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**The role of Community Care Coalition Program in child Protection: Assessment of practices and challenges in the case of Abune Zena Markos Association.**

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Chapter One:

1. **Introduction**

Basically when we say society that incorporates the whole section as active member of a given Society, It’s because it organized itself a service giving entity be it in a form of religion, Politics, Social life and other aspects of life. The ultimate objectives of societal group is to assist and accommodate whatever necessary to the needies, and to those who can’t afford even the very little things in life, it is to support those destitute who live under the poverty line.

Talking this ultimate goal of serving the most devastated sections of the society, there is this organization formed at Nefas Silk kiflaketema in Addis Ababa named, Abuna Zana Markos children and aldarly rehabilitation center. The organization is financially supported by the contribution made by those people who have good attitude to help the poor.

Voluntary good will ambassadors taking the good example of Abuna Zena Markos the sub city dwellers are trying their best to share what they have money, food, Clothes and other essential things in life including proper education to this vulnerable poor and the poorest of poor section of the society and they are also setting a magnificent example to the upcoming section of the society. Responsible people are already assigned who run the volunteer job.

There is a splendid lesson we take from this center that citizens have a role to play apart from improving their personal life, they should also contributed something for the betterment of the least forgotten the less un fortunate sections of the society.

If this wonderful job of supporting the less fortunate section of the society were not done by these thoughtful, very loving members of the organization, our city would be in a more disastrous situation, thus we can’t underestimate this great contribution of supporting the most vulnerable section of the society. We can all imagine what uneducated individuals would bring to the nation we can’t expect good things from uneducated and not well mannered people.

In our country Ethiopia, most NGO or Aiding organization are under the control of private organization or lead by volunteer individuals, but if the existing gov’t gives special attention and excert its effort to participate in such fruitful activities, It could provide better and can solve the wide deep rooted poverty problem of the nation. Our research encourages government bodies and other stake holders including newly emerged volunteers to involves and contribute their share for eradicating poverty and contribute to support needy in a permanent manner.

It also gives attention in evaluating and measuring the different activities made by this organization and see the part of the society it addresses.

The Research would like to ask the following questions for assessment and evaluation purpose how many students were supported and became effective because of being supported by Abune Zena Markos Organization? It also aims to see the coverage of the organization and what criteria were used to select the poorest of the poorest section of the society.

This research paper is proposed to see the overall activities but specifically how to poor are selected, how they get care on a regular basis, and to suggest the concerned body from the gov’t sector to give its due attention for the volunteer job being done in Abune Zena Markorios None profit organization. The research also gives suggestion on how to assist children and elderly who didn’t get benefit from this exemplary organization.

# Background of the study

Community coalitions have been defined in several ways (Center for Prevention Research and Development, 2006); and they may have different names in different countries depending on the local context (Germann, Ngoma, Wamimbi, Claxton and Gaudrault, 2009). For instance, Center for Prevention Research and Development (2006) defined coalition as a group of citizens uniting on a common goal. A group of individuals representing diverse organization, factions or constituencies within a community who agree to work together to achieve a common goal is recognized as community care coalition (Butterfoss and Kegler, 2002). It also defined as an organization of diverse interest groups that combine their human and material resources to effect a specific change that the members are unable to bring about independently (Brown, 1984).

To achieve its major goals, community coalitions program bring together community groups, grassroots organizations, faith-based groups, universities, government agencies, and other organizations (NORC, 2011). Thus, helps to provide material, financial and physical support at local level (Caitlin, Medley, Michael, and Kevin, 2010). Community care coalition also work together to help vulnerable groups like orphan and vulnerable children in the society and to solve any community problem or to help the needy people (Hermela, 2018).

Regarding the establishment and formation of community care coalition, there is no one –size- fits-all criteria (Mead, 2013). The Community care coalition has taken a variety of forms andactivities in a variety of ways (World Vision, 2005) to do their work. It is also different from other forms of coalitions (Wolf, 2000) due to the fact that community care coalitionstructure is intended to be flexible and adaptable to local contexts (World Vision, 2005). The structure of coalition will vary across communities and may change over time (Drug Strategies, 2001). It is an important component of local organization because they are best able to understand the strengths, needs, and challenges of the children and families in their community (Mead, 2013).

Moreover, community care coalitions should work together with the community. For coalition’s effectiveness, the participation of the given community is crucial. The community should participate from the problem identification stage to the end (World Vision, 2005). Besides, the quality of the CCC depends to a large degree on the inclusiveness and effectiveness of the initial community mobilization efforts. The participation of traditional leaders in the CCC is also important in fostering and maintaining positive relationships with all stakeholders in the community. However, in most cases, there was not sufficient participation of government representatives in CCCs (Germann et al., 2009).

The systematic interaction among community members and their interdependence  
make up social capital (Cannan and Warren, 2003) which help the communities to develop the capacity to build social capital that can be applied to several social issues. These groups of individuals or organizations at local level are joining together for common purpose of expanding and enhancing care for most vulnerable children and People living with HIV/AIDS in communities (Caitlin, Medley, Michael, and Kevin, 2010). Moreover, community care coalition brings together a wide range of stakeholders in the efforts to addressing the impacts AIDS and other causes of vulnerability in the community (Nkumbwa, 2005).

