

SHAPING A HEALTHY FUTURE

Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) Project Photobook



ANPPCAN
African Network for the Prevention and Protection
Against Child Abuse and Neglect



Save the Children

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FOREWORD

The Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) project funded by the EU is applying strategies and approaches that respond to multilayered SRH problems of the community in general and young people in particular. The project is focuses on awareness raising and demand creation while availing SRH services for the target groups: women aged 15 -49 as well as adolescent boys and girls in all project Intervention Woredas.

A package of intervention that supports improved wellbeing of the most vulnerable communities has been implemented using existing government structures. Capacity building trainings, provision of materials and technical support, awareness creation through community mobilization approaches, and providing better SRH services are among the main activities of the project.

The EU-SRH project has been empowering young people and protected children from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Forced /Child Marriage through collective effort and worked to reduce the impact of socio –cultural barriers.

This photo booklet showcases major activities and best practice of the project. I invite you to read these stories of tremendous progress and triumph and be inspired.

Attitude determines progress. To bring long lasting change, such kind of projects should be strengthened to ensure young people and children realize their full potential.

Warmly,
Wubetu G/Hiwot- SRH Project Manager

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Save the Children has been implementing EU SRH-FP project in Amhara region (South Wollo Zone, North Wollo Zone & Wagihumra) and Afar regional state of Ethiopia. (dates)

The goal of the project is to contribute to an improvement of the well-being of the most vulnerable communities in Ethiopia through better Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services and informed Family Planning (FP) choices. Objectives of the project are:

- To empower young people to realise their SRH and increase their access to quality SRH services in hard to reach/rural locations of Amhara region.
- To protect and maintain the SRH/R of young girls through a reduction in harmful traditional practices such as EM and (FGM) in the intervention areas.
- To secure the commitment and increase the capacity of key stakeholders to uphold and protect the SRH/R of adolescent girls and boys.

SCHOOL CLUBS



Support for School SRH Clubs:

Inside the school mini-media transmitting educational messages to her fellow students during school break is Medina, 16 and a grade nine student at Harbu comprehensive secondary school in South Wollo zone of the Amhara region, Ethiopia.

She has been organizing her school's mini-media and leading the ASRH club established and supported by Save the Children's Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) (aka Yaflanet Hiwot II Plus) project, an EU funded project in South & North Wollo and Waghimra zones of the Amhara region.

"This year, I was selected and trained by Save the Children on school club management and educational messaging skills. The training helped me to develop my skills on how to run a club and prepare and deliver educational messages for students. We were also taught how to organize community mobilization events in the fight against harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, early marriage, early pregnancy and other ASRH related issues. Currently, I'm leading the ASRH club that has 40 members with equal representation of male and female students," says Medina.

CSOs



THE COMPLETE MARTIAL ARTS PAUL CROWMPTON
Real Math
GEORGIA MATHEMATICS
Algebra 2
SMITH FIGURE SKATING A Celebration
Algebra 2 Explorations and Applications
SAXON ALGEBRA 2
IN-CAR ENTERTAINMENT
Algebra 2
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY USED AND REUSED
Biology
Feeding the Horse
SURVIVAL SKILLS THE 100 MOST ESSENTIAL SKILLS
JACKIE ROBINSON
BAKING
MATT CHRISTOPHER'S ALL-STAR LINEUP
YOUNG SCIENTIST TAKES A RIDE
SABER SWORD
TODD LIND OLMOH
YOUNG SCIENTIST TAKES A RIDE
SABER SWORD
TODD LIND OLMOH

HOW TO...
Florida
STILL

Yimam Hassen, 25, leads Yetesfa Sink Youth Association in Harbu town of South Wollo zone in Ethiopia's Amhara region. The Association was established and supported by Save the Children through its Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) project with funding from the European Union.

It has been a useful platform for young adolescents to raise their awareness of harmful traditional practices and mobilize their community for regular educational sessions on issues such as early marriage, FGM, and HIV/AIDS. So far, the association reached more than 36,000 community members in the area.

With support from Save the Children's ASRH project, the association set up a library and youth center where young adolescents get recreational, educational and entertainment services in the form of in-door and out-door games as well as reading activities.

HEALTH FACILITIES

Mother friendly waiting areas



Promoting Mother Friendly Waiting Areas:

Yaflanet Hiwot II Plus project supports maternity units in health facilities frequented by our beneficiaries. The project supports health institutions by providing equipment like heaters and delivery couch thereby improving the quality provided for mothers. This is ultimately expected to attract more mothers to go and give births at health centers. The project has reached xxx number of health centers with this regard.

