



YENEGE TESFA PARENTLESS STREET CHILDREN ORGANISATION

Quarterly Report

1 Brief Overview

- Name of NGO: Yenege Tesfa Wolaje Alba Gondana Tedadari Hitsanat Dirijt
- Country: Ethiopia
- Region: Amhara
- Zone: North-Gondar
- Project Title: Care and Support for Orphan and Street Children
- Date: 30-09-2008 G.C.
- Reporting Period: **Quarter I (July- September)**

2 Project components

Here, we only summarize the project components planned for quarter I. Therefore, consult project proposal III, chapter seven, for further information. Following each component, we immediately discuss the objectives for each component.

2.1 Basic Needs (PPYT III: Chapter 7, section 1)

This quarter we have a new group of OVC's in the shelter. Upon their arrival each boys was given a bed and materials to sleep in the shelter. A recent addition for the OVC's has been a full-time 'mother' that provides them with breakfast and dinner. In addition, all of the OVC's can collect a fixed amount of bread coupons and fresh fruit weekly at the office of YT (read more about this below in the Piece of Mind section). In addition, we also want to underline the importance of hygiene for the OVC's. Therefore, soap is also provided weekly. The boys are responsible for their personal hygiene and for washing their own clothes.

Since the boys are eager for at least a minimum of private space, they will all receive a personal box to store their belongings. Another motivation for supplying new boxes is the need for having a locker for the materials, which are used for Income Generating Activities (IGA). Especially the older ones will be motivated to do a small amount of additional work as a practice for a full-time job when they finish school. Loans and repayment is also available to the boys and is based on the principles of microfinance. This allows OVC's to start up their own small IGA to earn extra monies as well as learn about the importance of savings.



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2.2 Education (PPYT III: Chapter 7, section 4)

In the first quarter, we have provided educational support, including uniform, exercise book, pen, and pencil, to 120 schoolchildren. As well as exercise book, pen and pencil to 40 school children. These educational provisions satisfy the requirements of the children for one school year.

2.3 Medical Program (PPYT III: Chapter 7, section 5)

Yenege Tesfa provides medical support for poor people living in Gondar town, as well as critically ill street children and orphans. This quarter support was available to 45 people. This service is also extended to OVC's living in the shelter.

2.4 Peace of Mind- Bread coupons

YT has continued to strive towards its goal of reducing hunger in Gondar. Thus far, YT has focused on the Bread coupon system. This system was born out of the belief that no person should go without food on a daily basis. The coupons allow tourists and local residents to give OVC's and those in need food instead of money

3 Project Descriptions and Evaluations

3.1 Basic Needs

Description: (see project proposal III).

Evaluation: Recently YT has built a kitchen for the 'mother' as well as a covered outside area for the OVC's to study and enjoy. We feel that these additions have been very successful. In addition, a 'brother' - a boy in 12th grade with excellent grades and motivation - has also joined the YT family to help watch over the OVC's in the shelter and help with school work.

The OVC's continue to make and sell string bracelets to tourist as part of a group IGA project. They have been very motivated to learn a new trade and will continue to improve their skills over time. Aside from bracelet making, the YT staff has also been working hard to create more team building opportunities for the OVCs, including letter correspondence with a class in the USA. We are very happy with these developments and are excited to watch the next year unfold.

3.2 Provision of educational support

Description:

Students who are eager to study should not be in the position of performing badly because of a lack in materials like exercise books, pens and pencils or a school uniform. Yenege Tesfa therefore searched for funds and bought many schoolbooks and had uniforms made in the appropriate sizes. To select the proper beneficiaries we worked with lists from other NGO's or organization concerned with OVC's.

The beneficiaries included our kids sleeping in the shelter and many others. After having received a uniform, the children kids had to prove they were successfully registered in a school. We do keep a stock with exercise books and pens. If somebody can show he or she finished his / her exercise book or pen, they are likely to receive a new one.

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Evaluation:

Again, we can look back to a successful distribution of these materials and uniforms. As in previous years, Yenege Tesfa was overwhelmed with the amount of children that are in need of this support. With each year this program has expanded and grown. We hope to extend this support further yet next year.

3.3 Medical Support

Description:

The people Yenege Tesfa encounters in Gondar who are unable to acquire medical support by themselves, are being assigned to a physician and pharmacist by YT staff and volunteers. For this Yenege Tesfa works with vouchers. They allow the patients (or beneficiaries) to consult a doctor without payment but handing in a voucher instead. Once every month, Yenege Tesfa repays the clinic bill of the physician for all the vouchers used in the meantime. The same goes for the pharmacy bill.

The participating clinic was Kedus Gabriel. The participating pharmacy (next door) was Kedus Gabriel.

