

2012 Annual Narrative Report

INTRODUCTION

Integrated Family Service Organization (IFSO) is an indigenous, non-profit making organization founded in the year 1995 with the vision of contributing to the reduction of poverty from the Ethiopia; and the mission of supporting sexually abused, HIV positive, orphan and vulnerable children and their families by its child, family and community based projects.

IFSO is member of a number of networks and umbrella organizations such as CCRDA, CORHA, OVC network etc. Moreover, it has a strong and cooperative working relation with deferent offices of the government like AAWCYA, A.A Police Commission, A.A.U Psychology and Sociology departments, Gandhi Hospital Child Protection Unit, Federal 1st Instance Court and Federal Supreme Court- Child Justice Project.

IFSO has 7 big projects which are under operation. Among these projects, 5 have been operating in Addis Ababa, while the rest 2 are in Ambassel and Amibara woredas of Amhara and Afar regions respectively. Of these projects, 2 (The Children's Safety Net and Community Mobilization and Child Wellbeing projects) have phased out at the end of 2012; while another project (Supporting Children Living with HIV/ AIDS has been extended till the end of March 2013). Here under mentioned all the projects according to their chronological order:

1. The Child Sponsorship Project for OVC (Addis Ababa-all the 10 sub cities)
2. The Counseling Project for CSA(A.A-all the 10 sub cities)
3. Support for children living with HIV/AIDS Project(A.A/Yeka and Gulele sub cities)
4. Children's Safety Net Project (A.A/Shiro meda and Ferensay areas)
5. Improving the Livelihood and education of Girls Project (Amhara region- AmbasselWoreda of S. Wollo); and
6. Community Mobilization and Child Wellbeing Project (Afar region-Amibara Woreda)
7. 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&)

1. The Child Sponsorship Project

1.1. Background of the Project:

The sponsorship project, which is the prominent among the projects of IFSO, has been functioning since 1996 in the 10 sub cities of Addis Ababa with the objective of improving the life situation of 2000 OVC by providing financial, medical and psycho-social supports. Inline with this, the projects has been providing its services for 2176 OVC (1022 Male and 1154 Female) and their families. Of these children, 36 (22 Male and 14 Female) students have graduated from different universities in different fields of study with Degree; 46 (30 Male and 16 Female) have graduated from different colleges with Diploma Colleges; and the rest 222 (88 Male and 134 Female) have graduated from Skill Training Institutes and are employed.

1.2. Annual Performance of the Project:

1.2.1. Financial and Technical Support:

Monthly Financial Support:

According to the plan, this service was supposed to be provided to 705 target children. Nevertheless, it has been given for 659 (317 Male and 342 Female). The reason why this happened is the termination of 46 (22 Male and 24 female) cases due to from the program due to different reasons and the withdrawal of CIAI (a former funding organization).

Medical Support:

Medical assistance is planned to be accomplished as per need (when the need arises). Inline with this, 42 children and their parents/ guardians who were found to face health problem have been identified and provided with the service. Consequently, most of them are found in a relatively better health condition.

Support for Children/ Parents/ Guardians living with HIV/ AIDS:

For children and/ their parents/ guardians who live with the HIV virus, the project has a component of providing additional financial support for this special group of beneficiaries on quarterly basis. However, due to late release of budget from one of the donor organization (Il Sole), it had not been

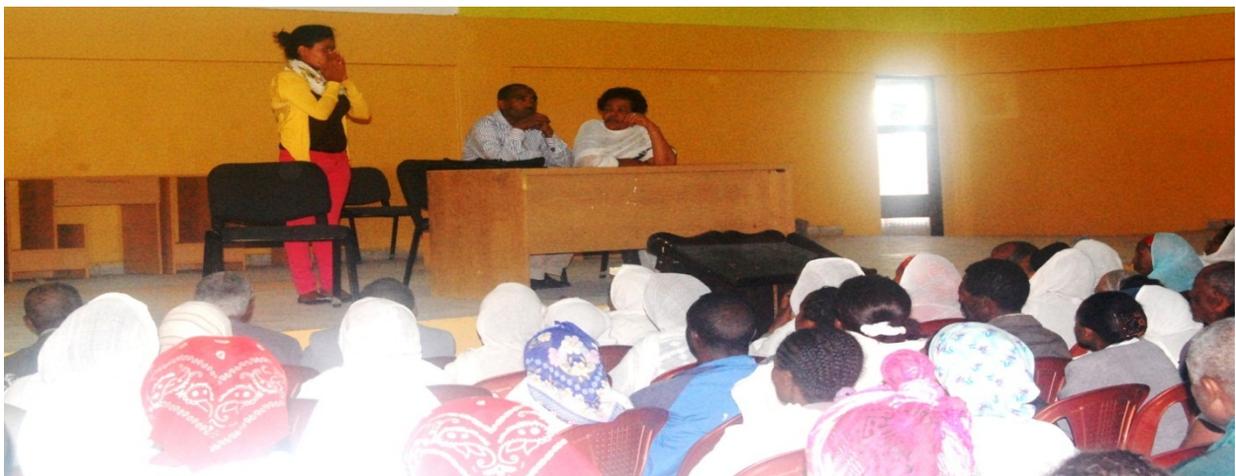
accomplished till the end of the 3rd quarter. But, later on in the last quarter of the physical year, the required budget for all the four quarters was released. Hence, the special assistance for the whole year was given in the last quarter. Though it was planned to give this support for 200 children or their parents/ guardians, only 168 of them (which is 68 % of the planned amount) were provided with the service. The reason behind is the termination of 32 of them from the program due to employment and the withdrawal of CIAI from donation.

Emergency Support:

The project provides an emergency support whenever targeted children and/or their families face emergency situations like accidents, serious illness, and death of primary families / guardians which requires immediate financial assistance. Based on this idea, it was planned to provide this support for 20 families per in the physical year. Except suspension up to the 4th quarter due to late release of budget, the activity has been accomplished as planned.

Good Parenting Style Training:

To create appropriate awareness on the parents/ guardians of the target children, 2 workshops have been conducted on Good Parenting Style and other relevant issues. In the workshop, parents and guardians got the forum to discuss their common issues and other issues related to their children. As a result, relevant issues, questions and suggestions have been raised, discussed and addressed by the co-effort of the participants and the facilitators of the workshop.



Workshops for Children:

As it is planned, 2 workshops have been organized and conducted for the target children who are beneficiaries of the project. The objective of the workshop is to improve life style of the children by creating appropriate awareness on how to improve academic performance, self-esteem, communication skill, good personality etc.



Parents' Committee Meeting:

The parents' committee had planned to hold 4 meetings in the year 2012. However, due to late release of budget, only 1 meeting has been held in the 4th quarter. Despite this, the committee, in its meeting, discussed issues like the selection of new beneficiaries, the progress and effectiveness of the sponsorship project activities and provided relevant feedbacks to the project staff.

