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**YENEGE TESFA PARENTLESS STREET CHILDREN ORGANISATION**

# Quarterly Report

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## 1 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: 01-07-2008 G.C.
- Reporting Period: **Quarter IV (April-June)**

## 2 Project components

Here, we summarize the project components planned for quarter IV. Therefore consult both our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> project proposal. Adjacent, we immediately discuss the objectives for each component.

### 2.1. Provide medical support for critically ill street children and orphans

This support will be available for 30 street children and orphans in the 1st quarter. If they are sick, then the organization will arrange the necessary inputs for medication by working with health institutions.

### 2.2. Extensions

Education support will be given to OVC's as long as Yenege Tesfa can bear it. Success at school probably will lead to success in job performance as well. So giving additional chances to study or to comprehend the subjects at school are likely to have a positive influence on the future changes of the OVC and his/her self-esteem.

### 2.3. Job skill training

Besides the job skill training for bigger groups of OVC's, who join each other in a kind of vocational training like hairdressing (cfr. Hairdressing quarter I), Yenege Tesfa also tries to apply a personalized approach. This means that eager OVC's who want to study or engage themselves in a vocational or skill training can count on support of Yenege Tesfa, as far as Yenege Tesfa isn't constrained by budget limitations or time for follow-up.

### 2.4. Language school



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Related to point 2.2, Yenege Tesfa considers education being tremendously important to OVC's. So, it is encouraged by YT in all possible ways. Since English provides many opportunities for Ethiopians and it now is the medium of teaching in the higher grades and university, it is very welcome to create better chances to master this language. Almost 20 children (OVC's) would be selected to attend evening classes for English.

### **2.5. Peace of Mind - Breadcoupons**

YT also wants to implement and monitor sustainable systems to reduce hunger. The way food can be provided should be considered carefully. YT wants to focus on the Breadcoupon system and beliefs especially eager students shouldn't be bothered about food. The need of sufficient, varied and healthy food must be guaranteed.

## **3 Project Descriptions and Evaluations**

### **3.1 Medical Support**

#### *Description:*

People Yenege Tesfa encounters in Gondar who actually should get medical support but don't seem to be able to themselves, are being assisted to a physician and pharmacist by a volunteer of our NGO. For this Yenege Tesfa works with vouchers. They allow the patients (or beneficiaries) to consult a doctor without payment but hand in a voucher instead. Every so often, Yenege Tesfa will repay the honorarium of the physician for all the vouchers used in the meantime. The same goes for the pharmacy.

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 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.



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It is a challenge for Yenege Tesfa to look more directly for these persons. Although we still 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.

Compared to the previous quarter, we reached less beneficiaries. Mainly because we also had to focus on submitting a new project proposal for the coming year.

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 in networks of social partners.

#### **3.2 Provision of educational support: extensions**

##### *Description:*

Students who are eager to study should be reinforced. It shouldn't be the case that rich students who can afford paying extensions can increase their performances at school but other ones don't get the chance. Thus Yenege Tesfa attracted funds so students keen on working hard can now go to extension classes.

##### *Evaluation:*

Students finished their extensions they already started in the last quarter. But nobody started new lessons again because of the annual break after termination of the school year.

#### **3.3 Personalized job skill training**

##### *Description:*

Henok, a well-known OVC by Yenege Tesfa, convinced us that he was very motivated to follow a vocational training he selected himself.

He is working independently now. Yenege Tesfa often meets the boy to evaluate how his training is proceeding. In fact Yenege Tesfa is only paying the study fees for this eager OVC, what normally any devoted parent would be glad to bring up.

##### *Evaluation:*

Apparently students who get the change to participate in an educational or vocational programme which is their first choice are likely to perform very well. Therefore Yenege Tesfa believes in this kind of personalized support and reinforcement. The self-esteem of the OVC also benefits from this personal approach since the child can feel he is accepted as a unique person.

As mentioned before (QR- III), the case of Henok is like a pilot project: if successful, Yenege Tesfa will probably work more often in this way with individual OVC's.



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This semester, Henok is doing his parenthood (practice). He's doing well.

### 3.4 Language School

#### *Description:*

19 boys and girls started with language school. Every evening, for the next six months, they have to go to school where they will be taught the basic grammar and vocabulary of the English language. They need this language if they want to go on with school (grades 10-12 are already in English, so do the universities).

All youngsters who go to school, get a dinner afterwards in return. This is to prevent drop-out, after all when they are attending classes, they can't work to earn some money for food that night.

#### *Evaluation:*

Unfortunately, ato Fekadu had no patience with our students anymore. The OVC's felt discriminated. YT tried to negotiate, but ato Fekadu was not willing to cooperate. Therefore we selected a new teacher, namely ato Haile Maryam Ephrem. Obviously, this was the right decision. His teaching methods are far more up to date and inspiring.

However, the unexpected interruption after 5 months made it impossible for our boys to obtain a certificate of fulfilling a 6 month programme.

We definitely can say that Yenege Tesfa learned a lot from previous projects and evaluations. Rewarding the boys and girls with a dinner afterwards, is motivating everyone. The drop-out in the first months therefore was limited to 2 (from which one due to severe sickness).

It is nice to see how interested and proud everybody is.

