



# **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE SHG APPROACH PROMOTION IN ETHIOPIA**



**FOR THE YEAR 2017**

**MARCH 2018**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

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## ACRONYMS

ABDI	Action for Basic Development Initiative
ADAA	African Development Aid Association
CDSA	Community Development Service Association
CFs	Community Facilitators
CGs	Children Groups
ChSA	Charities and Societies Agency
CLAs	Cluster Level Associations
CoSAP	Consortium of Self Help Group Approach Promoters
DEC	Development Expertise Centre
EEITI	Ethiopian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
ERSHA	Enhanced Rural Self Help Association
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
FC	Facilitator for Change
FSCE	Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment
FST	Federation Strengthening Team
GPSDO	Guraghe People's Self-help Development Organization
Gurmuu	Gurmuu Development Association
JeCCDO	Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization
KNH	Kindernothilfe
LCD	Local Capacity Development
LCO	Love for Children Organization
MCDP	Mission for Community Development Program
MLWDA	Mujejegua Loka Women Development Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
RCWDO	Rift Valley Children and Women Development Organization
RM	Regional Mentor
RPC	Remember the Poorest Community
SHGs	Self Help Groups
SL	Save Lives
SWAA-E	Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia
TMLM	Tesfa Merja Limat Mahiber
USAID	United States Aid for International Development
VoCDA	Vision of Community Development Association
WRDA	Wontta Rural Development Association
WSA	Women Support Association

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This 2017 report gives a descriptive account of the major achievements, challenges encountered and measures taken both by CoSAP and SHG promoting organizations. Same as the preceding year, in 2017 SHG promoting CoSAP member and non-member organizations have continued to organize more SHGs and reached about 12,427 SHGs consisting of 229,763 members. As result of this, more than 525,159 children of the women are now able to attend school.

Likewise, the effort to improve the protection of children has also been strengthened by further promoting the Children Group (CG) within the SHG approach. In this regard, 30 CGs comprised of 647 children (girls 322) of both under 7-11 and 12-16 age category are formed. As with the financial matters, women members were able to save more than 75.6 million ETB (equivalent of 3.4 Million USD) and about ETB 134 million (6 Million USD) was given out to members as revolving loan.

A detail of performances of the year is presented as organized in the following way. The introduction will deal with the main Administrative matters performed in the year. While Part one: of the report describes the Key achievements of CoSAP by strategic objectives. Whereas, part two gives a glimpse on key achievements of CoSAP member organizations and women institutions

Part three of the report explains women institutions involvement in aligned project activities and in development actions of the country and Part-Four addresses the major challenges encountered and measures taken. Finally, selected case profiles as well as the 2017 Statistical information of the SHG approach in Ethiopia are annexed to the report.



## INTRODUCTION: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS PERFORMED

- I. Development of CoSAP's second five year Strategic Plan:** Following the end of its 1<sup>st</sup> strategic plan period in 2016, CoSAP has formulated the 2<sup>nd</sup> five year strategic plan (SP) that covers from 2017 to 2021. Selected CoSAP's member organizations, women institutions, children, key stakeholders and funding agencies have participated and made meaningful contribution in the development of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Plan.
- II. New partnership with USAID Local Capacity Development Program:** As part of strengthening its capacity, CoSAP forged relation with USAID Local Capacity Development Program. The primary goal of LCD is to strengthen the management capacity of local implementing partners like CoSAP in areas of financial management, project management, monitoring and evaluation and sustainability, so that the local implementing partners adopt strong systems which are fully compliant with USAID's grant requirements. This aims at ultimately creating a pool of qualified, USAID-ready local organizations that are eligible to receive and capable of managing future USAID program funds as well as funding from other donors and sources. Currently, CoSAP is closely working with the Kaizen Company, which is the prime implementer of LCD, and benefiting through organizational capacity assessments; tailored training supports, technical assistance, and mentoring.
- III. KNH Africa Department visit to CoSAP:** A team of KNH staffs from the Africa department have held a two days program visit to CoSAP on November 29 and December 01, 2017. The visiting team from Germany and KNH representatives of Ethiopia (country coordinator and regional mentor) have held discussions with the management of CoSAP and Board of Directors. During the discussion held with CoSAP's management on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017, major programmatic and strategic issues related to the SHG approach implementation in the country including legalization of the approach, keeping quality standards of the approach were addressed. On 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2017, the visiting team held discussion with CoSAP Board of Directors. Accordingly, the team was briefed about the performance of CoSAP, efforts underway for legal recognition of the SHG approach, and the level of coordination between CoSAP and its member organizations in promoting quality SHG approach in the country. CoSAP Board sincerely appreciated KNH staff for visiting and reaffirmed its commitment to give proper directions for promotion of the approach based on the principles set forth.