Children's Committee Meeting:

On the other hand, no meeting of the children's committee could be held as most members of the children's committee have joined university/ college. Hence it was not possible to access and gather them all together. For such a reason, a new committee has been elected in the children's workshop conducted in the 4th quarter.

1.2.2. Psycho-social Support:

Counseling for the Parents/ Guardians:

Counseling service is provided for parents/ guardians when the need arises. Thus, 130 parents and/or guardians who were found to maltreat their children have been identified and provided with appropriate counseling on the needs and problems of their children and how to handle their behavior.

Counseling for Children: Counseling service is provided also for 209 children who were identified with academic or behavioral problem to bring a positive behavioral change or to improve their academic performance.

Home Visit:

To make assessment of the existing situation in the home environment of the beneficiaries, it was planned to conduct 800 home visits. Despite the plan, only 105 families who were found to have a serious problem were selected and visited. The reason for such a lower achievement is lack of vehicle. Consequently, appropriate family issues have been identified, discussed and addressed by the cooperative effort of the staff and the visited family members.

School Visits:

100 school visits was set to be conducted. Nevertheless, due to lack of vehicle, only 11 have been made. Thus, essential issues in the academic life of the selected children have been assessed by the project staff, discussed with school principals and addressed with the effort of the three bodies (the children, the staff and school principals).

1.2.3. Special Assistance:**Skill Training:**

There was a plan of providing skill training for only 6 beneficiaries. Yet, the opportunity was given for 8 children; 3 high schools complete and 5 drop outs. Therefore, these 8 selected needy children have been enrolled and are attending trainings in the areas of Hair Dressing and Food Preparation.

No.	Type of Training	Male	Female	Total
1	Hair Dressing	3	1	4
2	Food Preparation	0	4	4
	Grand Total	3	5	8

Additional Financial Support for High School Students:

It was planned to give a financial assistance for 70 students for the purpose of building cost contribution of high school and school fee (cost sharing). But only 50 students which is 74.1 % of the planned quantity have been provided with the financial support.

Houses Renovation:

According to the action plan, 6 houses of beneficiaries which were found to be very depreciated and unsafe for the life of the children and their families were selected and renovated in the year. For the implementation of the activity each family has been provided a cash of 4000 birr to repair the roofs and strengthen the walls of their houses.



Additional Financial Support for New Entry University Students:

In order to reinforce and assist students who join university, an additional financial support of Birr 1000.00 was planned to be provided. The plan was to provide the service for 15 students. However, as there were 4 children who joined universities in the year 2011 who were not given the service due to lack of budget, the support has been provided for all the 19 students.

Provision of New Year's Gift:

This activity was not included in the original action plan; yet performed after the report of the donor organization (Il Sole and CIFA). Accordingly, 487 children have been provided with different types of gifts (teff, edible oil, school bags, exercise books, pens and shoes).

1.3.Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken:

1.3.1. Challenges Encountered:

- i. Late release and lack of budget as the big donor of the project (Il Sole) faced a serious financial problem caused low performance of some activities and created burden on the staff of the project; this in turn affected the life of the beneficiaries.
- ii. Vehicle problem due to 70/30 is another challenge for the under accomplishment of some of the project activities.

1.3.2. Measures Taken:

- i. Late release of budget has been solved as part of the required amount of money has been released from Il Sole. Yet, as the release was made late in final stage of the fiscal year, it created a high burden up on the staffs.
- ii. Vehicle problem of the project is solved by the management as it is decided to share vehicles among other projects.

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

2.1.Background of the Project:

The Counseling Project is established in 2002 in A. A with the objective of rehabilitating sexually abused and vulnerable children by providing the following major activities:-

- ✚ Psycho-social counseling (Counseling, Home and school visits);
- ✚ Therapeutic Training (Music, Drama, Photo/ Video);
- ✚ Therapeutic and Educational Entertainment programs;
- ✚ Medical support and Financial support (monthly sponsorship allowance, IGA, OTG, Emergency, Skill training, Nutritional food and Educational material support); and

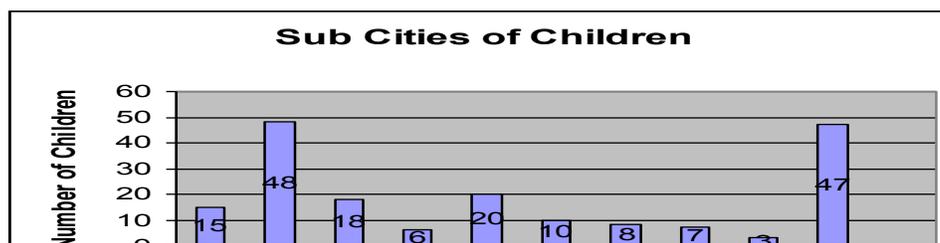
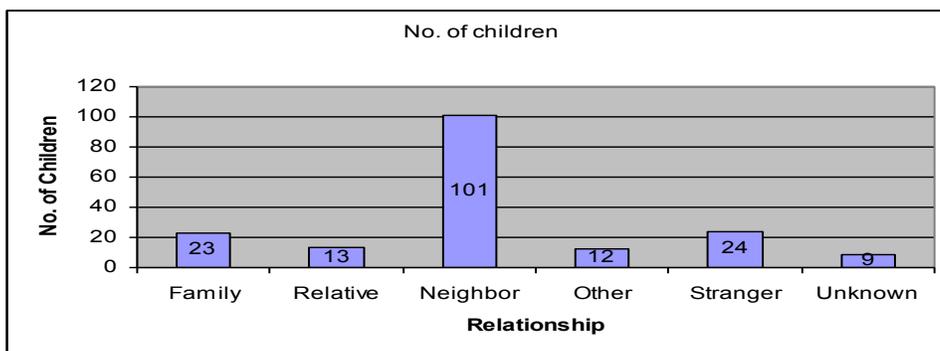
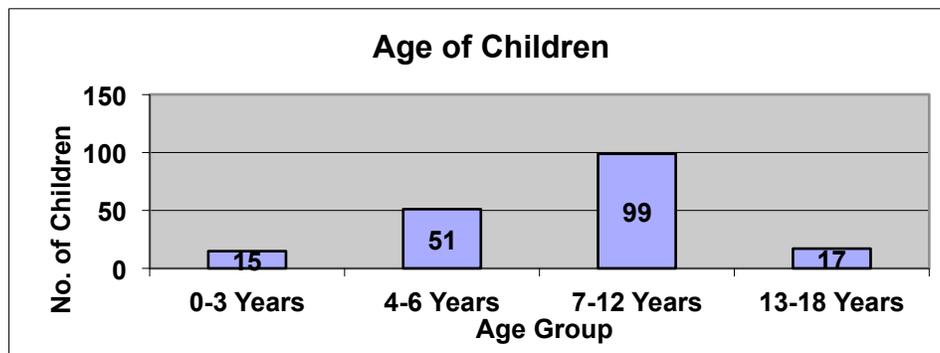
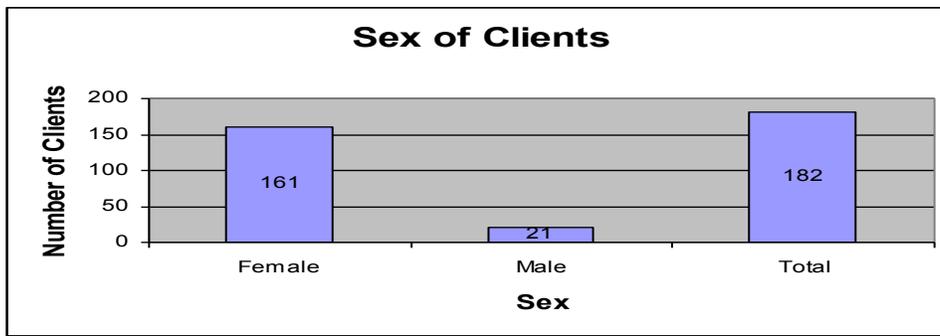
+ Foster home (temporary shelter) service.