WOMEN'S GROUPS



**Let's call a spade a spade:
Tertib session in Addis Kegni, Raya Kobo woreda,
Amhara region**

"Anbessaw" - a group of women in Addis Kegne kebele has a vibrant tertib - a group that has regular coffee session. Ever since this tertib started working with Yaflanet Hiwot II Plus project, the gathering has gradually evolved into a social network that goes beyond a mere drinking of coffee. In the regular coffee sessions, they openly discuss various sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues, the drastic effect of harmful traditional practices (HTPs), maternal health services etc. Two of the organizers have been trained by the project on SRH maternal issues.

The tertib has also been provided with sound amplifiers. The project uses this platform to enhance the awareness of members. Members will then replicate the awareness they gained. The tertib is now very influential. They criticize and condemn community members who practice HTPs.

The project has supported 35,987 women in its intervention areas.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



BL-224SLDR
Portable Recharge Radio

PHBLies®

- RADIO
- USB/MP3
- MP3 PLAYER
- RECHARGEABLE BATTERY
- RECHARGEABLE



Feel the difference...

Support for School SRH Clubs:

Said Yesuf, 35, is a community volunteer from Addis Mender, a small village in Harbu Woreda of the Amhara region. Said recently received a radio set from Save the Children in recognition to his outstanding contribution to the successful implementation of the Community Conversation (CC) program in his community.

Last year, Said and two women from his village were selected and partook in a one-week facilitation training by Save the Children in Dessie town. With the knowledge they received from the training, they have been able to organize the regular community meetings held at the village level. So far, they have been able to participate more than 500 community members in these enhanced community conversations.

The Community Conversation involves community dialogue forums that bring together community members to discuss Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) most common in their villages such as early or forced marriage, milk teeth extraction, female genital mutilation (FGM), and other community concerns like the spread of HIV/AIDS, and determine ways of harnessing these practices and concerns.

Speaking about the changes in his community as a result of these forums, Said says, "The discussion forums helped to improve community awareness on harmful traditional practices which have now significantly declined in our area as a result."



Stop Child Marriage!

Stopping

Community members attend a live community conversation session moderated by a Save the Children trained community facilitator in Sulula, a village in Tewledere Woreda of the Amhara region.

A participatory forum, Community Conversation (CC) focuses on building the community's capacity to assess their socio-cultural, demographic, and economic conditions that contribute to the deep-rooted harmful traditional practices such as early marriage, child abduction, female genital mutilation, and reproductive health risks such as HIV/AIDS. The process mobilizes communities through facilitated dialogue to identify their concerns within the framework of their culture, values, norms, and traditions and prioritize them according to their magnitude, severity, feasibility, among others. It involves a clear set of phases in which around 18 to 24 sessions are conducted in order in a space of 3 to 6 months.

So far, the project has reached over 35,987 people across all the project intervention Woredas in Amhara and the Afar Regional States.



Community Conversation inclusive of Afar Women:

Although the usual tradition of the Afar people does not allow women and men to sit together, let alone openly discuss sexual and reproductive health matters, after relentless efforts exerted by Yaflamet Hiwot II Plus project, the community is now holding lively conversations each month. They exchange ideas on the need to eradicate harmful traditional practices; they openly discuss the benefits of avoiding FGM and early marriage among other issues.

Elders, religious leaders other influential people in communities are essential parts of a community conversation that takes place every other week. A single session entertains 40 – 60 people who use a discussion manual prepared by Yaflamet Hiwot II Plus project to identify sexual and reproductive health problems by themselves. In a maximum of six months' time, the community is expected not only to come up with solutions for the problems they identified but also to draft bylaws that compel and stop members of the community from practicing harmful traditional practices.

Project staff guides community conversation in Afar region



STEPPING STONE SESSIONS



Youth in Abergelle, Wagemra zone demonstrates effective use of condoms in a stepping stone training session.





Aregash, 34, has been serving as facilitator of the Stepping Stone (SS) community forum in Tsebelata, her village in Meket woreda of North Wollo zone in Amhara region.

Stepping Stones (SS) is a participatory training package originally designed in the mid-1990s for preventing and harnessing the spread of HIV&AIDS and enhancing care for people living with the virus at the community level through promoting communication and relationship skills.

Adopted by Save the Children's ASRH project, the SS package openly explores the realities of sex and sexual relationships with communities, explicitly recognizing the gender inequalities characterizing relationships.