Community care coalitions create collaborative capacity among coalition members, within member relationships, and through the organizational structure and programs of the coalition (Foster Fishman, Berkowitz, Lounsbury, Jacobson, and Allen, 2001). Thus, enables to create opportunities for groups and individuals who had never worked together before to join forces and collaborate. Such type of collaboration is necessary for changing the mind setting of members in working with different issues of coalition (Valerie, 2014). Besides, coalitions can often help to build a collaborative bond across racial, socio-economic, gender, age, neighborhood and other traditionally troublesome divides (Community Catalyst, 2003).

Community coalitions are a popular means of addressing community-wide problems that can enable synergistic cooperation between community entities to achieve shared goals (Zakocs and Edwards, 2006). However, there are many barriers experienced by the coalition which prevent it from implementing programs as intended due to obstacles such as a lack of needed resources, difficulty enrolling the target population, and a shortage of high-quality program implementers (Durlak and DuPre, 2008). Perceived technical assistance needs can reflect barriers experienced and/or a lack of expertise in solving existing problems (Feinberg, Ridenour, et al., 2008).

The program is new for many developing countries particularly for Ethiopia; so, an investigation about the rationale behind the adoption of the program, roles and functions, structure and development process, major barriers and opportunities of community care coalition program to provide social protection for vulnerable and orphan children is indisputable. Accordingly, this study aims to examine and investigate roles and challenges of community care coalition program as a social protection approach to orphan and vulnerable children in Addis Abeba. The study will be conducted in Abune Zena Markos Association for children and elderly support. The aforementioned association is found in Addis Ababa city which was established in 2010 G.C to support some disadvantaged group of society.

# Statement of the Problem

Children are one of the most vulnerable groups in almost any population because of their social status and physical and emotional dependence on adults. Their vulnerability is  
huge in developing countries because of the higher rate of poverty and fewer social  
protection mechanisms in place (Gabel, 2012). Children in Ethiopia are not exceptions to this  
fact (Hermela, 2018). Therefore, to solve such problems, community care coalitions are being implemented to help the needy people (UNICEF, 2011) in Ethiopia. Communities in Ethiopia have a strong tradition of supporting and caring for their members who are poor, destitute, and vulnerable (Hermela, 2018). These include *Iddir, Mahber, Iqub, Debo* and others play such function to reduce the adversity of society. These are supporting mechanisms to resolve the social and economic problems of the poor, destitute and vulnerable groups (Mezgebu, 2007. They have been supporting each other during times of impoverishment, accidents, chronic problems, sickness, and death of members (Hermela, 2018).

The role played by community structures like community care coalition is vital in providing human services to disenfranchised segments of the population (Abebe, 2016). Accordingly, community care coalition is established as one of the components of Ethiopian National Social Protection Policy with the aims to reduce social and economic risks, vulnerabilities, and deprivations for all people and to facilitate equitable growth. Community Care Coalitions have been used as instruments for the implementation of the policy (NSPP, 2015). Community care coalition goes in line with the Ethiopian national growth and transformation plan with the aim to care and support services to target population at grassroots level (UNICEF and MOLSA, 2011).

As the advent of Community Care Coalition practice in Ethiopia is new, few academic researches’ are produced on community care coalition activities (Hermela, 2018). Most of these studies were basically focused on provision of services by CCCs, strategies employed by community care coalition, sustainability of community care coalitions and challenges encountered by community care coalition in providing child protection services. For instance, studies conducted by Binega (2014) entitled “*Assessing the Role of Community Care Coalition in Providing Psychosocial Support to HIV/AIDS Infected and Affected People*” indicates psychosocial support for PLWHA and their families is found to be very essential. The role of such community based care and support networks also play paramount significance in addressing the need of these target groups. The provision of psychosocial support as one separate care and support package within CCCs, create significant difference between beneficiaries level of service satisfaction, relationship between service providers and receivers. But he failed to address the services and other groups of people served by community care coalition in Ethiopia. Besides, his emphasis is mainly those people living with HIV/AIDS and failed to incorporate other members of the communities benefited by the program like that of children.

Moreover, another study is conducted by Yeshewahareg (2015) on the “*effectiveness of Community Coalition for protection of Orphan and Vulnerable Children in Addis Ababa, Kolfe Keranyo Sub city woreda 08”*. In her study, she found that all type of supports given to the OVC and their guardian impact their wellbeing positively. The supports give to OVC also enhancing the children and care givers wellbeing with regard to their education, health, psychosocial legal and socio economically. But Yeshewahareg (2015) failed to explore the structure and development process of community care coalition program and its impact on the lives of orphan and vulnerable children. Moreover, she also failed to incorporate the strategies and major barriers of community care coalition programs. Moreover, methodologically, this study is concentrated on quantification of the statistical association between essential services given to the children and their guardians and their life condition in relation to education, health, psychosocial and legal matters. Therefore, the above study is not sound to reveal the subjective experience, feelings and behavior of services users. Hence, the use of qualitative methods for this research is an appropriate one as the purpose is to elicit major barriers and opportunities of community care coalition program and its function in the protection of orphan and vulnerable children.