- IV. **CoSAP General Assembly meeting:** CoSAP held its 7th General Assembly (GA) meeting on Friday 24th March 2017 at Ethiopia Hotel, Addis Ababa. The GA approved the activity and financial report of the secretariat. In addition, the GA elected increased CoSAP Board number from five to seven and elected new Board members. Finally the meeting was concluded having the assembly approved ETB 8.3 Million budget for year 2017.
- V. **National Coordinators (NC) meet and capacity building training attended by CoSAP staffs:** The annual National Coordinators (NC) meeting of KNH partners was held in Uganda- Entebe city from March 6-10, 2017. CoSAP, representing its members-has taken part in the meeting and



Participants of NC meeting, Entebe, Uganda

exchanged country updates, lessons and issues of concerns among similar participants drawn from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Malawi, Cameroon, Haiti, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Guatemala, Somali and Rwanda. The workshop, which is primarily dedicated for progress update and learning among SHG promoting partners, has helped CoSAP to share practical experiences as well as to take lessons from the various challenges brought forward for discussion by the respective countries. In the platform, the plenary sessions and field visits were also very informative whereby better clarity and understanding was gained on such key issues as PRA, wise investment, self assessment, role transfer, roles of federation and CLAs, Gender, and role of promoting organizations, CF, FST, and NCOs. At the end, the respective country has developed an action plan to address the key concerns raised and challenges encountered in the year to come. After completion of the workshop, two program staffs of CoSAP- capacity building officer and program coordinator- have attended federation level capacity building training for a week starting from March 13-18, 2017. It was a helpful session where staffs have gained better understanding on the concepts of the approach, the interrelationship between the different levels of the Peoples Institutions; features and roles of federations; preconditions, procedures and roles before and after SHG formation; and facilitation of self-assessment. Furthermore, the staffs were able to gain more practical lessons from the various plenary sessions they have had with staffs of different countries as well as from the field visits held with CLAs and federations in Uganda.

- VI. **Documents developed:** In the reporting year CoSAP has developed documents on Resource Mobilization strategy as well as produced contextualized version of CG guideline in both Amharic and Afan Oromo languages. The guideline has been disseminated to all CG promoting member organizations. In addition, the office updated its existing human resource and financial manuals.

## PART ONE: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### *Strategic Objective- I: Enhancing the Capacities of Member Organizations*

As it is stipulated in its mandate, enhancing the capacities of member organizations is one of key roles of CoSAP so that member organization able to promote development of quality people's institutions in the country. In line with this, the following activities were performed under this strategic objective in 2017.

#### **1.1.Capacity Building Support for Member Organizations and Women Institutions**

The objective of this support is to build the promoting organization's capacity on the SHG approach and provide updates on new development. To this effect, CoSAP organized regular capacity building support to staffs of member organizations, CLAs, Federations through various mediums including training sessions, learning and exchange programs, and field monitoring and technical support. Accordingly, the capacity building plan for 2017 has targeted the following major activities: training on strengthening CLA and wise investment; Coordinate and Support implementation of Children's Group; Conduct regular monitoring and on the spot support to SHG projects; and Promote organizational learning among SHG implementing members and non-member organizations.

##### **1.1.1. Refresher Training on CLA and Federation formation**

The provision of training on new updates of the SHG approach for project officers of promoting originations and Federation Strengthening Team (FST) was one of the planned activities of CoSAP in 2017. Accordingly, CoSAP has organized training on new updates of SHG approach from December 18-19, 2017 at Bishoftu (DSW/ Bonita) training center. About 17 participants from SHG promoting member and Non-member organizations as well as Federations Strengthening Team (FSTs) took part in the training. The topics covered during the training were Peoples Institutions (PIs) and their relationship; CLA action plan preparation; CLA self –assessment, wise investment of CLAs, steps in Federation formation and Role transfer. During training session, participants were also refreshed on new developments and updates on the SHG approach and on key issues of quality assurance in the implementation of the SHG approach.