Alganesh says, "Ever since the Stepping Stones program was brought to our community, there is a significant improvement in people's communication skills, particularly in relationship skills between spouses or children and parents. Before, discussing sex was a taboo in our community. Stepping Stones has greatly contributed to the knowledge and attitudinal change around sexual behavior and practice. Now, many men give more respect to women, engage much less in domestic violence. We are witnessing better communication between couples as well as between parents and children, thanks to the Stepping Stones trainings."

Throughout the project life, we reached more than 39,954 people in the community

MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Radio
TV
Newseletter

Yaflanet Hiwot II Plus project has an eponymous newsletter reporting on project achievements, lessons learned and events that took place. The biannual newsletter also presents success stories and future engagements.

CAMPAIGNS & COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

Events
Public gathering by CSOs
Out of school RH clubs



An out of school club in Hamusit, a small town near Sekota, Waghemra, is engaged in campaigns and community mobilization, events and public gatherings in which they create awareness on reproductive health issues. This and other xxx out of school clubs have been supported by Yaflanet Hiwot II Plus project in the past 4 years.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Trainings and Technical support



Youth in Abergelle, Wagemra zone demonstrates effective use of condoms in a stepping stone training session.



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የህዝብ ጤና ማረጋገጫ

Youth in Abergelle, Waghembra zone demonstrates effective use of condoms in a stepping stone training session.



Youth in Abergelle, Wagemra zone demonstrates effective use of condoms in a stepping stone training session.



Youth in Abergelle, Wagemra zone demonstrates effective use of condoms in a stepping stone training session.

SERVICES PROVIDED

BY HEALTH CENTERS & HEALTH POSTS

Supporting sexual and reproductive health clubs at schools by strengthening their mini media and facilitating SRH related question and answer sessions, Yaflanet Hiwot II Plus project helps protect youth and adolescents from RH complications. In collaboration with in school clubs, the project provides counselling services and school community mobilization. Xxx number of in school clubs have been provided with mini media equipment and trainings throughout the xxx number of woredas.



UNTRI Bio
M
SCREENING test
Pharm
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SCREENING test
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CROLUT
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for the laboratory that is used for the test

Warm Welcome for Youth

Yetimwork Dejene, a Health Extension Worker in Alele Subula, Afar region, receives youth with a warm welcome. She works in the Youth Friendly Service (YFS) room where she, along with two other midwives, give family planning, antenatal care and other sexual and reproductive health services. The YFS room, with support from Yaflanet Hiwot II Plus project, provides youth with various outdoor and indoor games. "The games help us attract the youth who would get our services in disguise of playing table tennis or chess", says Yetimwork.



Ousman Mohammed, a midwife at Sulula Health Center provides maternal and child health services. He is happy that “the number of women for prenatal and post-natal services is increasing,” and hopes that delivery at home “become a thing of the past slowly but surely.”

Save the Children trained Osman on Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care. He said, “The training really helped me improve and refresh my knowledge and skills on maternal and child care services.”

YFS corners also provide reading materials for youth.



A health extension worker provides counselling service for a youth in Dehana, Waghemra zone.





For Ephrem, a clinical nurse at Sulula Health Center, behaviors associated with sexual and reproductive health are among the main causes of death, disability and diseases for young people.” Explaining the challenges around these issues, he has the following to say.

“Many of the local youth are at risk of experiencing unwanted pregnancies and contracting pregnancy related complications, STIs and HIV/AIDS. The youth are vulnerable to these problems because they have sex unprepared, and often with multiple partners. They also engage in alcohol and drug abuse that impairs judgment. Many of them have limited awareness of STI prevention. They lack skills to negotiate safer sex and have poor health-seeking behavior. Most youth also find it difficult to access reproductive health services because the few services available are not friendly to them and basically designed for adults.”

Save the Children in partnership with Woreda health offices and the different health care services in Amhara and Afrar regions has been working to improve the quality and range of ASRH services for youth at health facilities through the establishment of youth friendly services, provision of training to health care providers and equipping facilities with medical supplies and equipment.

YOUTH FRIENDLY SERVICES

Indoor/outdoor games
Equipment, furniture &
supplies provision



A young adult plays tennis in a youth friendly service center in Robit, Notrh wollo. Yaflanet Hiwto II Plus project provided material support to xxx number of health centers across its operational areas in xxx number of woredas of Afar and Amhara regions. YFS centers were equipped with various indoor games and outdoor games like table tennis. The youth in each area enjoy the platforms while they simultaneously receive counselling services on reproductive health issues.