2.2. Annual Performance of the Project:

2.2.1. Financial and Medical:

Provide Regular Sponsorship Support:

At the end of 2011, the total number of beneficiaries who were included in the regular financial support was 162. However, it becomes 182 as 20 newly admitted clients who had a serious financial problem have been admitted to the program. Thus, these selected children have been provided with a monthly financial support of Birr 200.00.



Support for Medical Support:

The medical support is provided for the target beneficiaries as per need. Thus, 27 clients had been sick and got medical treatment. They were diagnosed for gynecological problem, Typhoid, Typhus, Tonsillitis, Gastric, Skin Allergy, Eye problem, Leukemia etc. Following the medical treatment they received, they are found in a better health status.

Provide Emergency Support:

In this physical year, it was planned to give emergency support for 5 beneficiaries. Yet, 7 families have been given the service as there existed high demand of the service. Depending on the severity of the case and amount of money needed, 3 families have been given Birr 500.00 each for funeral ceremony of the death parents; while the rest 4 were given Birr 2,500.00 each (1 for severe financial problem due to the death of the head of the family; and 2 for house renovation).



Food Allowance for HIV Positive Children:

For those children who become HIV Positive due to the sexual abuse, it was planned to provide nutritional food support four times per year (once per quarter). Nevertheless, it was possible to accomplish the activity only once in the 1st quarter. The only reason is lack of budget.

Provision of Skill Training for Needy Beneficiaries:

In this physical year, it was planned to give skill training for 12 clients or their family members; yet it was possible to give the service only for 7 due to late release of budge. Accordingly 4 clients and 3 family members are attending training all in Hair dressing.

2.2.2. Psycho-social Support:

Provide Counseling Service by Counselors:

The basic service, the Counseling project provides for all its beneficiaries, is counseling. In spite of the fact that the planned number of counseling sessions was 728, only 421 could be accomplished. This is primarily because of the small number of counselors as compared to the huge number of beneficiaries. Besides this, the coincidence of planned and unplanned activities contributes for the lower performance of the activity. Moreover, a lot of time has been allocated for the 2nd phase data collection for the research conducted by the donor organization (Il Sole) in collaboration with Milan University.

Group Counseling:

In this year, it was planned to conduct 4 group counseling (once per quarter). Except rescheduling due to late release of budget, the plan has been achieved. Thus 80 children have been selected and participated in 4 group counseling sessions. The group counseling sessions were organized for recently admitted clients, foster home children, academically poor clients and Male clients. In the group counseling sessions, appropriate issues have been raised, discussed and addressed by the active participation and experience sharing of the participants.

Conduct Home Visits:

To make assessment of the life of the children in the home environment and make appropriate intervention, it was planned to conduct 192 home visits. But only 137 home visits were conducted as more attention was given for unplanned but mandatory activities and those activities which were delayed due to late release of budget. Moreover, the vehicle has been used long time for moving office furniture and materials in to the newly rented IFSO office.

Educational Material Support:

To facilitate the regular school attendance of the clients, the project provides school material support. Accordingly 168 clients (14 Males and 155 Females) who attend regular education have been given Educational Materials (12 Exercise Book, 12 Pen, 12 Pencil, 12 Color Pencil, 1 Compass and 1 Drawing Exercise Book per child). .

Conduct School Visits:

As per need, 3 school visits have been conducted to change schools of 2 children reunified from the foster home and to assess the possible factors for the week school performance of the a client.

IGA (Income Generating Activities):

In order to assist families with serious financial problem and avoid dependency syndrome, a seed capital of Birr 2,500.00for has been given for selected 10 potential families to generate their own business. As a result, the selected families have started running their own small business.

Organize Laboratory for Therapy:

The provision of Therapeutic Training (Music, Drama, Photography and Videography) aims to facilitate the counseling process. It was planned to conduct 104 Therapy sessions; yet 127 sessions were conducted. This is due to the more therapy sessions conducted during the time the Italian professionals came during the Ethiopian summer vacation. Accordingly, seriously affected and highly traumatized children vent out their bad feelings or emotions, share experiences and improved their social interaction and communication skill through the trainings.

Provide Secondary Traumatic Counseling for the Staff:

Since trauma by nature is transferable, it is scientifically believed that counselors should be provided with secondary counseling to reduce burnout. In line with this, a five days training was provided by a lecturer from the University of Milan, Italy to the key staffs the counseling and Sponsorship projects, and 13 social workers and psychologists from the Federal 1st Instance Court. Moreover, the participants shared experience, debrief tough issues and provided with secondary traumatic counseling service.

Organize Reproductive Health Training:

Based on the plan, 80 adolescent girls were selected and provided training on relevant reproductive issues like Contraceptive Methods, Sexual Abuse and Sexuality, HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

2.2.3. Educational and Entertainment

Annual Festival and Refreshment with Music Show:

A trip was organized for all the beneficiary children to Babogaya- Debre Zeit. The major components of the program were Music and Traditional dance show by “Fire Band”, Visit to Babogaya Lake, Dance & Music competition among the children, Lunch and refreshment. Thus, the children who are survivors of sexual abuse could get the chance to play, mix each other and vent out their bad feelings and negative emotions by the help of the entertaining activities.



Organize Educational Entertainment Program:

At the end of the academic year, an educational entertainment program was conducted. The program comprised of different educative and entertaining activities like music and dance show, refreshment, music and dance competitions among children and rewards for winners of the competition for children who achieved a great result in their schooling.

Good Parenting Style Training:

Training was organized for the parents/ guardians of the target children on Good Parenting Style and other germane issues like Personal Hygiene, HIV/AIDS and other. Consequently, the expected awareness is believed to be created among the participants of the training.

2.2.4. Meetings:

Monthly Meetings of the Parents and Steering Committee:

To evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the project and forward constructive feedbacks for the staff, it was planned to conduct 12 meetings of the steering committee in this year on monthly basis. However, it was possible to hold only 3 meetings as budget was released very late during the 3rd quarter.