### 3.5 Piece of Mind - Breadcoupons

#### *Description:*

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 breadcoupons reaches the right people; the system doesn't encourage begging and is not only for 'faranjies' or tourists.

Basically 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 some bread for free. After that YT goes to the bakeries, count the coupons and pay them for the bread the 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 doesn't make



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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 bothered about hunger . 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 breadcoupons together with some fruits at the office of YT. Also, YT wants to prevent OVC's not attending school with the excuse forced to work to at least eat something.

### *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 a positive impact on the accessibility of the system by both Ethiopians and tourists.

Besides that, we've included a message on the coupons to encourage people to think about creating (in)dependency of the poors among Gondar.

The system goes well and is expanding very fast. One member of YT is busy with this minimum one day a week.

About the direct support YT gives to students, 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.

Compared to the previous quarter, less tourists visited Gondar. Therefore, less coupons are sold.

## **4 Summary**

### **4.1 Proposed actions who are actually carried out**

The following actions that were carried out included the programme on medical support (1), the educational support in the form of extensions (2) and the personalized approach for job skill training (3). The language school programme (4), and the continuation of the piece-of-mind breadcoupon system (5).

### **4.2 Challenges encountered and possible solutions**

- Challenges for Yenege Tesfa based on this quarter are related to time and lack of staff (like in the previous quarter).



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- Another challenge for Yenege Tesfa is to plan over a longer period of time. Nevertheless, Yenege Tesfa can't do this alone. A global planning sometimes is undermined by urgent - but unexpected - assignments or calls for meetings from other institutions or partners. A coordinated planning for a prolonged period of time from the whole field of social work probably would result in a drastic increase in efficiency.

- If we would have the disposal of funds for salaries, we could attract coworkers or full-time employed staff which would guarantee more flexibility from Yenege Tesfa. This implies our NGO to be more easily reacting on urgent calls or needs without undercutting Yenege Tesfa's ongoing activities of that moment.

4.3 Changes and adjustments to the original proposal considered necessary to get maximum results and benefits from the project.

One adjustment is the elaborated educational support which now also includes a more personalized approach. In this case, clearly motivational benefits are seen.

Finally it is important to mention that we were happy that our coordinating agencies were so kind and helpful to quickly approve our second project proposal. This second proposal already included some changes and adjustments to better reach our target group and guarantee better outcome and results. And as expected, YT was competent to realize the whole new project proposal.

## 5 Realized benefits

### 5.1 Amount of beneficiaries

Subtotals:

Count coupons for the medical support

1 boy for the pilot case for job skill training

18 for the language school

150 (estimation) of children with the Piece of Mind

**Total number of beneficiaries:** \_\_ OVC's and street kids, excluding the indirect support for the relatives and families of the beneficiaries.

### 5.2 Reaching the OVC's

Since this is the main target group of Yenege Tesfa, we definitely reached a considerable amount of OVC's in and around Gondar town.

### 5.3 Sustainability



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OVC and streetkids 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 in working together with other NGO's and social workers. Our network spreads itself out to other organizations in Gondar, NGO's overseas and we try to have a well integrated approach encouraging habitants in Gondar taking care of the more needy people.

### **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 right 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 is often going together with the medical support programme of Yenege Tesfa.

### **5.7 Environmental effects**

Our proposed projects are certainly very environmental friendly. All new implemented projects are very ecological in that way that they include Ethiopians 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**

- Together with the 10 OVC's living in the shelter of Yenege Tesfa we had productive monthly meetings. Our OVC's could formulate problems they encountered and express their dreams for the future. Every week on Monday the OVC's come to the office of YT to get their breadcoupons and to



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evaluate the last week. Yenege Tesfa listened attentively since this information is fruitful to develop further strategies to realize our vision and mission.

### **6.2 Leaving boys from YT**

The oldest boys of the shelter felt very much supported by YT in the past. At the same time they realised the shelter is not big. Still many vulnerable – especially young – children are living on the street. Therefore, on their *own initiative*, they suggested YT should focus on new beneficiaries who could live in the shelter. So, they wanted to make place for a new generation.

The only request from our older OVC's was a good follow-up plan for them if they would start living on themselves. YT agreed to do the following:

- 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 selfreliant.
- Finally, they were entitled to take their matras and sheets from the shelter with them.

### **6.3 Committee**

- Normally a monthly meeting with the committee members would be held. Unfortunately we assessed again that this was very difficult in the previous quarter. Because of various reasons, committee members didn't make it to attend the planned meetings. Yenege Tesfa felt this as an obstacle to make important decisions at the required time. Because of the same ground, strategies to be implemented in the future are sometimes delayed.
- Temporary allocation of volunteers of our committee (to Addis Abeba for instance) by their employer, compromised the creation of an adequate solution for the problem as mentioned here. Hopefully we can work something out in the next quarter.

### **6.4 WFP**

UNWFP and YT's agreement to support 100 families has been terminated. Mainly due to new requirements from the donors of WFP. They prefer to work together with bigger organisations. YT regrets this fact, however WFP promised to assure that the beneficiaries would not be a victim of this rearrangement.



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#### 6.5 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. 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 a individual budget plan.

Borrowing loans and its reimbursement is all based on the principles of **microfinance**. This microfinancing allows OVC's to start up their own small IGA to earn something extra.

This semester 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.

Made on the 1th of July, 2008