Moreover, study conducted by Abebe (2016) on the “*Role of Community Care Coalition for Child Protection* in Asosa city” found that ten service packages delivered by CCCs have brought positive changes to the living condition of vulnerable children and their families at different levels. He also found that capacity building, resource mobilization and data collection are important strategies which have been used by CCCs. But Abebe (2016) overlooked the rationale behind the adoption of community care coalition program and its roles and functions in providing services for orphan and vulnerable children. Besides, he does not investigate the structure and development process of community care coalition program and its impact on the lives of orphan and vulnerable children. The above studies entirely focused on explaining the major services provided by community care coalitions for orphan and vulnerable children and they failed to show the rationale behind the adoption of the program, functions and roles, structure and development of community care coalition and major opportunities gained during the implementation of the program. Despite researches on community care coalition has been done in Mekelle, Addis Ababa and Assosa, the practice of community care coalition differs based on the bureaucratic structure, types of service provided, in terms of membership, financial capacity and the socio economic context of the people. As per knowledge of the researcher, there is no research conducted on the issues of community care coalition on aforementioned association that was mainly lead by religious institution. Therefore, this study will give due emphasis uniquely on the roles, challenges and opportunities of community care coalition program as a social protection approach to orphan and vulnerable children in *Abune Zena Markos Association.*

* 1. **Basic Questions?**

1. How many children’s were supported and became effective because of being supported by Abune Zena Markos Organization?
2. What are the comparative advantages of *protecting children in Abune Zena Markos Association?*
3. *Does the Abune Zena Markos child and elderly protection Association effective enough in addressing its purposes?*

# Objective of the Study

# General Objective

The general objective of the study is to investigate the roles, challenges and opportunities of community care coalition program for the protection of orphan and vulnerable children in *Abune Zena Markos Association.*

# Specific Objectives

This research will have the following specific objectives:

* To explain the rationale behind the adoption of community care coalition program in the study setting;
* To identify the types of child protection services provided by community care coalition program for orphan and vulnerable in the study setting;
* To explore the perceptions of service beneficiary families about the provided service from community care coalition center;
* To describe the strategies employed by community care coalition programs in providing child protection service in the study setting;
* To investigate the major barriers and opportunities of community care coalition program vis-à-vis the protection of orphan and vulnerable children in the study setting.

# Significance of the Study

This study will supposed to be significant for many reasons. Among the significance of this study, it helps to investigate the roles and challenges of community care coalition program as a social protection approach to orphan and vulnerable children of the study setting. Therefore, this creates awareness among the orphan and vulnerable children’s, parents, and other responsible bodies about community care coalition program and its role. Moreover, the findings of this study will help to fill the existing knowledge gap the study issues and give insight for researchers who wish to study further. Hence, it will serve as source information for other interested researchers on the issues of community care coalition. Moreover, this study will contribute to empirical data for professionals and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who are working on community care coalition programs.

# Scope of the Study

The geographical boundary of this study will delimited to Addis Ababa city administration Nifas silk sub city. Thematically, the study will be delimited to the investigation of the rationale behind the adoption of community care coalition program and its roles and functions in providing services for orphan and vulnerable children.The study will give due emphasis to the structure and development process of community care coalition program and its impact on the lives of orphan and vulnerable children. Moreover, it will also give due attention to the effectiveness of the coalition’s,major barriers and opportunities of community care coalition program vis-à-vis the protection of orphan and vulnerable children in the study area. Moreover, methodologically, under the constructivist paradigm, this study will bound to qualitative research approach

Conceptual Definition of Terms

**Child:** a child means every human being bellow the age of 18 (UNCRC, 20 **II ),** But for this research purpose children refers to individuals whose age is between 12-18 years.

**Community Care Coalition:** refers to groups of individuals and/or organizations at the local level that join together for common purpose of expanding, coordinating and enhancing care for most vulnerable children in communities (Caitlin, Medley, Michael, and Kevin, 2010). **Community Care:** is providing the services and supports necessary for certain groups of people to be able to live as independently as possible in their own homes or in ' homely' setting in the community (Slater, 1994). It to a location (communities of place) or a collection of individuals with a common interest or tie whether in close proximity or distant ((Phillips and Pittman, 2008).

**Child Protection:** is defined as preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children (UNICEF, 2008).

**Orphans:** In Ethiopia, according to the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, it is commonly understood and legally defined that an orphan is a child who is less than 18 years old and who has lost one (single orphan) or both of their biological parents (double orphan), regardless of the cause of the loss. Reference is also given to children who have lost a father (paternal orphans) and children who have lost their mother (FDRE Ministry of Women′s Affairs, 2009).

**Vulnerable Child:** A vulnerable child is a child who is less than 18 years of age and whose survival, care, protection or development might have been jeopardized due to a particular condition, and who is found in a situation that precludes the fulfillment of his or her rights. It also includes a child who has been orphaned by AIDS and/or affected by the HIV and AIDS pandemic including children living with sick parents, children living in highly affected communities, children living without adult care (FDRE Ministry of Women′s Affairs, 2009)

# Limitation of the Study

Since this study will employ qualitative approach, it is unfeasible to generalize the findings of this study to the general population. The study will be conducted on a purposively selected voluntary small number of participants without statistical representation. Moreover, the study will employ cross-sectional research design where the data collection process is conducted at a point in time from samples selected in the study population. Therefore, this design will not show the long term variations of the issues raised in the investigation since the data will not be collected at different times.

# Chapter Two: Review Of Related Literature

Under this chapter, literatures on definition of community coalition , the benefits of Community Coalition, effectiveness and community opinion and other related issues shall be briefly reviewed.

2.1. What Is A Community Coalition ?

A coalition is an alliance of individuals or organizations working together to achieve a common purpose. When this type of alliance forms to address the needs and concerns of a particular community, it is often referred to as a community coalition. While all community coalitions are collaborative efforts by definition, they can vary in numerous ways including purpose, governance, and procedures.

