grasses; and at times of drought where livestock can graze in more matured enclosed areas. Community members whether they own livestock or not, were made to be entitled to enclosure products and also to participate in the management of the common resources.

The Rama IRDP project has been undertaking different physical and biological soil and water conservation practices including hillside terracing, application of different moisture conservation techniques, tree planting, etc. Some of the trees planted in the area were: *Graviliya*, *acacia decerence*, lowland *nim*, *sespaniya*, *lusiniya*, *gatrofa*, and other local trees like *kentib*, *shewit hagay*, *gumero*, *lemlem acacia*, and *acacia lihay*. As a result of these interventions, the natural fauna and flora have been rehabilitated and reclaimed. Some of the wild animals which have come back to the reclaimed area include among others; foxes, snakes (big and small), hyenas, small tiger ('*aboshemanie*') etc. In 2008, the project was awarded by the Regional State Government and being promoted by the regional Agriculture and Rural Development Bureau as a model for "Natural Resource and Environmental Rehabilitation project". The site is being governed by the regional government forestry regulation. Currently, monitoring and follow up is being undertaken by the Woreda line offices and the Tabia Administration with technical assistance from the Rama IRDP project.

Trends in Food Security, Environment and Climate Change

Drought prone and moisture stress areas are the most affected by adverse effects of climate variability and change. As the challenges are enormous, there is a need to focus project interventions using watershed development approach aiming at achieving feasible impacts and also for efficient utilization of the limited resources. NCA and partners are strengthening efforts on climate change adaptation through water harvesting and intensification of irrigation activities in moisture deficit areas. Disaster risk management initiatives need also

to be strengthened and integrated in projects being implemented in drought and flood prone areas.

2.5 Were there any special internal or external conditions that significantly affected the implementation of the plan for the year?

External challenges:

- A major challenge that NCA and partners has faced in the reporting period was coping with the new Charities and Societies Proclamation and being prepared for the re-registration process. Both NCA and partners have to adapt to the new CSO Law, for some meaning major changes in profile, for others minor adjustments to adapt to their new registration. As a consequence of the legal framework NCA will phase out some of its partners.
- Water schemes construction and rehabilitation in drought affected pastoral and agro-pastoral people in West Ime and Elkere woredas of Afdher Zone- Somali Regional State has been carried out since November 2008 financed by the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) secured from UNOCHA. Due to the prevailed insecurity in the area as well as long process of importation of motor pumps NCA has been challenged and project implementation period was delayed by several months.
- In some areas unexpected rainfall has delayed some of the WaTSAN activities.
- Another challenge which has significant impact particularly on the operation of partners has been the electric power shortage that the country experienced through much of the reporting period.

Internal challenges:

- NCA budget cuts on some projects have to some extent affected implementation of action plans. Though there have been exchange rate gain, projects were working under pressure with increasing commodity prices.
- Budget transfer delay from Oslo and some partners' head office affected timely implementation of action plans. The implication has also been seen on timely reporting even among partners who used to have good reporting records.
- The drilling operation was stopped for some 4 months due to a major repair and maintenance. It was very fortunate that the repair could be made at a local engineering workshop and at a reasonable cost.

2.6 Results and risks: Is it probable that the projects/programmes will achieve their goals, or is there a risk of major changes?

The new Charities and Societies Law has put CSOs (including NCA and partners) in a state of apprehension and uncertainty to work on some thematic gray or prohibited areas. Prohibition

by law not to work on Human Rights and Good Governance, Conflict Resolution and Peace Building, and Gender Equality may make future engagements difficult to fully achieve specific CSP goals.