Parents Annual Meeting:

All the parents/ guardians of the target children gathered together in the center compound and made intensive discussions on relevant issues. Furthermore, they have forwarded questions, suggestions or comments (feedbacks) for the staff which can help to improve the quality of the services being delivered by the project.

2.2.5. Foster Homes:

Select, Organize and Fulfill 3 Foster Homes with Appropriate Material and Human Resource:

All the 3 foster homes were selected, organized and fulfilled with an appropriate material and human resources in the first year. Nonetheless, the project was forced to leave two of the foster homes by their respective owners. As a result, one foster home has been changed to a new area not far from the former one; while the second is not yet found due to the high rental rate and inappropriacy of the areas suggested by local brokers. Consequently, with a discussion with the owner of the 2nd foster home, the duration has been extended for three months.



Selection of 30 Seriously Affected Children:

In this physical year, a total of 51 sexually abused and vulnerable children (38 Females and 13 Males) have been identified and placed in three foster homes. The plan for the year was 30; however, due to the occurrence of a higher demand of the service, more than the planned quantity has been accomplished.

Reintegration of Fostered Children:

Although it was planned to reunify 15 clients in this year, only 13 (7 Females and 6 Males) could be reintegrated with their families. The major reason for such a less achievement is the delay in the court process of the case of the children.

2.3.Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken:

2.3.1. Challenges Encountered:

During the time of accomplishment, the project and the project staff faced the following major challenges:-

- i. Late release and absence of budget for most of the activities of the project;
- ii. The relocation and merging of the counseling center to a new area and with other projects of IFSO affects the privacy and freedom of the survivors;
- iii. The alarming increment of house rent leads the foster home unstable and creates further burden both on the project staff and the management;

2.3.2. Measures Taken:

- i. Late release of budget has been solved partially as part of the required amount of money has been released. Yet, as the release was made late, it created a high burden up on the staffs.
- ii. The question of privacy and freedom of the survivors of sexual abuse get due consideration by the management; but remains unsolved as it is not possible to rent a private counseling center due to 70/30.
- iii. One of the foster homes has been moved to a newly rented house. While, the 2nd one is not yet solved; but discussion was made with the owner and the contract has been extended just for a quarter.

3. Supporting Children Living with HIV/ AIDS Project:

3.1.Background of the Project:

The HIV Project which is entitled “Supporting Children Living with HIV/ AIDS” was established in the year 2009 with the objective of contributing to the improvement of the life condition of children affected by HIV/AIDS by providing psycho-social, medical, financial, school and nutritional supports.

3.2. Annual Performance of the Project:

3.2.1. Financial Support:

Identify Children Living with HIV/AIDS:

This activity has already been accomplished in the first year. In the year 2012, depending on the readiness of the donor organization to admit new client, one new HIV positive child has been identified and included in the support.

Provide Medical Support:

A total of 31 clients have got medical support and diagnosed for Pneumonia, Conjunctivitis, Fungal Infection, Otitis media, Breast Engorgement, Intestinal parasite.. Accordingly they are found in a better medical condition. As compared to the previous year (2011), the medical status of most of the beneficiary children is found to be good. The detail report of the medical status of the children is summarized with their respective CD4 count in the table below.

No.	CD4 Count	Female	Male	Total
1	< 200	0	0	0
2	200 – 350	6	19	25
3	> 350	33	32	65
	Grand Total	39	51	90

Provide Family Sponsorship Support of Birr 200:

Based on the plan, 102 clients have been getting financial support of ETB 200.00 per month. As 1 client had been terminated from the program after changing residence out of Addis, another needy child has been identified and included in the program and is getting the financial and other supports.

3.2.2. School Support:

Provide School Material Support:

This activity is accomplished as planned in the third quarter. Accordingly, 100 clients who attend regular education have been given educational materials (Exercise Book, Pen, Pencil, Color Pencil and Drawing Exercise Book). The rest two clients are not yet enrolled in to school due to serious disability.

No.	Grade Level	No. of Students		
		Female	Male	Total
1	KG	13	10	23
2	1-4	19	22	41
3	5-8	10	21	31
4	9-10	1	3	4
5	11-12	0	0	0
6	College/ University	0	1	1
7	Not enrolled	2	0	2
	GRAND TOTAL	45	57	100

Conduct Home and School Visits:

95 home and school visits have been conducted in this year. The accomplishment is less than the plan since the need has been declined and due to shortage of vehicle (N:B There is only one car for HIV, Counseling and Foster home projects). Moreover, school visits had to be conducted only as per need.

Provide Individual Counseling Service:

287 individual counseling sessions were conducted in this year. The accomplishment is more than the plan as there was a greater demand of the service. During the counseling sessions, awareness about ART, healthy diet, personal hygiene, social interaction, family problems and stigma and discriminations have been thoroughly dealt and addressed.

Provide Group Counseling:

10 group counseling session have been organized and conducted. It is almost twice (200 %) of the planned quantity due to the greater demand of the service. In each session, an average of ten to twelve family members were selected and participated considering their level of understanding for sharing information and issue of concern.

3.2.3. Provide Skill and Business Training:

Provide Skill Training:

21 potential skill trainees are attending the training in Hair Dressing, Mobile Maintenance, Driving License and Food Preparation. Appropriate follow up have been made as per need.

No.	Type of Training	No. of Beneficiaries		
		Female	Male	Total
1	Hair Dressing	7	7	14
2	Food Preparation	1	0	1
3	Driving License	0	5	5
4	Mobile Maintenance	0	1	1
	GRAND TOTAL	8	13	21

Provide Business Training for IGA: 25 family members who were identified for the IGA have been provided with business training. The aim of the training was to give a business insight; to let them share experience; to assist in selection of business area; and to create awareness on the importance of saving and credit.

Provide a One-Time Grant of Birr 2500 for IGA:

As it was planned, 25 potential family members (924 Female and 1 Male) have been given a seed capital of Birr 2,500.00 for IGA. Among this, 5 are a newly selected family members who were not provided the OTG in the 1st round; while the rest 21 are those families who were provided the service in the 1st round but selected for the 2nd as well considering their effective business and saving. Accordingly, the five families have started running their small business; while the 21 have expanded their business started formerly.

Provide Business Counseling:

Based on the assessment made during the business visits, 275 families with difficulty of running their business and low saving rate have been provided with business counseling. More sessions have been conducted as compared to the planned quantity as there was a high demand to do so.

No.	Amount of Money Saved	No. of Beneficiaries		
		Male	Female	Total
1	< 500.00 Birr	35	8	43
2	500.00-1000.00 Birr	13	3	16
3	1000.00-1500.00 Birr	14	0	14
4	1500.00-2000.00 Birr	3	0	3
5	2000.00-2500.00 Birr	12	1	13
6	> 2500.00 Birr	12	0	12
GRAND TOTAL		89	12	101

Conduct Business Visit:

105 business visits were conducted, which is less than the planned quantity due to lower demand of the service and shortage of vehicle. In the visits, the progress of the business and saving rate were assessed and planned for business counseling.