Community coalitions often organize around a single issue or event. An example of this would be several advocacy groups that unite to challenge the imminent closing of a local hospital. Other times, a coalition may form with a focus on several concerns. An example of this type of coalition would be a group of concerned community advocates and organizations banding together to improve the overall living conditions in a given neighborhood. To accomplish its broad goal, this coalition may choose to address multiple related issues such as the expanding the community’s access to affordable health care, closing a nearby toxic dump site, improving the local school system, and increasing area housing options.

Also, coalitions may be formed as relatively short-lived alliances rather than longer term partnerships. A coalition intended to have a longer lifespan than others will generally require more effort to maintain its organization and structure over time.

Still, no matter how many issues it takes on or how long it plans to exist, the success of any successful coalition fundamentally depends upon the dedication and organization of interested advocates and advocacy groups. Ultimately, coalition members must identify their common interests, articulate their shared goals, and work together to take advantage of the benefits that result from being part of a larger collective.

**2.2. What Are The Benefits Of Building A Community Coalition?**

Members of coalitions can benefit from working with others as a larger unified object. Some of the expected advantages of structure and working in a coalition include:

**Sharp effectiveness and community opinion**:

A well-organized coalition generally finds that is has more power and can exert more influence than an organization or individual operating alone. also, community members working within the structure of a coalition generally have access to more stable support networks to help them achieve their desired outcomes.

**Increased access to resources**:

Working within a coalition provides opportunities for individuals and organizations to combine and share many types of valuable resources. Pooling resources allows coalition members to maximize their effectiveness by complementing one another. Examples of the types of resources that are often shared among coalition members are listed to the right.

**Enhanced legitimacy**:

Both within and outside of a community, the powerful presence of several different community members banded together for a common purpose can attract more attention and command more respect than individual efforts.

The coalition as a whole and its individual members benefit greatly from this heightened visibility and prestige. A well-organized coalition will not only look more reliable and attractive to potential allies, but will also strike a more imposing figure in the eyes of potential opponents.

**2.3. Improved overall community organization and working relationships**:

Coalition-building often creates opportunities for groups and individuals who had never worked together before to join forces and collaborate. Members of even short-lived coalition efforts usually find that there are enduring benefits of these newly-created networks. Working in a coalition establishes alliances that can develop into long-lasting bonds between organizations, strengthen individual loyalties to community, and generally enhance working synergies among members. Also, coalitions can often help to forge collaborative bonds across racial, socio-economic, gender, age, neighborhood and other traditionally troublesome divides.

**What Potential Challenges Are Associated With Working In A Coalition?**

Although working within a coalition is often associated with several benefits (e.g., additional strategic alliances, improved professional networks, enhanced legitimacy, increased access to needed resources, etc.), some coalition members may encounter challenges.

**Lack of familiarity with process of group decision-making**:

One challenge members might face is related to how the coalition makes group decisions. The actions of many well-organized coalitions have to be agreed upon by some consensus of the larger group. Coalition members who are unfamiliar with this more collaborative approach to decision-making (e.g., those who are used to less participatory or inclusive approaches) may initially experience some discomfort with this method. It can be expected that requiring coalition members to negotiate over alternatives before the coalition as a whole decides to pursue a course of action demands more energy and time. The upside of this increased resource commitment is that available options will likely be better appreciated and the ultimate decisions that are made will likely be more thoughtful and deliberate.

**Disagreement with the coalition position**:

So far another challenge may arise if a coalition member doesn’t agree with a position the coalition decides to take on a particular issue. If coalition members are given a chance to participate in the decision-making process however, this type of problem can be minimized and perhaps prevented completely. Participants who have opportunities to question proposals being considered by the coalition, propose their own ideas, and become integral players in the process are more likely to appreciate and approve of the decisions of the larger coalition and how these decisions were made. Both of these challenges, and several others, can be minimized if the coalition establishes a solid organizational foundation. Some elements of a solid foundation are: a well-written mission statement that members sign onto when joining, a an agreed-upon set of official operating principles, and a a diverse coalition membership that is representative of the larger community the coalition will work on behalf of. Coalitions that are not well-organized often lack one or more of these elements and, consequently, are much more susceptible to experiencing related problems. The next section discusses how to organize a coalition, with a particular focus on structure and governance issues.

Coalition Mission Statement

Perhaps the most important document a coalition will need is a mission statement. The mission statement should explicitly articulate the guiding philosophy the coalition intends to further and work under. Often, succinctly stating the coalition’s main goal and strategy will be enough.

When drafting a mission statement, strive for both clarity and brevity. Usually one or two sentences will suffice, but the emphasis should be on producing a simple statement that accurately identifies the guiding concern and desired goal of the coalition. Given the overall collaborative nature of the coalition, all existing members should be offered an opportunity to participate in drafting and reviewing the official mission statement. This type of open process is more likely to result in a final statement that existing members readily agree with and support.

Although it may be amended as the coalition matures, it is best to draft the mission statement as early as possible in the coalition’s development. At any stage however, a well-written mission statement should succinctly explain what the coalition stands for, why it exists and how it plans to address its issues of interest.

If the coalition creates an information brochure, the mission statement should be featured prominently. Also, individuals and organizations interested in joining the coalition should be required to sign onto the coalition’s mission as reflected in the official statement. Thus, the mission statement can serve as both a publicity tool to advertise the existence and aims of the coalition, and as an integral part of the enrollment process for new members.

In order to build a community coalition that will function as a unified whole, members must be committed to the coalition’s mission. A well-written mission statement will let new members know precisely what type of alliance they are joining and what they will be expected to support. Additionally, the existence of an official mission statement is an indication of solidarity (i.e., many groups banded together with the same focus) and lends further credibility to the coalition.