2.7 Which concrete measures have been implemented to ensure administrative/ technical and financial sustainability?

Project design and intervention has always been made in reference to relevant government strategies and policies documents (PRSP-PASDEP, and SDP-Sector Development Plans). Project implementation was also undertaken mostly in a tripartite agreement with the local government, community and NCA partners. Memorandum of understanding (MoU) specifying duties and responsibilities of each party has been signed to ensure accountability and smooth implementation of project activities. NCA program coordinators have also supported partners' staff on the implementation of some technical issues at project level. Projects follow up, monitoring and evaluation also enable NCA and partners to discuss on technical issues that need to be amended to ensure sustainability of project activities.

Strengthening churches' role on anti-FGM efforts, consistent efforts to engage the local government in project implementation process and documentation of promising practices and scaling up efforts contributed much in technical and financial sustainability of projects.

Capacity building of relevant staff and community members on financial management, result monitoring and evaluation techniques was also found to be essential in ensuring project efficiency and sustainability. For instance, WATSAN management committee members were trained on water scheme management and financial issues, as water users are made to pay for the service. Furthermore, care takers and area mechanics were trained and received maintenance tools. These efforts are believed to improve the overall sustainability of the community managed water schemes.

2.8 Which concrete measures have been implemented to link inputs to national plans and priorities (e.g. PRSPs, sector/district plans, etc.)?

NCA facilitated five years review of two HIV and AIDS partners to assess their contribution to the national targets/indicators set by the government.

On HTP NCA facilitated the NCA and nine partners' engagement on FGM and HTPs over the period 2002-2008 in order to analyze the contribution in the national perspective.

Consistent efforts were made to familiarise national sector development strategies and policies and inquire partners to check whether their engagements are in line with the universal targets.

The NCA Water Program is part of the government plan for developing water and sanitation in the SNNPR.

2.9 Which concrete measures have been implemented to strengthen the role of civil society in the development process?

NCA has been engaged in strengthening CSOs role the development process through comprehensive capacity development initiatives at all levels (system, organizational and individual levels). These include, support for institutional development initiatives, research undertakings, capacity building trainings on result based monitoring, watershed development and climate change adaptations, support for conducting reviews and documentation, facilitating experience sharing workshops among partners, providing material support and sponsoring partner staff for higher institution educations. Moreover, NCA has been actively participated on various CSOs national networks and forums with the aim to enlarge constituency base and strengthen their role in the development process. For instance, NCA has been engaged in core technical working group for Global Fund, Stigma Index Development, CRDA - Water & sanitation forum (CRDA/WSF) and FGM network. NCA has also supported both technically and financially CRDA forums (including Water and Sanitation, Rural Development forums).

NCA has been one of founding members of the National Civil Society Network on Climate Change (NCSNCC), which was established January 2009 and actively participated in the research and advocacy working group.

2.10 How have inputs helped to promote Norway's development policy objectives?

Norwegian government policy and strategy on HIV and AIDS, FGM and Gender equality has been addressed targeting most vulnerable groups such women and girls, and the youth, PLHIV, female sex workers, and OVC creating conducive environment to access basic prevention, treatment and care services. This has been done by engaging faith communities, empowering the youth, facilitating treatment and care to improve their wellbeing. The promotion of gender equality has continuously been a priority. Various trainings, researches, broadcasting & public events, and legal aid services given to women and girls have contributed towards gender equality. NCA has also supported radio programs which raise issues of the rights of women and gender-based violence under the title of "Yesetoch Chewata", (women's chat) and "Berchi" (Be strong, Keep up).

WATSAN committees in each water supply schemes were also made to have at least 40 % women representation; out of two caretakers at each water points one is a woman. HIV/AIDS is made part of the community Participatory Hygiene Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training manual. Training on mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in WATSAN was given to home based caretakers in the program areas.

2.11 Specific reporting on The Norwegian Government's Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (relevant for activities countries in conflict/post-conflict)

The role of women in peace building has been given special attention in terms of promoting their capacity at different levels. Peace building activities and conflict resolution components of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 has been integrated into the water for peace project, which was implemented in conflict prone areas of Borena zone, Oromiya Regional State. However, continuous and coordinated interventions and follow ups are needed for sustainable peaceful coexistence in the area.