3.2.4. Conduct Awareness Creation Workshop:

Select Workshop Participants from the Community:

Although it was planned to select 500, 407 participants were selected for the workshops. This is because of the lesser number of participants who were selected by the Gulele and Yeka sub cities responsible bodies.

No.	Sub city	No. of Participants		
		Female	Male	Total
1	Yeka Sub city	171	36	207
2	Gulele Sub city	102	98	200
GRAND TOTAL		273	134	407

Organize Awareness Creation Workshop for Community:

This activity is accomplished as planned. Following this, 10 workshops have been organized and conducted (5 in Yeka and 5 in Gulele sub cities). As a result, the expected awareness on issues like HIV/AIDS, Child Right, Personal Hygiene, Environmental Sanitation... is believed to be created among the society.



Conduct Awareness Creation Workshop for 102 parents/guardians:

This activity is accomplished as planned. Thus, appropriate awareness about Good Parenting Style, Personal Hygiene, HIV/AIDS and its consequences have been raised, discussed and addressed.

Nutritional Support:

This activity is accomplished as planned. Following this, Wheat flour, Milk powder, Faffa and Edible oil have been provided for all the 102 children. However as additional budget become released from the Donor Organization (CIFA), Pasta have also been purchased and provided to the beneficiaries in the last quarter.

3.3.Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken:

3.3.1. Challenges Encountered:

In its accomplishment in the year 2012, the HIV project faced the following major challenges:-

- i. Shortage of access for vehicle was the prominent challenge for the smooth progress of the project especially in conducting home, school and business visits.
- ii. Late release of budget from the donor organization and sometimes from the finance section created burden on the life of the beneficiaries.

3.3.2. Measures Taken:

Even if it is too hard to bring a permanent and radical change on the challenges occurred, the following potential measures are considered and taken as a temporary solution.

- i. Managing the only vehicle in accordance with the Counseling project
- ii. After discussion with representatives of the donor organization (CIFA), budget has been secured finally.

4. The Children's Safety Net Project:

4.1. Background of the Project:

The Children's Safety Net project is established in the year 2010 with the objective of creating a community where children are safe, appreciated, heard, learning and playing and their basic needs are met in Shuromeda and Ferensay Legacia areas of the Gulele and Yeka sub cities respectively. The project has been operating. To achieve its objectives, the project has been performing Capacity building, School support, Relieve poverty barrier and Networking activities for the target groups.

4.2. Annual Performance of the Project:

4.2.1. Capacity Building of Families:

Conduct Awareness Creation Workshops on Good Parental Styles:

To create awareness on the community of the project sites, it was planned to conduct one workshop in the year. However, as there was a higher demand of the service, 3 were conducted to improve the conventional rearing practice of the participants by incorporating scientific approaches to the existing ones and rejecting harmful practices which have adverse effect on the development of a child.

Conduct Participation Workshop for Boys and Girls:

To improve the participation of boys and girls both in the school and family contexts a workshop was conducted. Thus, 305 boys and girls were selected from different schools and attended a training to improve their participation, decision making, communication and self-esteem become.

Conduct House to House Visit and Give Family Counseling:

To make assessment of the life style of the beneficiaries and to reach the unreached households, 305 house-to-house visits were conducted. Following this, the family members of the selected households were provided with on the spot counseling and become aware of good parental styles, family planning, personal hygiene, environmental sanitation and other relevant issues.

Conduct House to House Visits and Give Business Advice:

Considering the plan, 191 house-to-house visits in order to provide business on the spot-business advice or counseling for households who were given a loan. Thus, saving and business idea of the families included in the visit become improved.

Conduct Collection of Loans:

Despite the immense effort of the project staff, it was not possible complete the collection of the loan before the project phases out. Accordingly, from the total amount of money given as a loan for 221 families, 135 (61.1 %) families have totally refunded the loan; 3 (1.4 %) passed away that they did not refund the loan; while the rest 86 families have not yet completed refunding the money.

Project Site	Who have completed	Who didn't complete	Beneficiaries Passed away	Total Money Given (Loan)	Total Money Collected
Shiromeda	62 (56.8%)	47 (43.2%)	1	149,270.00	114,801.00 (77%)
Ferensay	73 (67%)	36 (33%)	2	150,632.00	120,379.40 (80%)
Total	135 (61.1%)	83 (37.6%)	3	299,902.00	235,180.40 (78.4%)

Conduct Awareness Creation Workshop on MAP for Parents/ Guardians:

To build the capacity of the parents/ guardians of the target children, trainings were provided on the issue of MAP (Male as Partner) for selected men participants from the two project sites (Shiromeda and Ferensay). Considering the high demand of the training, one more workshop than the planned quantity has been conducted.

Conduct Awareness Creation Workshop on MAP for Students:

Even if there was no plan to conduct the workshop on MAP for students, as there existed a high demand, the training has been provided for selected 202 boys from different schools of the project sites.

Conduct Awareness Creation Workshop on MAP for the Youth

The training on MAP has been extended further to the youth group though not planned. Thus, 107 youths were selected from Shiromeda and Ferensay areas and provided with the training.

Conduct Discussion Meeting with Idirs' Coalition to facilitate refunding of Loan:

Though it was not planned, this activity has been accomplished to facilitate the collection of the loan from the 1st round beneficiaries and for the provision of the support for the 2nd round. In line with this, 4 meetings were held and facilitated the collection of the loan and the selection process for the 2nd round beneficiaries.

Conduct Entrepreneurship Training for the 2nd Round Beneficiaries:

40 beneficiaries were selected from Ferensay area and took 4 days training and are about to get the money and start working. (20 of the beneficiaries are newly selected by IFSO, Idirs and WCYAO; while the rest 20 are selected from the 1st round for their honesty of refunding the loan on time as per their agreement.)



Skill Training Graduates Experience Sharing Program:

This activity not planned, it was found to be appropriate to conduct experience sharing program for skill training graduates. The activity does so considering its importance. Of all the contacted graduates, 23 could attend the program. Among the participants, all except 1 reported that they have got employment. The only unemployed trainee justified that he had dropped out the training for some family reason; however now, he has resumed it. The program which took place in Babogaya, Debre Zeit was fruitful that every relevant issue has been raised, discussed and addressed by the co-effort of the trainees themselves and the concerned staff of the project.



Conduct Awareness Creation Workshop on Environmental Sanitation:

Based on the plan, one workshop has been conducted to create awareness on environmental sanitation. The participants were community representatives and health workers of the woreda offices.

Construct Toilets for the Ferensay Community:

Even if it was not included in the annual plan, 4 toilets have been constructed in 4 areas of the project sites to improve environmental sanitation. Consequently, the community of the sites benefited a lot from the construction of the toilets.



Capacitating Yeka Sub city Woreda 1 Workers on Social Network Mapping:

In order to capacitate 50 Yeka sub city Woreda 1 workers, training was organized on Social Network Mapping, given for 50. Participants were administration experts who were mainly from WCYA and some others from other sector offices of the same woreda.