Now, two people from Yenege Tesfa are both actively looking for half a day to find people in need for such medical care. This means Yenege Tesfa is not only receiving people coming to the office, but is also wandering in the streets to raise the number of beneficiaries and to enhance the accessibility of the project for underprivileged people.

If necessary Yenege Tesfa follows up with the patient. For severe medical diagnoses or complications, Yenege Tesfa goes to the Hospital of Gondar University.

Evaluation:

Yenege Tesfa is proud to provide this support – or even service. It might be clear that we are giving access to basic facilities like healthcare for this kind of vulnerable people who would otherwise be deprived from these urgent caretaking.

It is a challenge for Yenege Tesfa to look more directly for these persons. Although we continue to have a lack of staff, time and money, Yenege Tesfa does everything what it takes to be at least 6 hours on the streets to find these people whose physical conditions urge for medical care.

This past quarter YT reached 45 beneficiaries, which is well beyond our quarterly target of 15, a clear example of the rising need for medical support in Gondar.

Furthermore, a considerable number of patients we support are met accidentally or because they are referred by other social workers who are aware of the existence of this system. The latter points out Yenege Tesfa is well integrated with the networks and social partners of Gondar.

3.4 Piece of Mind- Bread coupons

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YT now follows up the system of bread coupons – the so called ‘Peace of Mind’ vouchers – that was launched on a voluntary base by some expatriate workers in Gondar in 2002 G.C. The system is also explained in the Lonely-Planet Guide of Ethiopia and Eritrea. YT wants to make sure the bread coupons reach the right people; the system doesn’t encourage begging and is not only for ‘faranjies’ or tourists but also for the local people and organizations of Gondar.

People in need can receive these coupons from other donors who first bought the coupons in one of the distributing places like hotels. The beneficiary who received a coupon can go to the cooperating bakeries and get one bread per coupon for free. After that YT goes to the bakeries, count the coupons and pay them for the bread they handed out to the beneficiaries. Finally, YT gives new stock to the distributing places and gets the money of the sold coupons in return. The system does not make any profit. Buying a coupon for bread costs exactly the same amount of birr as buying the same bread straight from the bakery.

Next to this piece of mind system, YT thinks that eager studying students should be rewarded and not be distracted by an empty stomach. Therefore all the boys from the shelter in addition to some OVC’s supported by YT for school, can weekly collect a fixed amount of bread coupons together with some fruits at the office of YT.

Evaluation:

Having something to eat is a major concern for all the people living on the street.

YT thought it would be better if the piece of mind system, introduced many years ago, was followed up adequately. The language on the coupons and posters are both English and Amharic. This has had a positive impact on the accessibility of the system by both Ethiopians and tourists.

In addition, we have included a message on the coupons to encourage people to think about issues of dependency and provides them with information on how they can further support those in need in Gondar through YT.

The system has continued to expand at a rapid pace. One member of YT is busy specifically with bread coupon work at a minimum of one day a week.

About the direct support YT gives to OVC’s living in the shelter, YT considered the amount of support carefully, thus not creating dependency. The limited number of coupons makes the OVC’s still have to work a little - when there is no school - to get sufficient daily food.

In the last quarter less tourists have visited the area due to the rainy season, hence less coupons sold but with the high tourist season coming, we hope to sell more next quarter.

4 Summary

4.1 Proposed actions carried out:

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The following actions that were carried out this quarter included the sheltering of a new group of OVCs (1), provision of basic needs to those new boys (2), the program on medical support (3), educational support (4), and the continuation of the piece-of-mind bread coupon system (5).

4.2 Challenges and solutions:

- Challenges for Yenege Tesfa based on this quarter are related to time and lack of staff (like in the previous quarter).
- Another challenge for Yenege Tesfa is to plan over a longer period of time. The unstable infrastructure inherent in developing countries has held back the growth and efficiency of social support. A coordinated planning for a prolonged period of time from the whole field of social work would result in a drastic increase in efficiency.
- A challenge directly related to the OVC's in the shelter comes in the form of phyco-social support. A good portion of the OVC's have had a traumatic childhood or experience, and YT feels it would be beneficial to have a professional at their disposal.
- As YT looks to the future and the possibility of a growing staff, we are daunted by the thought of fitting additional staff members in the modest sized office. A larger office would be something to consider for the future.
- A possible solution to these challenges would include the following: additional paid staff to keep consistent help for daily tasks, as well as additional trainings/sessions based on social support for the OVC's.

4.3 Changes and adjustments to the previous proposal:

One adjustment was the additions made to the shelter in construction, daily care for the OVC's, and added staff members (eg. the 'mother', 'brother', and new guardian). In this case, the benefits are realized in full in the daily interaction with the OVC's, but we're sure over the next year we will be able to show by report the vast progress the OVC's have made.