After the mission statement, a set of operating principles is probably the second most important document the coalition will need. The operating principles describe how the coalition will do its work and outline what the coalition’s protocols are for coalition members.

More detailed operating principles can set forth how coalition decisions will be made (e.g., the negotiation and voting policies, the number of votes required for an official coalition decision). Less detailed operating principles might include more generally-stated guidelines for members such as Respect everyone’s suggestions and Share responsibility.

Whether more general or specific, a set of operating principles should further inform members what is expected of them as they work with the larger coalition. With an official mission statement and a set of operating principles completed, much of the coalition’s structure is established and the work of building a well-organized community coalition can proceed.

**Growth Opportunities**

In order to increase its size and strength, the coalition will need to increase the public’s familiarity with the coalition, attract and retain new members, and build stable supportive networks.

A newly-formed community coalition will need to publicize its existence and increase public awareness of its efforts. Some of the many ways a coalition can increase its visibility include: developing and implementing a formal media strategy (e.g., arranging newspaper, television and radio interviews spotlighting the coalition and its work, public service announcements), posting flyers about the coalition in the community, and organizing a community forum to educate residents about the coalition and its purpose. If the coalition is well-organized and engaged in notable activities, its publicity efforts should help to increase both its legitimacy and its ability to attract new members.

As they build in size and complexity, coalitions need to pay special attention to how well members are working together and the level of commitment among members to the official mission. This is especially important since a coalition’s strength ultimately depends upon its ability to function as a unified whole. It is preferable to maintain a smaller cohesive set of coalition members than to build a larger unmanageable coalition that can’t function as a team. With this caveat, any opportunity to add new members who share the coalition’s mission should be pursued. By integrating new mem

If the coalition is wellorganized and engaged in notable activities, its publicity efforts should help to increase both its legitimacy and its ability to attract new members into the coalition, the group will stay vital and dynamic, rather than stagnate. In addition to responding to inquiries from interested individuals and organizations, coalitions may opt to recruit by directly approaching and discussing a partnership with potential new members.

Often even people and organizations who decide not to sign onto the mission and join the coalition can be strong allies. Separate from its recruitment efforts, the coalition should strive to develop such relationships that will enable it to operate more effectively on behalf of the community it represents. Forging these dependable bonds with supporters can increase the coalition’s access to resources and enhance its support networks.

Increasing Diversity

When building a community coalition, a concerted effort should be made to increase the group’s diversity. The measure of a coalition’s diversity depends on how reflective its membership is of the larger community among gender, ethnic, racial, age, income, and other lines. More diverse coalitions generally have increased legitimacy in the community because of their greater inclusiveness, which tends to make them more representative of the larger community they serve.

Recruiting members with a variety of backgrounds and perspectives, but who all share the common mission, tends to increase not only the legitimacy of the coalition, but also the coalition’s support networks. Also, it is more likely that community members will identify with and support the coalition if it is more diverse. (For a list of types of groups the coalition may want to contact and recruit to increase its diversity, see Appendix A.)

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2.4. Factors that Affect Coalition Effectiveness and Longevity

Community Involvement

Active community involvement and support is vital to a coalition’s success. A coalition that enjoys the active support of the larger community is more likely to be able to access needed resources (e.g., personnel and funding) and thrive. Generally, communities that feel more connected to the coalition will be more supportive. To develop long-lasting bonds, the larger community must be able to identify with the coalition and its goals.

Communities are more likely to identify with coalitions whose members actually live and work in the area. Coalitions that consist solely of individuals and groups who were not previously part of the community before joining the coalition risk losing community support and legitimacy. While they may bring other important strengths to the coalition, these members don’t know the community as well and are less likely to appreciate the subtleties of the working relationships within the community, and to understand the community’s needs. By including members who already have established ties to the community, the resulting coalition will be more representative of that community.

As discussed earlier, improving the diversity of the coalition is yet another way to make it more representative of the community. Some community members may be more able to directly identify with those they share more in common with. If a coalition is more diverse there is a better chance that community members will realize how much they share in common with the coalition and its members. Coalitions should thus make every effort to build a membership that is diverse and inclusive as possible to better represent the varied interests and concerns of the community.

To further benefit from its involvement with the community, coalitions should share important information with other members of the community and allow them to participate in coalition activities. Even those who are not members of the coalition can provide useful information and assistance at coalition meetings, hearings, rallies, fundraisers, media events, community forums, and other gatherings. These types of interactions are great opportunities for the coalition to share information, exchange ideas, and strengthen its bonds with the community. (For more information on organizing a successful forum, see “A Guide to Organizing Community Forums” also available from Community Catalyst.)

Publicity

A well-managed publicity strategy can help to establish the coalition as a legitimate voice of the community, highlight the importance and achievements of the coalition, and attract new potential members. To achieve these goals, a publicity message should clearly:

* articulate the coalition’s mission,
* outline its vision to address the needs of the community it serves,
* provide details of any notable accomplishments, and
* offer opportunities and information for others to get involved.

A coalition fortunate enough to have a substantial publicity and advertising budget may decide to launch an expensive media blitz, perhaps with the guidance of expert publicity consultation. Such a campaign may include television, print, and radio interviews or announcements in very popular media markets as well as other planned media events (e.g., a high-profile press conference arranged and paid for by the coalition).