YFS centers provide indoor and outdoor games services to attract youth. While outdoor games service includes table tennis and volleyball courts, the YFS centers also provide facilities for inside games such as chess, darts and dominos.

SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT

Task force established and supported
SRH Networking platform established



CANCELLED CHILD MARRIAGES

Mother friendly waiting areas



End Child Marriage, Now!

Zeben Ayalew, 16, is a grade 7 student living in Raya Kobo woreda, North Wollo zone. Her single mother had planned to marry her off. But Zeben was already a member of the school RH club where she learned the gloomy consequences of child marriage and so she informed the case to her teacher who is also RH club facilitator at the school. Shortly after that, the kebele task force involved and they helped stop the marriage which would have shattered Zeben's dream of becoming a teacher by forcing her into a marriage with a much older man who already went through two divorces.



Rabia, 16, is in grade 10 at Harbu preparatory and comprehensive high school in South Wollo zone of Amhara region, Ethiopia. Last year, her family wanted to marry her off to a man in her village without her consent. Sad and highly disappointed by her family's decision, she refused to accept the arrangement, and her school's ASRH club members and teachers stood by her. After negotiations and constructive discussions between the club members and Rabia's parents, the marriage was eventually cancelled. Now, Rabia is preparing for the ESLCE (Ethiopian Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination) and said, "I'll study hard to pass the exams and go to college. I want to study medicine and become a physician."

Child marriage is among the common harmful traditional practices in Ethiopia responsible for forcing girls out of school and inhibits their chance of breaking out of the intergenerational cycle of poverty and deprivation. Child marriage often means that girls are expected to fulfil the role of a housewife and a mother and it denies them of their youthful potential and choice in life.

HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES ERADICATION



Guzguz, 52 and a mother of three children, lives in Agri, a rural village in Meket Woreda of North Wollo zone in the Amhara Region.

Before she was involved in the local community conversation sessions supported by Save the Children's ASRH project through funding from the European Union, Guzguz was a traditional birth attendant in her community for more than 15 years. Those days, she had assisted many mothers during birth. "I don't recall how many, but I guess I might have assisted more than 50 mothers in their labour at home," Guzguz said. She did all the assists without any training and that was consequential at times.

"I have many bad memories of mothers and babies dying no matter how hard I tried to help them survive," she recounted, adding "From my experience, most maternal deaths are caused by excessive bleeding during childbirth. When I see a mother dying at birth, I feel sad and devastated."

A year ago, Guzguz was selected and started to participate in the regular community conversation program in her village. Since then, "I stopped working as a traditional birth attendant, and have been serving as a health promoter in my community instead." Guzguz said.

Now a health promoter, Guzguz provides advice and counselling services to pregnant women and lactating mothers. "I urge them to visit the health facility at least four times during their pregnancy. I also teach mothers with young children about exclusive breastfeeding and nutrition," she explained.

Guzguz has now witnessed encouraging change in her community's health seeking practices. "Before, many mothers used to give birth at home. Because of the continuous education and training given to the community, many mothers are come for the services at the health facility and give birth there. They also seek modern treatment for their sick children. However, there are still many mothers who are delivering at home," says Guzguz.



HTP Practitioner turned to HTP Eradication Advocate:

50 years old Zewdu Misganie, a resident of Ahun Tegegn, a small town in North Wollo zone, used to make a living from harmful traditional practices like uvula removal. "I learned it from my father and have always been doing it. All the time, I have never used sterilized tools. Hence, the children were usually exposed to various infections and even HIV. Three years ago, I got awareness and even encouraged my son to join an out of school SRH club. We have now given up all the materials we have been using and it have been burned to ashes", says Zewdu who fathers two boys and one little girl. The girl is five-year-old who fortunately slipped under the unforgiving blades on which her father used to operate.

COUNSELING CORNERS

AT SCHOOLS & HEALTH CENTERS



Youth Use Counselling service at a health center:

The health center at Harbu, a small town in South wollo, has a counseling corner with a dedicated nurse who has been trained with SRH counselling. Besides, the health center is now serving as a recreational spot for youth in the town who frequently visit the place to spend time reading and playing on table tennis and pool table. Yaflanet Hiwot II Plus project has supported xxx health centers across xxx zones in which it has operated for the past four years.

REVIEW MEETINGS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

All stakeholders have been participating in the regular quarterly, biannual, annual, regional and zonal review meetings where they shared best practices and presented achievements. These meetings were also platforms in which members propose action points based on which a follow-up is undertaken. Findings of joint supervision have also been presented.

IMPLEMENTATION AREAS



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