Finally it is important to mention that we were happy that our coordinating agencies were so kind and helpful to quickly approve our third project proposal. This third proposal included changes that we have already seen and will continue to see throughout the year. These changes and adjustments help YT to better reach our target group and guarantee better outcomes and results. And as expected, YT was competent to realize the entirety of the new project proposal.

5 Realized benefits

5.1 Amount of beneficiaries

Subtotals:

165 OVC's support school material

45 for the medical support

16 OVC's supporting the shelter in basic need

150 (estimation) of children with the Piece of Mind



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*Additionally YT facilitated a hygienic training for 83 street children.

Total number of beneficiaries: 376 OVC's and street kids, excluding the indirect support for the relatives and families of the beneficiaries. This includes 184 male beneficiaries and 135 female (excluding bread coupon estimation).

5.2 Reaching the OVC's

YT has done a good job of reaching new OVC's this quarter through recruitment to the shelter, and continues to reach a considerable amount of OVC's in and around Gondar town.

5.3 Sustainability

OVC and street children who do go to school, thanks to the support from Yenege Tesfa, have a much higher probability to be productive citizens and are much more prepared to take care of themselves in a sustainable way.

5.4 Level of participation

Yenege Tesfa is a major advocate of working together with other NGO's and social workers through information sharing and/or referral to people who come to the office daily. Our network spreads itself out to other organizations in Gondar as well as NGO's overseas. In addition, we continue to promote an integrated approach, encouraging local people in Gondar to take care of the more needy people.

A good example of this this past quarter was the hygienic training that YT facilitated with 83 beneficiaries. Two public health students approached YT with the idea of doing a hygienic training for street children, and YT quickly realized the benefits of this program and worked closely with the two students to make it a reality.

5.5 Gender

Being a small NGO, we can't always equally support both girls and boys, since they require a different approach and another kind of caretaking. Nevertheless, we include as much as possible female and male beneficiaries. With projects like medical support we positively realized doing so.

5.6 HIV/Aids

Many OVC's are indirectly victims of HIV, for example, when they lost their parents due to AIDS.

Yenege Tesfa provides regularly information on the subject of HIV/Aids to people we meet at the office. Thanks to the network and cooperation with other institutions or NGO's, we also have the sufficient knowledge to refer people to bodies who are more specialized and involved with this matter.

Testing and follow-up, prevention and awareness about HIV/AIDS are often a focus with the medical support program of YT.

5.7 Environmental effects

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Our proposed projects are very environmental friendly. YT's new implemented projects are ecological in the way that they include local Ethiopian workers and materials from Ethiopia as much as possible. Thus giving more input for the local economy and providing valuable jobs. E.g. extensions and language school by Ethiopian teachers and institutions in Gondar.

6 Other development updates

6.1 Shelter YT

As mentioned before, YT is hosting a group of new boys for this year. We currently have 13 new boys and are actively looking for another three. Every week on Monday the OVC's come to the office of YT to get their bread coupons and to evaluate the last week. Yenege Tesfa listened attentively since this information is fruitful to develop further strategies to realize our vision and mission.

Another addition to the YT family has been Gebre, the new guardian for the shelter, Almaz, the mother, and Getachew, the big brother. All three additions have created a more family-like setting for the boys and added comforts such as regular meals and help with their school work.

6.2 Graduated boys from YT

Five boys have left the shelter and remain in contact with YT through weekly support and follow-up (see below) from the office. One of the boys has moved away from Gondar, but is attending school, working, and has a sponsor. The remaining four boys are in Gondar town attending school and working. They are in high spirits and maintain regular contact with YT.

YT support and follow-up:

- A moderate start-up capital
- Medical support when needed
- Bread coupons for three months
- House rent for 6 months.
However, the amount of money YT provides will decrease gradually to encourage the boys to be independent and self-reliant.
- Finally, they were entitled to take their mattress and sheets from the shelter with them.

6.3 IGA and Microfinance

To be prepared for a life on their own, the OVC's at the shelter should learn to deal with working and administering money. So for an acceptable amount of time, our kids are involved with income generating activities (IGA). This IGA mostly consists of a shoe polishing service or walking with a small selling plate for napkins, chewing gums, biscuits and so on. To control this IGA we motivate the OVC's through an individual budget plan.



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Borrowing loans and its reimbursement is all based on the principles of microfinance. This system allows OVC's to start up their own small IGA to earn something monies and gives them a chance to save for the future.

This quarter we started to teach the OVC's to do some handcraft. We taught them how to make some nice bracelets. The bracelets are very popular since they are a symbol of friendship and will be sent to their American pen-pals.

Made on the 6th of October, 2008

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