However, even coalitions with more modest funding can mount effective publicity campaigns with a little creativity. A less costly, but still successful, publicity strategy can rely on free or inexpensive sources to communicate the coalition’s message to the public. Some examples of these less costly types of publicity include:

a simple coalition brochures, a brief press releases, a announcements and interviews on public television and radio stations, a flyers in the community, a articles, op-ed pieces, and letters in local papers, a a coalition newsletter, and a community forums.

Access to the internet presents the coalition with even more opportunities to publicize itself and its work. Creative use of the internet as a communication tool can be an inexpensive and effective option to share information among members with access to a computer. With a little internet knowledge coalitions can:

a send out mass electronic mail notices, a publish electronic newsletters and a design eye-catching informative websites.

Another commonly-used publicity tool is the media kit. Media kits are sets of documents and other materials gathered together to provide media contacts with information on the coalition. These kits can be relatively inexpensive to assemble when compared to other forms of publicity. Perhaps the greatest advantage of the kits is that they can be sent to media contacts and thus provide a detailed introduction to the coalition even when there is no coalition member present. (Appendix B lists several types of information often included in an effective media kit.)

Regular Meetings

Regularly scheduled coalition meetings can serve several purposes. In general, regular meetings provide coalition members with opportunities to socialize and bond while they reflect on noteworthy achievements and challenges, update each other on current coalition activities and projects, propose new ideas and initiatives for coalition consideration, and decide on the coalition’s next steps.

Coalition members should agree on a meeting schedule that works best for the group as a whole. Some coalitions may decide that meeting once a month is adequate given the size of the membership, the coalition’s current activities and the predictable challenges related to arranging meetings (e.g., finding and reserving meeting space, travel requirements, other work or family demands).

If the coalition is preparing for a particular event (e.g., such as a public hearing or press conference), the coalition may want to schedule additional meetings during the busy planning period. Alternatively, the coalition could decide to form subcommittees (e.g., a media/communications or fundraising subcommittee) that would hold regularly scheduled meetings separate from those of the full coalition. Also, scheduling meetings at times that are convenient for the community members may increase the likelihood that members will regularly attend.

regular meetings provide coalition members with opportunities to socialize and bond while they reflect on noteworthy achievements and challenges. Since the involvement of its membership is essential to a coalition’s ongoing success, members should be committed to regularly attending the meetings and this expectation should be communicated to new members before they join. To encourage regular attendance, coalition members should be allowed to participate fully in the meetings. Members are more likely to appreciate the importance of attending regularly if they know that their contributions will be welcomed and valued.

Lastly, the coalition should not simply hold meetings, rather its aim should be to hold effective meetings. As discussed earlier, meetings where people feel free to participate and share their thoughts are more likely to encourage regular attendance, which, in turn, results in more effective meetings. Yet another common feature that effective coalition meetings share is organization. A few tips to better organize your meeting include:

a drafting an agenda with clear bulleted items to be discussed, a having someone with facilitation skills direct the meeting, a beginning and ending the meeting at the scheduled times, a identifying members who will take responsibility for following-up on items discussed, a preparing an official summary of the meeting, a having food and drink available, and a arranging child care for members who need it.

Open And Reliable Reporting Mechanisms Among Members

It takes an informed and motivated membership to build a successful coalition. In order to keep its members informed, a coalition should make it easy for members to share accurate relevant information and encourage this sharing as well. In addition to open participation at regular meetings and in subcommittees as mentioned earlier, the coalition should pursue other means to facilitate information exchanges among coalition members.

Maintaining a coalition “library” of materials and documents (e.g., meeting notes and agendas, official coalition letters, newspaper and magazine articles about the coalition and its interest, coalition databases containing contact information for all members and supporters) would be a good idea. If possible, the collection of materials should be kept in a place that is accessible to all members.

Also, the coalition could provide its members with frequent and substantive updates by printing a newsletter or posting news on a centralized bulletin board. Again, the internet has expanded the options available to a coalition. Web-savvy coalitions can use e-mail list mailings, electronic newsletters, or dedicated coalition websites as time-saving and cost-effective methods to disseminate and exchange information. Whatever methods are used, the coalition should ensure that all of its members can access the shared information and contribute important news of their own.

**Funding**

Since obtaining funding from an outside source may be necessary for a coalition to pursue its mission, the coalition should seek out and apply for support grants. When applying for a grant, the coalition should draft a proposal that cogently describes the importance of the coalition’s mission, clearly articulates why the coalition is a legitimate and able representative of the community, and specifies how the requested funding will enable the coalition to accomplish its mission-related goals.

The impact of inadequate funding can impact both short-term and longterm coalition goals. Without proper funding, the coalition may not be able to pay for personnel support or hire consultants if needed. The most serious consequence of not being able to secure necessary funding may be an inability to sustain the coalition effort. Given its importance to the survival of the coalition, applying for funding demands serious attention.

Coalitions submitting grant proposals should provide potential funders with the most persuasive and accurate information available. Any and all guidelines by the funder (e.g., deadlines for submission, requirements to include certain specific information) should be followed exactly. Newer coalitions may want to consider hiring consultants with grant-writing expertise or, at least, seeking assistance from organizations and individuals with more grant experience. More diverse coalitions often have broader support networks and thus may find it easier to identify potential funders and obtain expert assistance than less diverse coalitions.

It is important to note, however, that even coalitions with relatively miniscule budgets can be effective in many ways. While coalitions with little funding

The internet has expanded the options available to coalitions. To save time and money,Web-savvy coalitions can use the internet to disseminate & exchange information.