**Photo of Training attendants**

##### **1.1.2. FST support to Yitawok Federation**

Yitawok Timert is a joint federation in Addis Ababa comprised of 32 CLAs, 315 SHGs and 4685 members brought together from LCO, MCDP, SWAAE and PROPRIDE. To help this large federation

function smoothly, CoSAP, the promoting organizations, federation members and federation strengthening team have taken a joint initiative to provide the necessary supports to strengthen the Timret. Accordingly, the FST and staffs of the promoting organization have facilitated training support for 46 new federation members on the concept, features, functions and principle of federation from July 20-21, 2017 at SWAAE training hall. Similarly the FST in collaboration with the promoting organizations has provided regular technical support to the Timret and enabled it to conduct selection of new representatives of the federation, undertake auditing, and organize monthly meeting and Prepare action plan. As a result of such support, currently the new leader ship of the Timret has been making efforts to create linkage with different stakeholders like women and children Affairs office, women's lawyer Association and others and also improving understanding among its constituent CLAs.

### **1.1.3. On the Spot Capacity Building and Monitoring Support to Women Institution**

#### **1.1.3.1. Joint Monitoring visit to CLAs and Federations by CoSAP and KNH's Regional Mentor**

CoSAP has held on the spot support and monitoring visit to federations and CLAs jointly with the regional mentor of KNH between May 16 to May 22, 2017 and May 26 to May 28, 2017. Federations namely, *Timret Lelewet /unity for change* (Adama), *Demebel* (Bulbula) and *Wotan* (Hawassa), as well as CLAs in SWAAE (Fitcha) and JeCCDO (Hawassa) project area were monitored and provided with on the spot technical support. The monitoring team has assessed the status of three Federations, four CLAs that are promoting the CG project in Hawassa and Fitcha. During the federation visit the following results were observed;

- The Federation in Adama (*TimretLelewet /unity for change /Federation*) is recognized at all levels and the members are actively involved in different local governance which has an added value for the federation.
- The Federation in Bulbula (*Dembel*) involved in ensuring that services of agricultural input reached to the people, access to health and need based services to the community. The federation works hand in hand with the CLA to create access to vaccination to children in remote Kebeles. It also took part in enhancing awareness of women on property right, early marriage, and child abuse.
- *Wotan Timret* in Hawassa was found to be so strong and became more visible in the government arena.

Based on the observed activities of the federations, on the spot technical support has been provided to further strengthen their further works.

#### **1.1.3.2. On the Spot support on Wise investment to Mersa and Weregesa CLAs**

CLA investment is considered to have a twofold benefit to the CLAs-Money gains and accessing service to the community. The involvement of CLAs in wise investment is to cover the administrative costs of the CLA and of their respective Federation. With this understanding CoSAP has organized on the spot training support on the concept of wise investment to Mersa and Weregesa CLAs (WSA) on April 26/2007. This on the spot capacity building support was provided to 27 CLA members represented by 9 CLAs drawn from Mersa CLAs (5) and Weregesa CLAs (4).





Apart from this, the participants were also familiarized with the inter linkage between the three levels of PIs, the roles of CLA, identification of feasible business for wise investment and action plan preparation.

#### 1.1.3.3. On the Spot Capacity Building for ‘Ye haberu Fire’ Federation

On the spot capacity building support was delivered for ‘*Ye haberu fire*’ Federation (Mersa) on April 27/2017. About 11 members of the Federation representing CLAs in Mersa, Mehal Ameba, Gerana and Weregesa kebeles have attended the training. On the training the following topic were covered; the relationship/link between and how each levels feed each other (SHG/CLA/Federation), Roles of Federation, and importance of linkage and Action plan preparation.



#### 1.1.3.4. Federation Supportive Monitoring Visit to JeCCDO Dire Dawa Project

As one of its strategic objectives to enhance program and institutional capacity of member organizations and people’s institutions, CoSAP has conducted on the spot technical support in such a way that enables them to promote the self help group approach in the intervention area effectively. Accordingly, CoSAP has conducted supportive monitoring visit to Dire Dawa JeCCDO project from Feb 27-28, 2017. During the supportive monitoring, a refresher training support on the concept of Federation, Features of Federation, Roles of Federation and CLAs was provided to members of Ye Dire Enesit Federation. In this supportive monitoring session, members were helped to understand the difference in roles of CLA and Federation; the assistances needed from the project office to support the Timret on action plan preparation, CLA self assessment, and goal setting.