4.2.2. School Support:

Filming of the Supported School Social Welfare Clubs:

In order to document the works related to school clubs, there was a plan of Filming. Accordingly, a documentary film of the activities performed in the school clubs has been prepared and documented.

Support Homework Club Facilitators at a rate of birr 10 birr/day:

In order to reinforce the facilitators of the homework clubs, it was planned to provide them an incentive of Birr 220.00 each at a rate of Birr 10.00 per day. Thus, based on the plan, 10 facilitators have been paid according to the time they worked.

Facilitate Cross Visits among Target Schools to Exchange Experiences:

To facilitate experience sharing among IT clubs, a cross visit was planned to be conducted. Thus 35 members of the IT clubs (25 students and 10 teachers) were selected and participated in the cross visit. In the cross visit, relevant issues have been raised, discussed and shared; participants shared experiences; challenges and possible solutions were and discussed intensively.



Support of ITS Material:

To strengthen the IT clubs, 5 IT clubs have been selected and provided with appropriate materials (tonner and ream of paper for each club depending on their demand. The provision of materials includes.

Provide Financial Support for School Clubs to Encourage Promoting MAP:

To assure the sustainability of MAP in schools, appropriate materials support (like 1 packet of Art Line marker and 3 Flip Charts) and Capacity Building workshops were provided for the clubs and members respectively.

Arrange Support for Mini- Media:

Based on the assessment made, 25 students were from 5 mini-media clubs of 5 schools were selected and provided with a short-term Theatrical training for one month and certified. The focus of the training was “Acting and Play Writing”.



Support for School Social Welfare Clubs:

3 social welfare clubs have been provided with material supports. The club in Hizabwi Serawit School was given 1 refrigerator, 2 sewing machines, and shop and stationery materials; while for each club found in Kuskuam and Dilbitegel schools, 50kg of Wheat Flour, 1 Thermos, 1 Kettle, 1 Stove, 5 Dinner Plates and 10 Tea Glasses were provided.



Conduct School Visits and Follow up the Educational Status of the Children and the Activities of Clubs:

All the target children and clubs in the 5 schools have been visited and assessment was made on the academic status of the children and the effectiveness of the works of the clubs. Both parties (the students and clubs) are reinforced by the visits and achieved good results.

Provide Stationery Materials for Homework Club Members:

To initiate members of the homework clubs work hard to achieve a good result in their academic life by participating actively in home work clubs, all the 10 clubs included in the plan have been given material assistance of 3 flip charts and 2 packets of marker each.

4.2.3. Relieve Poverty Barrier:

Provide Medical Support for Household Members: Though the plan was 40, 50 beneficiaries who were sick have been provided medical support and found in a relatively better health condition.

Provide Emergency Support for Needy HH Members:

It was planned to provide emergency support for 10 households. But, 29 household (which is 290 % of the plan) who faced a serious financial problem and identified by home visits were provided with a half quintal (50 kg) of Teff each.

Provide Educational Materials and Uniform for Beneficiaries:

In order to facilitate the regular attendance of the beneficiary students, it was planned to give educational material and school uniform support for 120 beneficiaries. But due to the existence of a higher demand of the support, 172 students who were selected from the two project sites have been provided with different school materials and uniforms.

House Renovation:

For 3 households whose houses were highly deteriorated and unsecure for the children and their families, a financial support was given for renovation.

Special Need (Bed and Mattress):

2 families of the target group who were in great difficulty of survival have been identified and provided with the service bed and mattress. As a result, the major problem of the families become solved that they are found in a better condition.

4.2.4. Networking:

Capacitate Kebeles /Sub cities to keep Track & Facilitate Coordination of Intervention

To avoid duplication of effort of different organizations in service delivery, a network of the NGOs and GOs operating in the area was formed. Thus, the network held consecutive meetings; collected list of beneficiaries of the member organizations; arranged it in an alphabetical order and submitted to all the members of the network to avoid duplication of power.

Arrange Advisory Board Meeting:

An advisory board unit which comprises members from different government bodies was formed to evaluate the performance of the project and provide constructive feedbacks. In line with this, the meeting was held to discuss on closing of the Children Safety Net project and realize the reflection of stakeholders on the three years intervention time of the project.



Capacitating of the Project Staff in Relevant Computerized Data Base System:

It was planned to let 2 project staffs attend trainings on appropriate Data Base. However, due to coincidence of many activities (planned and unplanned), only the IGA expert has attended a training on Data Base system to improve documentation.

4.3.Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken:

4.3.1. Challenges Encountered:

The Children's Safety Net project faced different challenges in the year 2012. The major challenges occurred are the following:-

- i. Refunding or collection of loan has been difficult (challenging) for the staff.
- ii. Concurrence of many activities (both planned and unplanned), especially in the 4th quarter created a huge burden on the staffs of the project and finance section of the organization.

4.3.2. Measures Taken:

Depending on the nature and type of the challenges, the following measures have been taken to address the above mentioned challenges respectively:-

- i. Though it has been difficult and very challenging, refunding (collection of loan) has been improved and more than 78 % of the loaned amount of money has been collected back.
- ii. Despite the suffering of the project staff and burden on the finance section, all the planned and most of the unplanned activities of the project have been accomplished.

5. Improving Girls' Education and Wellbeing:

5.1. Background of the Project:

The Ambassel project, "Improving the Livelihood and Education of Girls", is established in Amhara Region, Ambassel Woreda of South Wollo. The objective of the project is to promote education for girls in the woreda. To achieve its objective, the project comprises of 12 activities which are grouped in to 3 major categories: School Access, Gender Equality and Financial Support. With respect to the plan, the performance of the project is narrated here under.

5.2. Annual Performance of the Project:

5.2.1. Improving School Facility and Educational Support:

Renovate Class Rooms and Construct Toilets:

Though it was planned to renovate the class rooms, based on the suggestion of the woreda authorities, new class rooms were constructed in cooperation with the woreda. Thus, the plan of renovation has been changed into constructing new class rooms. IFSO has participated in the purchase of construction materials, mainly cement. Since the construction is not yet finished, the hand over cannot be accomplished in the right schedule.

Provide Educational Material Support for 130 Students:

For the provision of different supports for the right target beneficiaries, a selection committee (consisting of representatives from the woreda administrative offices and from the community) had been organized. Then, based on the criteria set by the committee, 100 children have been selected provided with exercise books and 62 with school uniforms.

Organize a Girls' Hostel for 30 Secondary School Students:

For the purpose of fostering OVC girls in a hostel, a compound has been secured from the woreda government and the WCYA offices. Then the hostel has been cleaned, fenced, and furnished with appropriate materials. Then, 30 seriously affected and needy girls, who fulfill the criteria set by the committee, have been selected, hostelled and provided with appropriate facilities and basic needs.

Provide Life Skill Training for the 30 girl students:

For the purpose of the life skill training, a manual had been prepared by relevant bodies in the area. Life Skill Training was given for the 30 hostelled and 100 elementary and high school students were selected and provided with the training. The major issues of the training were gender and peer- pressure. Consequently, appropriate awareness has been created among the students on relevant issues.