3. FOLLOW-UP OF RESULTS AND EVALUATION

3.1 Describe the reviews/evaluations that have been carried out during the year and give a brief summary of the conclusions, recommendations and follow-up activities:

Title 1: NCA/Ethiopia and Partners' engagement in Abandoning HTPs/FGM in Ethiopia: Review of nine partners' contribution (2002-2008)

Type: External

Conclusions:

Tangible achievements have been made in the fight against FGM. NCA is clearly perceived as a well established, trustworthy and reliable partner by government, NGO and other partners in addressing the issue of FGM. It has been able to adapt to the diversities of the Ethiopian situation through development of strong partnership with relevant partners having tested strategies and approaches in addressing HTPs and FGM in particular.

Recommendations:

- ⇒ Long term presence and clear exit strategy and follow up mechanism for community conversation for its quality and sustainability and assess the impact of CC.
- ⇒ The repeated indication in Somali, Afar and Erbore trend to move from Infibulations to 'Sunna' merits heightened attention because of the wider social movement and some religious leaders overtly advocating for the shift.
- ⇒ NCA anti-FGM partners are quite numerous and spread all over the country. While the merits of this in terms of widely perceived presence is undeniable, there is the risk of tiny spreading resources which needs due consideration.

Follow-up:

- Strengthen partners follow up and documentation skill in CC methodologies.
- NCA engaged top Muslim leaders, facilitating national consultation to come up with clear message on the issue of 'Sunna'.
- Geographically focused intervention and efforts will continue to ensure better funding and long term commitment of partners in the field.

Title: 2. Performance Review of **Beza Youth Health and Counselling Centre and Tamra Reproductive Health and Development Organisation** against relevant national strategic frameworks (2004-2009)

Type: External

Conclusion

The diverse, yet complementary, service of Beza and Tamra was expressed as extraordinary by many including the government sector offices and school communities. The organizations have implemented their activities consistent and in complete harmony with the national priorities and strategies. There is high gender sensitivity in their intervention, although it still needs to work a lot in improving the gender composition of service utilizers. Partnership and networking found to be among the key strengths of Beza, which facilitated accomplishment of a number of community service with very limited financial support and getting high degree of acceptance by the community, CBOs and the government offices.

In conformity with the new national HIV/AIDS- SRH Integration; SRH and HIV and AIDS integrative approach is too vivid in Bez's intervention. It is found to be one of the best practices and prize winner for creative way of implementing PMTCT services at community level. Their leadership style is found to be a role model for other organizations and clubs in discipline, strategy, diligence etc. It has been praised by many as 'Models', proactive, pragmatic Creative and dynamically adjusting to the changing situations. Right holders want the service to be expanded to the surrounding areas, considering the services as life saving for the youth and adolescents who are at risk and those who lack the opportunity to openly discuss about RH issues.

Both organizations know where they want to go and have shared vision by their members. Yet, when it comes to how, it does not seem there is a clear strategy. Thus it is high time for the organizations to strategize ways of reaching their vision. To this end, there is a need to have strategic plan and systematic recording of their experiences.

Recommendation:

- ⇒ It is very crucial to have as a strategic plan document showing direction, with short term and long term goals set, based on the national strategic frameworks.
- ⇒ The need for developing well designed M&E system along with defining appropriate indicators; allocation of staff with appropriate training and skills that add value for organizational growth.

⇒ Build on existing strength of local resource mobilization and generation of own income, efficient utilization of available fund, gender sensitivity, integration of programs and services, networking and collaboration.

⇒ Both Beza and Tamra are doing a remarkable community service; its funding agencies need to keep supporting them, so that they can easily reach the grassroots community.

Follow up

- Data base development for systematic recording of results and activities, as well as strategic document development are planned to be executed next year.

- Strengthening the ongoing intervention and facilitating experience sharing and capacity building opportunities.