**Format for Information Collection - Results Report 2009-2010 (gender)**

**Embassy (for delegated aid)**: Addis Ababa

**Country**: Ethiopia

**Strategic Goal**: Gender/violence against women

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**1. CONTEXT**

**a. Country or regional context**

Unalterable commitment to bring gender equity and equality is a prerequisite to attain all the MDG targets. The fourth generation of the Ethiopian PRSP, the ‘Growth and Transformation Plan’ (GTP) has identified women as one of its pillars together with youth and children. This is an indicator of the government’s continuous commitment towards addressing gender inequality.

So far, incontestable results and progresses are being registered; however the Ethiopian women, even today, are facing discrimination on a number of fronts, ranging from a higher incidence of poverty to a lack of protection under the law, and from access to social services to decision making power (Development and change package of Ethiopian women: 2006).

**b. Sector (thematic context)**

The ministry which deals with women issues is moving ahead and taking steps to bring about gender parity and equity. However, its operational and technical capacity is far from the desired level. The very recent development of including youth and children’s issues in the Ministry’s mandate (2010) is feared to have a potential loosening (diminishing) effect on the government’s commitment to address gender specific discrimination and injustice.

**c. Description of the problem**

In spite of all the investments, Ethiopian women are still encountering a lot of gender based violence in its various forms (economic, social, political and cultural). For instance FGM/C is practiced with a national prevalence of 74% including infibulations (prevalence of 83.8% and 63.2% in Somali and Afar, respectively.) Women are underrepresented in the formal sector (only 35.9%.) 85% of them justify their husbands beating them (DHS:2005).

It is additionally recognized that there is an inextricable linkage between gender based violence and HIV/AIDS, leading to the feminization of HIV/AIDS. Stemming from the underlying gender inequality, women’s subjugation to early marriage, and limited access to information, poverty and weak negotiation capacity all lead to increasing women’s (particularly adolescent girls’) vulnerability to HIV and AIDS.

About 70% of Ethiopian women accept that wife beating is a norm, in some regions of the country more than 45% of girls are getting married before the age of 18 (WHO:2002; <http://www.egldam-fgm-net/include/EM_>.) Only 15% of married women can make independent decisions on their own health and 1/3 of them reported that their husbands decide without consulting them. (DHS:2005)

**d. Intervention logic**

In the Development Cooperation policy of the Netherlands, the respect of rights of women and the fight against violence against women is a priority; active participation of women and girls to decide on their needs and problems at all stages and in all realms of life is another.

In order to achieve results two forms of intervention have been identified: 1) gender specific activities, directly addressing the above issues and 2) mainstreaming gender issues in the existing development program of the Embassy.

Ad 1: Strengthening the capacity of government and CSO institutions responsible for the protection and fighting for the rights of women is one of our strategic result areas. The Embassy has been supporting programs on violence against women, women in peace building and conflict resolution, gender in leadership and decision making and women’s economic empowerment. As a consequence, it has been a pioneer contributor to the gender pooled fund, designed to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of women, youth and children Affairs with a particular emphasis on strategic studies, capacity building, institutional strengthening and creating a participatory dialogue forum. These approaches have to be as comprehensive and evidence based as possible.

Ad 2: Results are less visible, but in the Education sector and Health and HIV.AIDS-related activities of the Embassy, the inclusion of gender issues in programmes (extra focus on girls’education and specific attention to the needs of women and girls in Health and HIV/AIDS activities are examples.

**2. RESULTS ANDS LESSONS LEARNED**

1. **What was achieved and why? What made it happen?**

The gender and women related programs financed by the Embassy have registered hopeful results. These programs strengthen the enabling environment to reduce VAW in partnership with local leaders, law enforcement structures and media, through support to the national Gender Based Violence Campaign Group Ethiopia and strengthening institutional and community based programs in support of care and social support to victims of violence with a particular focus on adolescent girls and women in rural Ethiopia. This integrated approach of awareness raising, institutional strenthening and direct support has created greater impact. More than 500,000 people have been reached through awareness raising and advocacy activities. Government is on its way to endorse national working guidelines and communities are amending their customary laws and establishing local structures to make its environment free from violence. More than a thousand women and girls got various services and support including medical treatment, protection service, psycho-social counselling and free legal aid.

The *women in the peace building and conflict resolution* project (designed to contribute to the realization of UNSC 1325), lately re-named to *women in disaster and risk reduction* has resulted in the publication of a so-called peace book, formation of community peace clubs, conducting capacity building conferences and workshops for women and using media to promote the role of women in peace building and conflict resolution are few of the achievements. These outcomes have impacted in the form of less vio;lence in IDP- and refugee camps and a greater role of women in the implementation of Disaster Risk Management activities (for instance in the Productive Safety Net program.)

The co-funcing of the gender pooled fund and the DGGE (Donor Group on Gender Equality) and sector working group engagements are continuing. There is an ongoing debate within the DGGE on whether the gender pool fund should incorporate youth and children issues or concentrate only on women and gender issues as it is doing now. The embassy is of the position that the gender pooled fund is meant for pushing gender higher on the political agenda and that it should maintain this focus.

1. **What went less well and why?**

The Ministry had a plan to implement the One Plan, One Budget, One Report principle (known as CORE) at the federal level after it was piloted at the district level. The implementation was held up because the ministry has been restructured. As a consequence of its new mandate, the ministry is now also dealing with youth and children issues.

Under the VAW program, CSOs and NGOs working on the provision of free legal aid for VAW survivors stopped working as a consequence of the CSO law. Under the new law Ethiopian Resident NGOs are not allowed to work on advocacy and human rights regarding gender. All the implementing partners of the VAW program are civil society organizations, so their performance is impacted and their free legal aid support has stopped. As a result an alternative way of strengthening community based organizations must be worked out. Strengthening women friendly community based structures is one of the VAW’s program components. A mechanism needs to be designed so that these CSOs can provide legal aid.

1. **What has been learned?**

The deployment by the Embassy of both mainstreaming and stand alone program implementation helped to address the problem of gender disparity comprehensively and to be evidence-based during policy debate and dialogue. A lesson is that the mainstreaming initiative needs careful design. It has lent itself to misunderstanding and misuse resulting in the dilution of the effort for gender equality and equity.

There is also a need for the Embassy to critically monitor the impact of the in-country and out of country policy changes on gender programming and policy dialogue. The CSO law, the restructuring within the Ministry of Women Affairs and the high interest of the government to bring growth and transformation within a short period of time are the current main developments in Ethiopia. Both the positive as well as the negative consequences of these developments on the women movement of the country needs to be properly tracked.

The magnitude of violence against women still calls for an extensive effort of all actors; the gains that have been made should be sustainable and the remaining areas of concern should be addressed thoroughly.

**3. RESOURCES SPENT (ODA and FTEs)**

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| --- | --- |
| Dutch ODA disbursed during 2009-2010 as contribution to this strategic goal (approximately) | €…2,052,772.26 |
| Average amount of Embassy FTEs allocated during 2009 and 2010 to this goal (for delegated aid) | 1 FTE |
| Amount of thematic dept FTEs allocated to this goal/ programme during 2009 and 2010 (for non-delegated aid)\ | n.a. |
| Piramide numbers of relevant Activities | 21572, 17977, 21035,  21574 |

**4. OVERALL TRAFFIC LIGHT SCORE**

The overall achievement of results is:

(Please tick **√**)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Off-track | 1 |  |
|  | In danger to be off track | 2 |  |
|  | On track | 3 | **√** |