5.2.2. Awareness Raising and Capacity Building:**Conduct a 2 Days Capacity Building Training for Teachers:**

To create awareness up on Teachers on the issues of child psychology and girls' education, special needs, changes occurred during the period of adolescence. The plan was to provide training on the issues for 50 elementary and high school teachers. Accordingly, participants were representatives of the woreda teachers association, department heads, and elementary school teachers and school directors. The training was given by a Psychologist who is working as a guidance counselor at the high school. For the workshop, a training manual was prepared.

Provide Support for School Girls' Club:

For the purpose of supporting girls' club, a training was given for 100 girls selected from Wuchale Secondary and Preparatory school clubs on the issues of gender equality, division of work and cultural yoke and how to develop self-confidence (self-esteem). Moreover, after discussion of the project staff with the club leaders and school directors, the needs and gaps of the girls' clubs were identified. Accordingly, technical and material assistance were provided to the clubs.

Create Network with Local Authorities and NGOs:

To create a network or linkage, members were selected from different sectors of the government, the students, teachers, parents, Idirs (local associations) and religious organizations. After the identification of the organizations or institutions the expected network or linkage has been established to create a cooperative relationship among the members of the network.

Organize Awareness Creation Workshops for Community Members on Girls' Education:

An awareness creation workshop was conducted for 100 community members selected from the student- parent association, local authorities, Idir members, religious institution of the woreda. The aim of the workshop was to create appropriate awareness on the community by providing training on the importance of girls' education and other related issues.

5.2.3. IGA (Income Generating Activities):

Provide Entrepreneurship Training for Very Poor Families of Students:

For the purpose of the provision of IGA support, a selection committee which consists of member both from the different concerned body of the government offices and the community has been formed. The committee set criteria and selected 50 urban and 25 rural women from who fulfill the criteria.

Before the loan was provided for the beneficiaries, a training manual was prepared and used for the provision of the training. Then, Entrepreneurship training was provided for the selected women on the issues like selection of effective business area and Credit and Saving. Following the training, assessment of family situation had been made; the selected beneficiaries were grouped in the form of SHSG; and Loan collateral form and business plan had been prepared

Provide Revolving Fund:

After the selection process was completed, the selected 50 urban women have been provided with 150,000.00 Birr at a rate of Birr 3000.00 each to start their own small business.

Provide Refreshment Training:

To facilitate saving and refunding of loan, all the women who were provided loan have been assigned in to different groups and contributed their part (10.00 Birr per month) continuously. On the other hand, to facilitate documentation, different formats have been prepared.

5.3. Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken:

5.3.1. Challenges Encountered:

- i. Lack of access for internet as the project has neither CDMA nor Fixed Line internet access created a big communication gap with both IFSO Management and the donor organization (CIFA).
- ii. The topography and long distance of the project site in the rural parts of the woreda remains another challenging issue for the project staff.

5.3.2. Measures Taken:

Even if the above mentioned challenges have been reported to both the management of IFSO and the donor organization (CIFA), they are not yet solved totally.

6. Community Mobilization and Child Wellbeing Project:

6.1. Background of the Project:

This project was established in May 2011 with the objective of contributing to the improvement of the wellbeing, care and education of OVC living in Awash Arba town by:-

- i. Enhancing early childhood community based care and education of vulnerable children through strengthened capacities of families and community;
- ii. Reducing the ratio of drop out children through supporting the primary school and capacitating it to support children from vulnerable families.

6.2. Annual Performance of the Project:

6.2.1. Capacity Building of Early Childhood Care and Education Centre:

Construction of ECCE:

The construction of the model early childhood care and education center (ECCE) which consists of 3 big learning rooms and 1 waiting and first aid room for the use of kindergarten has been completed in the year. Land was made available by the woreda authority in the compound of an old kindergarten. The community of Awash Arba contributed for the construction of the center

through labor by clearing the site and contributing 500 Birr. The ECCE is fenced and well-furnished with necessary school materials like chairs and tables and outdoor play materials are also fixed in the playground. The community committee has been also responsible for managing the ECCE center and covering the salary of center facilitators from the fee collected from parents.



Access for Education:

According to registration made in this academic year a total of 128 children are registered in the center. This figure is much higher than last year's which was 80. Thus in this academic year, 48 newly admitted children have been enrolled into the Kinder Garden.

Support for School Clubs:

The school mini media club of Arab Truck primary school has been supported with materials like speakers, tape recorder and cultural dresses to be used for various carnivals (celebration) and awareness creation programs on HIV/AIDS for the school and the local residents.

Income Generating Activity:

In addition, with the aim of ensuring sustainability of OVCs support in the school, income generating activity was initiated. A small shop in the compound of the school is engaged in selling stationary materials, tea and coffee, snack etc. The project supported the operation of the shop through donation of various stationary materials amounted to 10,000 Ethiopian birr which served as initial capital.

On the other hand, to generate income, the school used to rent a room to private external individual who provide meal, tea and coffee to the school community. However, in this year, the tea club was not rented; rather, the school itself used the opportunity to prepare all the necessary food and drink items and generates its own income to support the helpless OVCs in the school.

Capacity Building for Teachers:

There was a plan to train two facilitators who will serve as teachers and take care of the children in the centre. In line with this, two teachers (1 male and 1 female) were selected by the community and provided with two weeks training on child psychology, lesson plan and teaching aid preparation. The training, which was organized at the head office of IFSO, was given professionals (Psychologists and Educational Experts).

On the other hand, a plan was set to conduct 2 experience sharing programs. Thus, as per the plan, two experience exchange meetings between the teachers/care takers and parents were conducted biannually. Accordingly, the participants made intensive discussions on relevant issues like improving education, caring children appropriately and creating awareness on the community and exchange experiences one another.

6.2.2. Supporting OVCs and Families:

Selection of OVC:

Based on the selection criteria set by the committee which comprises of members from representatives of woreda WCYA office and schools and the project staff, 80 children were selected for the provision of school material support. This raised the total number of children included in the project to 180. Of these, 100(53 female and 47male) are in the primary school and the rest 80(40 male and 40 female) are found in the preschool age level. The staff of the project have visited the houses of all the 180 children and provided family counseling service during the quarter.

School Support:

After the selection process was completed, appropriate school materials like school uniform and exercise books were providing for 100 Arab Truck primary school and 80 preschool OVCs. The objective of the support is to pursue their education and to reduce drop outs.

6.2.3. Awareness Creation and Capacity Building Workshops**Awareness Creation Workshop for the Community:**

In order to boost the knowledge, attitude and practices of the community, one was conducted on the issues of early childhood care and education (ECCE) for 50 participants (community members), and the other one was on the concept of, good parental style and HIV/AIDS for 100 community members. As a result, the community became responsive towards child protection. The community initiation and involvement in sanitation campaign, use of disinfectants in the house, raised concerns for the wellbeing of children by parents are some of manifestation of increased awareness on child protection.