<b>Table-1: Summary of on the spot monitoring and capacity building support</b>				
<b>No</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendants and themes</b>	
1.	Federation on the spot Supportive Monitoring visit (JeCCDO)	Feb 27-28	JeCCDO community facilitator. To provide on the spot support to federations in Dire Dawa	
2.	Federation on the spot Supportive Monitoring visit (WSA)	April 29	Project coordinator and project office. To provide on the spot support to federations in Mersa	
3.	Federation visit (WSA)	May 3	CoSAP staff. To monitor to status of Aregoba Timret	
4.	Monitoring visit (RPC)	May 16	RPC Program manager, project coordinator, CFs and KNH RM. To conduct Federation monitoring and follow up support federation in Adama	
5.	Monitoring visit (VoCDA)	May 18	VoCDA Project social worker and KNH RM To conduct Federation monitoring and follow up support federation in Bulebula	
6.	Federation visit (JeCCDO)	May 19	To conduct Federation monitoring and follow up support federation in Hawassa	
7.	Technical team meeting to strengthen Yetawek Timret	July 11	Technical teams from MCDP, LCO, Pro Pride, SWAAE, FST and CoSAP. To strengthen Yetawek Timret in Addis Ababa and to speed up its rotational leadership	
8.	On the spot support to Timret lelewet Federation on institutional capacity building (RPC)	Oct 2	CoSAP staff and RPC field worker. To enhance the institutional capacity of the Timret based on the identified gaps during monitoring visit with KNH RM in Adama	
9.	Follow up visit at Yehaberu Fire Timret (WSA)	Oct 5	WSA field workers and CoSAP staff. A follow up of the 1 <sup>st</sup> bi annual on the spot capacity building support in Mersa	
10	On the spot support to Wetan Timret on institutional capacity building (Hawassa)	Oct 12	CoSAP staff. To enhance the institutional capacity of the Timret based on the identified gaps during monitoring visit with KNH RM in Hawassa	

## 1.2.Capacity Building Training On CG To Member Organizations

In 2017 CoSAP has organized the second round Children Group (CG) training. The training was provided for 16 participants from 11 member organizations from July 31 to August 6, 2017 at DebreMarkos Gozamen Hotel. Participants were from organizations who are promoting the CG approach starting from May 2016 namely FC, JeCCDO, LCO, MCDP, SWAAE and WSA as well as participants from ADAA, ABDI, Gurmuu, and RPC were included in the training for familiarization of the concept of CG and experience sharing. The training was composed of conceptual and practical approach of CG including exposure visit to CGs in Fiche and DebreMarkos.



### 1.3. Field Monitoring and Follow Up Visit To Children's Group (CG) Project

- CoSAP's monitoring visit to CG projects of FC and WSA:** with an objective to give on the spot technical support to the pilot Children's group (CG) project, CoSAP has conducted supportive monitoring visit to FC Deberemarkos project (from June 2-5/2017) and WSA Mersa and Weregesa (on April 30, 2017). Based on their age category, separate monitoring and discussion sessions were held with four CG groups. During the visit, it was witnessed that the formation of CG has helped member children able to develop different skills, change in gender stereotypes, share experience and knowledge, and increase awareness on child abuse, and child right. In the monitoring visit, the CG members were observed performing the various program components including discussion on ethical behavior; debate on selected themes; playing games; presentation of drama, Poem and drawing as well as question and answer. Finally, CoSAP has created understanding among the subcommittees and project offices about the required assistances of the project to the CLAs so as to build CLA's capacity to institutionalize the CGs, Mobilize resources and linking the CG implementations with other stakeholders and duty bearers.
- CoSAP and KNH Joint monitoring visit to CG project of JeCCDO and SWAAE:** In the reporting year, CoSAP and KNH's regional mentor have held a joint CG monitoring visit to JeCCDO (Hawasa) and SWAAE (Fiche) from May 21 to 22, 2017 and May 28, 2017 respectively. At JeCCDO Hawassa, two CGs being implemented by Rohbote and Abay CLAs and at SWAA-E Fiche, four CGs being promoted by Ethiopian Egziabher Yibark and Haile Egzibhere CLAs were visited. During the monitoring session, group members were familiarized on the need for CG, main program components of CG and roles of CG members. In line with this, the CG promoting CLA subcommittee members were also refreshed on the importance of CG, elements of child protection, role of different actors in CG promotion and the need for networking with pertinent actors in the local community.