A Guide to Building Community Coalitions may not have huge publicity and travel budgets, a relatively small coalition with modest expenses may not require much support to achieve its goals. Also, other forms of support (e.g., volunteer help, donations, membership dues, fundraising events) may substitute for funding and allow a coalition to function effectively. Again, more diverse coalitions, with their expectedly broader support networks, will likely have more viable support alternatives than less diverse coalitions.

# Chapter Three: Research Methods

# 3.1. Introduction

In the methodology part, description of the study area, research design, research approach, inclusion criteria of participants, study population and sampling design, sources of data, the methods of data collection and procedure of data collection will be discussed in this sub section. In addition to this, methods of data analysis and ethical consideration will be incorporated.

# 3.2. Description of the study area

This study will conducted in Addis Ababa city administration, the political and economic

capital of Ethiopia. Addis Ababa is also a seat of African Union and the United Nations

Economic Commission for Africa. The city administration is now divided into ten sub cities

(Kifle Ketema) and 99 Weredas. According to the 2007 population census data, the total

population of Addis Ababa was 2,739,551 (CSA 2010).

The major ethnic groups in Addis Ababa are: Amhara (47 percent), Oromo (19.5 percent),

(Gurage 16.34 percent) and Tigre (6.2 percent). About 56.2 percent of the females are never

married and 27.9 percent are currently married. Based on religious affiliations of the Addis

Ababa residents: 75 percent Orthodox Christians, 16 percent Muslims, 8 percent Protestants,

and the rest Catholic and other religion followers (ibid).

# 3.3. Study Design

The selection of research design is one of the components of the research process which helps for the “collecting, analyzing, interpreting and reporting data in research studies” (Creswell 2013). In doing so, the researcher will select cross sectional study design to investigate the roles, challenges and opportunities of community care coalition program as the data collection process is conducted at a point in time from samples selected in the study population. Hence, the use of cross sectional study design is an appropriate data collection method in terms of time and financial efficiency.

# 3.4. Research Approach

The study will employ a qualitative research approach based on qualitative data and tends to follow the exploratory mode of the scientific method (Johnson and Christsen, 2014). Thus, exploratory approach is useful when the researcher does not know the important variables to examine or if a concept or phenomenon needs to be understood because little research has been done on it (Cresswell, 2009). Besides, thequalitative approach helps to establish the meaning of the phenomenon and the researcher alsoconduct qualitative research when they need a complex, detailed understanding of the issu*e* (Creswell, 2007).Likewise, in this study the roles, challenges and opportunities of community care coalition will be deeply understood. Based on this premises, the researcher will explore the rationale behind the adoption of community care coalition program, types of child protection services; and the roles and functions of community care coalition in providing the psycho social and economic services for orphan and vulnerable children. Moreover, this study will use qualitative types of approach to describe the strategies of the program, major barriers and opportunities of community care coalition program vis-à-vis the

protection of orphan and vulnerable children by using words, language and experiences rather than measurements, statistics and numerical figures. Therefore, community care coalition program needs exploration and comprehensive understanding of the context and the phenomenon (Creswell, 2007) from the perspectives of study participants because thus allow the research participants to express their views broadly.

# 3.5. Inclusion Criteria of Participants

The researcher will use the flowing inclusion criteria to select orphan and vulnerable, community representatives and experts working on GOV and NGOs:

* Vulnerable children who are at age range between 12-18;
* Children who received child protection service from community care coalition;
* Children those who are willing to participate in the research under study;
* community care coalition chairpersons or officers who have the needed information and worked for more than six months;
* The heads and officers who are currently leading and working on governmental and nongovernmental organizations respectively for one year and they are willing to participate in the study.
* Families who are benefiting from the given service

# 3.6. Study Population and Sampling Design

# 3.6.1. Study Population

Study population is the aggregate of all elementary units (Kothari, 2004). Thus, the study population for this study will be those of vulnerable children, households who are taking care of vulnerable children, members of the community care coalitions, families who are benefiting from the given service, religious leaders, and representative stakeholders from the respective cities of women and children office, labor and social affairs office, NGOs and other concerning bodies.

# 3.6.2. Sampling Design

The samples of the research will select based on purposive and snowball sampling techniques. The respondents for in-depth interview participants and the key informant’s selection will be done through purposive sampling. On the other hand, the recruitment of the FGD participants will be done through snowball sampling. Hence, based on the data being generated and based on what appeared to be representative of the population, the researcher will recruits the study samples. To do this, the study will select beneficiary of orphan and vulnerable children’s from community care coalition program. Further, the study includes experts, heads, religious leaders and chair persons who work on community care coalition. Finally, the research will purposively select a number of participants for qualitative data gathering based on the theory of data saturation[[1]](#footnote-1). The number of participant in each data collection method will determine by the theory of saturation.

# 3.6.3. Sources of Data

The study will use both primary and secondary sources of data to generate the appropriate information regarding community care coalition program in the study area. To do this, the primary data sources will collect from in-depth interview, key informant interview, and focus group discussion (FGD). On the other hand, the researcher will use secondary sources of data to substantiate and augment the primary sources of data. The literature sources consist of written books, articles, statistical reports, journals, thesis reports and electronic sources will be employ.

# 3.7. Methods of Data Collection

This research approach will employ qualitative methods of data collection consist of in-depth interview, key informant interview, and FGD to collect the necessary data from respondents.