6.3.Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken:

This project faced no major challenge during the project period. Every activity has been accomplished as planned without any significant challenge.

7. Supporting Children on the Edge Project:**7.1.Background of the Project:**

The Children on the Edge project is a recently designed project implemented as of August 2012. The title of the Project is “Supporting Children on the Edge”. The area of operation (project sites) is two: Woreda 1 & 11 of Nefas silk Lafto and Woreda 9, 10 & 11 of Akaki Kaliti sub cities. 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 objectives (both general and specific), the project comprises different activities for the target children, youth and community in the project sites. The detail annual performance report of the project is narrated as follows.

7.2. Annual Performance Report of the Project:

During the initial stage of the project, a meeting was held with woreda and sub city representatives. The meeting was considered as a launching campaign for the newly implemented project. The participants were 35 representatives from the woreda and sub cities where the project sites are found; all the staff of the project; and the management of IFSO. In the launching meeting, the project, all the activities and other relevant issues were presented by the program officer of the implementing organization (IFSO); and further explained by key staff of the project. In line with this, appropriate questions, suggestions and comments were raised, discussed and addressed accordingly. With this, the implementation of the project was started officially.

Despite this, the project has faced a big challenge and interrupted since October 2012. As a result, only few of the activities included in the action plan has been accomplished. Taking this fact in to consideration, the bi-annual performance of the project is narrated here under.

7.2.1. OVCs Provided with Educational Support:

Setting selection criteria and select OVC's:

For the purpose of educational material support, a selection criterion was set. According to the action plan, the selection of the OVC had to be done from 5 schools found in the project sites. However, it was reported that OVC who are in one of the selected schools which is found in Woreda 10 of the Akaki Kaliti sub city get similar support from another NGO operating in the area. Thus, the beneficiaries of the school material support have been selected only from the 4 schools. Therefore, based on the criteria set, 400 OVC have been identified from 4 schools (100 from each school) by the school directors and parents' committee for the provision of school material had been identified.

Provide Education Support and School Uniform for OVC's:

Following the selection of the OVC, school materials had been purchased and distributed. Consequently, the target children are reinforced to attend school regularly and their families were supported financially as they saved the amount of money they had to spend for the purchase of school materials for their children.

7.2.2. Toilets and Water Points Constructed in 5 Schools:

Identify the Need and Availability for Constructing Toilets and Water points:

In woreda 10 of Akaki Kaliti sub city, a discussion was conducted to select the water point. Thus, one area was identified by the community and ready for the construction of water points and toilets.

Construct Toilets and Water Points:

In order to construct 1 water point and 2 toilets at 2 schools of Woreda 10 of Nefassilk Lafto and 1 school of Akaki Kaliti sub city, a bid had been posted. Then, considering financial and legal issues, the bid was opened by the responsible persons. However, as there appears lack of professionals that applied to construct the water points and toilets, it was found to post another bid for the second time. Therefore, the bid was re-posted is posted for the second time; then opened and the winner is identified.

7.2.3. ABE Centers Established in Targeted area:

Identify and Securing the Land for Construction:

From 14 planned activities under this category, only 1 which is the identification and securing of land for construction has been performed. Therefore, in Akaki Kaliti sub city, woreda 11, five individuals who are members of the target community provided their own land for the construction of the ABE center and their donation get approval from the sub city. Therefore, despite the delay due to the long process, structural planning and designing have been started and on the way to be accomplished.

The reason why Woreda 10 of Akaki Kaliti sub city is We give priority to this Woreda because it is far from our entire site and don't have any infrastructure and difficult to go to the area during summer. In NL woreda 1& 11 the land is secured for constructing ABE centers.

7.2.4. Empower the Community to Lob the Government to Equip the Health Facilities:

Organized Discussion Meeting:

Among the 3 planned activities of this category, only one activity which is discussion meeting with Idir leaders has been conducted. Thus, a meeting was held to discuss relevant issues with representatives of the Idirs found in the project sites. Accordingly, the representatives were informed about the support that they would receive from the project and accepted the idea and reflected their recognition and willingness to work with IFSO.

7.2.5. Links Created Between the Community and Health Facilities through Health Extension Workers and CBRHA:

Select and training of CBRHA's:

The only activity performed under this major category is the selection of CBRHAs. Accordingly, 30 CBRHA (Community Based Rehabilitation and Health Agents) who work in the project sites have been selected and become ready for the training. However, the training has not yet been provided.

7.2.6. Immigrants Settled and Live Family Fife:

Build the Capacity of 'Idir's to Encourage their Members to Support the Settlement of Immigrants:

To encourage Idir members to support the settlement of immigrants, a meeting was held with Idir leaders. During the meeting, appropriate issues and the needs of the Idirs were discussed and assessed. Thus, the representatives of the Idirs expressed their willingness to work with the project and appreciated the plan of the financial support.

7.3.Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken:

7.3.1. Challenges Encountered:

Supporting Children on the Edge project faced the biggest challenge of the fiscal year. As compared to other projects operating under IFSO, this project and its staff have faced a great difficulty in its initial phase. This is because of the hesitation of the management and board of IFSO on the sustainability of the project sites due to the plan of the government to give the area where the project sites are found for investment purpose. This remains the major cause for the interruption of the project implementation.

Moreover, lack of immediate solution for the problem caused a high risk for the project by wasting the project period and letting the staff idle, but paid for the last two months.

7.3.2. Measures Taken:

The interrupted implementation of the project Children on the Edge remains the big concern of the management, the staff and the board of IFSO. In line with this, all the concerned parties are working hard to bring a long lasting solution. For such a reason, continuous meetings have been held among the staff, the management and the board. Besides this, the management and board of IFSO exerted a big effort to assess the potential difficulties and secure the sustainability of the project by consulting the responsible government bodies.

8. Other Activities Performed in the Year:

8.1.Relocation of IFSO Office:

It is known that the head office was found around HayaHulet, besides Zerihun (Haile G/Selassie Road) together with the Children's Safety Net and Children on the Edge projects; while the rest 3 projects in A.A were found in the Counseling Center found around Megenagna, near St.yared Hospital. However, due to the 70/30 proclamation of the government, all the 5 projects together with the head office become merged in a newly rented office around Haya Arat, near Kokeb Meeting Hall.

8.2. Phasing out of Projects:

At the end of 2012, 3 projects have phased out. These are the Community Mobilization and Child Wellbeing, the Children's Safety Net and the Supporting Children Living with HIV/AIDS projects. The 1st one has been evaluated both by the regional government and found to be fruitful. Moreover, it was recommended by the evaluating body to be replicated in a new area in the Afar region. The 2nd one is under evaluation both by the government and a consultant from the donor organization.

CONCLUSION

All the projects of IFSO except the Children on the Edge, have accomplished all their activities effectively and efficiently in 2012. Thus, annual performance reports of the projects depict that the intervention strategies of the projects were effective in achieving their respective objectives.

This in turn contributes a lot to the achievement of the desired mission and vision of the organization.