# 3.7.1. In-Depth Interview

In-depth interview is a qualitative data collection instrument, which allows the researcher  
to collect rich information in much more depth (Kothari2004). The researcher will use semi structured interview. Semi-structured interview according to Dawson (2002) allows the  
researcher to be flexible and to probe into more important information to arise. Therefore, the  
researcher will make an interview with vulnerable children in the study setting to get the necessary information regarding the types of child protection services provided by community care coalition programs. The researcher himself will conduct the interviews and audio record by using in-depth interview guideline.

# 3.7.2. Key-Informant Interview

The choice of the key informant interview, as a method, was due to its advantage in helping the researcher understand the issue as explained by very knowledgeable individuals on the subject matter. The key informant interviewees will choose due to their professional experiences or their prolonged services in relations to the issue understudy. Therefore, key informant interview will conduct with the governmental organizations, non government organizations, religious leaders, family who are benefiting from the given service, community leaders and other stakeholders that are responsible for the organization and following up of the community care coalitions. Interviews with those organizations’ heads and or experts are aimed to find the necessary information about the process on the organization and operation of community care coalitions will be conducted by using interview guide Moreover, the interview guide and schedule will prepare separately for each sector according to their roles and responsibility.

# 3.7.3. Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Focus group discussion is a data collection instrument in qualitative research approach in which the opinion and perception towards the issue (subject) are explored through a free and open discussion between members of a group and the researcher. It will help to identify the various aspects of a specific issue in a limited period of time (Hardon et al. 2001 cited in Alemu 2010). In addition, the FGDs allow more interactions among the discussants; who should be strangers, to let the data emerge (Cohen et al. 2000). FGD is particularly suited to be used when the objective is to understand how people consider an experience, idea, or event, because the discussion in the FGD meetings is effective in supplying information about what people think, or how they feel, or on the way they act (Freitas, 1998). Those groups are said to be ‘‘focused’’ because the researcher is expected to gather individuals who previously have had some common experience or presumably share some common views on the subject (Yin, 2003).

Accordingly two FGDs will be conducted. The first FGD will be conducted with vulnerable children and the second one will be conducted with family of the vulnerable children to assess their perception about the service provided by *Abune Zena Markos Association*. The Discussion with participants of the study will be held by using discussion checklist.

# 3.8. Data Collection Procedures

In order to start the data collection process, the researcher will strictly consider both ethical issues and scientific rules of qualitative data collection procedures. Data collection will be started by the permission of *Addis Ababa city women and children as well as labour and social affairs office.* A formal letter will be written by the department of psychology from Addis Ababa University and will be delivered to the city of women and children office as well as labour and social affairs office prior to commencing the field work. Next, the women and children office as well as labour and social affairs office will write a letter of permission to the respective institutions. Then, with the formal letter the researchers will identify and select the eligible participants of the study.

Brief explanation about the purpose of the study and issue of confidentiality will be clarified by researcher and facilitators to create smooth relations between the researcher and the study groups. Accordingly, data collection will begin with in-depth interview and will end with focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

# 3.9. Methods of data Analysis

Tape recorded interview data and FGD results will be transcribed, coded, categorized and analyzed by using the themes obtained through the interview and FGD. The initial phase will be data organization and preparation. These include, transcribing interviews, optically scanning material, typing up field notes, and sorting and arranging the data into different types depending on the sources of information (Creswell, 2014). The audio recorded interviews and FGD data will be transcribed by the researcher himself. Moreover, the researcher will read or look at all the data in order to get a general sense of the information and an opportunity to reflect on its overall meaning (Creswell, 2014). In this purpose, the general idea of the participants; overall depth, credibility, and use of the information regarding the issue under study will be identified and explored by the researcher. Subsequently, the researcher will undertake the coding and by using the coding process, the researcher develops and generate themes and sub themes for the overall analysis of the qualitative data. According to Creswell (2014), these themes are the ones that appear as major findings in qualitative studies and are often used as headings in the findings sections.

# 3.10. Ethical Consideration

Research ethics is a set of principles to guide and assist researchers in conducting ethical studies, it is important to identify the ethical issues that are of importance to researchers (Johnson and Christsen, 2014). Based on this premise, to study about community care coalition, it is important to make precautions. For this purpose, the research process will be guided by the ethical principles specified in the Research Ethics Review Guidelines of American Psychological Association (APA), which helps to “conduct an ethically sound study” (Johnson and Christsen, 2014). Participation in this research will be based on consent of the target population. An informed consent form which recognizes the participants’ rights to voluntary participation, withdrawal at any time, asking questions, knowing the purpose, procedures, and expected benefits and relatively minimal harm of the study will be signed by informants. Moreover, the researchers also refrain from exploitation of participants, collecting harmful information, going native (taking sides), disclosing of only positive results, disclosing of information that would harm participants as well as deceiving of participants. Informed consent is the major ethical issue in conducting to protect the right of participant to be autonomy. Besides, informed consent will also be secured for audio recording purpose and records will be tagged with pseudo names to ensure the anonymity[[2]](#footnote-2) and confidentiality[[3]](#footnote-3). During data analysis, certain steps will also be made to ensure anonymity of individuals, limiting data exposure, making interpretation based on accurate description of the data. And, the report will be confined to providing a written account of what is investigated, explore and understood from the data.

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1. ***Saturation:*** *The process of data collection for generating information whereby an appropriate sample size selected for achieving the research objectives/research questions in qualitative/mixed research.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ***Anonymity*** *refers to keeping the identity of the participant from everyone.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. ***Confidentiality*** *refers to an agreement with the research investigators about what can be done with the*

   *information obtained about a research participant.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)