**Table-2: Summary of CG monitoring visits**

S/N	Activity	Date	Attendants and theme
1)	CG monitoring visit (Mersa)	April 30	Project coordinator and project officer. To Monitor and follow up the CG in Mersa and weregesa
2)	CG monitoring visit (JeCCDO)	May 21-22	Project officer and KNH RM. To Monitor and follow up the CG in Hawassa
3)	CG monitoring visit (SWAAE)	May 28	Project officer, coordinator and KNH RM. To Monitor and follow up the CG in Fiche
4)	CG monitoring visit (FC)	Jun 2-3	Project social worker and project officer. To Monitor and follow up the CG in Debre Markos
5)	CG follow up visit at WSA (office level discussion)	Oct 5	CoSAP and project coordinator. to conduct feedback sessions as a follow up of on the spot capacity building support in Mersa and CG 2 <sup>nd</sup> round training



## Strategic Objective II: Strengthening Efforts to Create a More Enabling Environment

The activities under this strategic objective are meant to witness that SHG approach is an important and alternative instrument to development approaches that significantly contribute to the social, economic, and political empowerment of women. To this effect, CoSAP has performed the following activities in 2017.

### 2.1. SHG Promotion Through National Annual SHG Day

The 2017 National Annual Self Help Groups (SHGs) Day was colorfully celebrated in Amhara Regional State in Debre Birhan City from November 24 - 25, 2017. CoSAP has organized the event in collaboration with its three member organizations namely Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Enhanced Rural Self Help Association (ERSHA), Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization (JeCCDO) as well as the Debre Birhan City Women, Children, Social and Labour Affairs Office. The official opening was held in the presence of Her Excellency W/ro Alemitu Umod, State Minister of FDRE Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. In addition, higher officials from the Federal



Cooperatives Agency, Charities and Societies Agency, Addis Abeba City Women and Children Affairs attended the opening event. Moreover, Deputy Chief of North Showa Zone Administration and Mayor of Debre Birhan City administration provided key note speeches. The Amhara TV, Debre Birhan Fana FM, FM Addis 97.1, and Herald and The Reporter newsletters covered the event. The annual SHG day celebration was attended by more than 400 participants composed of representatives from women SHG institutions, Officers and Directors of CoSAP member organizations. Other invited guests from various government offices, non-governmental organizations working with SHGs and the community at large attended the national event.



After the official openings, exhibition of best practices and success stories of women in SHGs, Cluster of groups and “Timrets”- Federations opened for visit. In addition, CoSAP member organizations exhibited their good practices of organizing women in SHGs. Also a panel discussion and experience sharing session among Federations constitute the annual SHGs day event. The annual SHG day was successful in creating a learning platform among CoSAP member and non-member organizations and women institutions in the country.

The event also created a platform where CoSAP Board members and high ranking officials discussed on the issue of legalization of the SHG approach. As result, the government officials have expressed their respective offices’ willingness to provide the necessary support to CoSAP and member organizations in their efforts for gaining appropriate legal framework that can support wide promotion of the SHG approach in Ethiopia.

## 2.2. Annual Federation Forum

The Annual Federation dialogue forum that aims at creating a platform whereby federations of the country can share experiences and exchange learning was organized by CoSAP in Bishfotu DSW /training center from December 29-30/2017. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> Federation dialogue forum in which a total of 42 Participants representing 11 federations and 2 unions of CLAs have taken part.



Participants of the annual federation forum

On the occasion, participants have presented and shared on their key achievements and challenges encountered. In line with this, staffs from Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) have provided awareness raising on women rights and familiarized the participants about the major legal frameworks of the country including the FDRE constitution, and Family Law of Ethiopia- as well as the different forms of Violence Against Women. Furthermore, discussion and plenary sessions were also held on the relationship between peoples Institutions (SHGS, CLAs& Federation), Roles of Federations, need of rotational leadership, documentation, importance of networking, linkage and action plan preparation as well.

### Strategic Objective III: Enhancing the Capacities of CoSAP

This strategic objective focuses on enhancing CoSAP's financial, material and coordination capacities to assist its members towards creating vibrant people's institutions in the country. In accordance with this, CoSAP has accomplished various activities related to resource mobilization, networking and partnership development and enhancing visibility of works of its member organizations and people institutions.

#### 3.1. Improving CoSAP's Resource Base

To improve its income portfolio, CoSAP has formulated a Resource Mobilization (RM) strategy. On the other hand, during the year, CoSAP has made efforts to secure funds thereby responding to relevant call for proposals. In this regard, CoSAP has made an attempt to apply for funding to the following open call for proposal announced in 2017.

**Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF):** CoSAP together with VoCDA, WSA, ADAA, ABDI, ERSHA, GURMUU and HUNDEE formulated a concept note and applied for Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) with project heading: "Women Institutions of the Self-Help Groups for Integrated Response against Climatic Change Impacts". It was a three years project with a total budget of 750,000 USD.

**Implicadas/Menoria:** Based on exposure visits to project sites and the consequent communications with staffs of two Spanish organizations, Implicadas/Menoria, CoSAP has finally forged partnership with the two organizations. In this respect, CoSAP has received Euro 4,000.00 for pilot a project on "**Federation Capacity Building**" covering the period from August 2017 – July 2018.

**Stemming Irregular Migration in Northern and Central Ethiopia (SINCE): Embassy of Italy:** CoSAP together with five of its member organizations namely ABDI, ADAA, WSA, LCO and MCDP has applied for grant following the call for proposal announced by Embassy of Italy on Stemming Irregular Migration in Northern and Central Ethiopia (SINCE). Accordingly, CoSAP as a led applicant and members as a co-applicant have submitted a proposal on: "**The Self Help Groups for improving the socio-economic conditions of poor women and youth to stemming irregular migration in the three regions of Ethiopia**". It was a 24 months project plan submitted to the Italy embassy on 25th September 2017 with a total project cost of 7,500,000 EUR.

**Irish Aid (Tearfund Ireland):** In 2017, CoSAP in partnership with Tear fund Ireland, applied for funding to **Irish Aid** and succeeded in raising project grant for 2019 and 2020 fiscal years with an amount of 50,000 EURO (25,000Euro/year). CoSAP will make use of the fund to strengthen its SHG promotion efforts at Macro level that aims to influence policy for SHG recognition, enhance quality implementation and promote nationwide SHG movement.

**Czech Embassy:** In response to the call for proposal announced by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, CoSAP has developed a proposal entitle as "The Self Help Groups for improving the socio-economic conditions of poor women through integrated effort of environmental protection in Dera Woreda of Arsi Zone of Oromia Region of Ethiopia" and submitted it on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 with a total budget plan of 470,400 ETB.

**Embassy of Finland:** In reply to the announcement of Embassy of Finland on fund for local cooperation in 2017, CoSAP has submitted a concept note on *“Enhancing sustainable natural resource management in Ethiopia”* targeting five districts of five regions in Ethiopia: - Angolelanatera district of Amhara (ERSHA), Mankush district of BenshangulGumuz (MLWDA), Jigjiga district (CDSA), Adaba district of Oromiya (ABDI), and BenaTsema district of SNNPR (WSA). The total budget plan of the project was 749,250.00 ETB and submitted on March 13, 2017.

### 3.2. Strengthening External Relations, Networking and Partnership

- **CoSAP participated on EU-CSF Grantees Forum:** CoSAP participated in inaugural session of the CSF grantees platform held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. In the meeting participants of EU grantees of both Civil Society Fund (CSF) II phase I and CSF II phase II were in attendance. The platform was organized to bring EU grantees together and create a forum where by participants learn from each other.



Picture of CSF grantee forum participants

In the event CoSAP was one of the four (4) grantees chosen to present and share experience in the ChSF-II phase I project implementation . At the event, CoSAP has presented its experience focusing on how it implemented the CSF-II phase I project through the SHG approach for economic and social empowerment of women.

- **Training on Asset Based Community Driven Development:** CoSAP has taken part at a training entitled *Asset Based Community Driven Development (ABCD)* which was hosted by Women In Self Employment (WISE) women’s Academy that was held from August 21 - 25/2017. The training was attended by WISE staffs, partner organization and other interested organization heads. The concept of ABCD is that development shouldn’t be need based which is the conventional way of project design but should instead be asset based given that every community has its own resource, capacity and immense potentials. Therefore, the training is to introduce participants how they should change focus towards community asset building while designing a project.
- **Participation in Training of KNH’s Mandatory Requirements:** CoSAP’s program staffs have attended a daylong training organized by KNH on **KNH’s mandatory requirements** held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at global hotel, Addis Ababa. The training was arranged for staffs of KNH partner organizations of Ethiopia with an objective to introduce staffs with the new mandatory requirements of

KNH. Accordingly, a briefing has been given on KNH's new requirements regarding elements of concept note preparation, proposal formulation, budget planning, and budget control, preparation of budget summary and analysis of budget variance. Furthermore, a briefing on KNH's Anti-corruption code was delivered. At the end of the training, all participants have proposed actions that they will do after the training in their respective organizations.

- **A Reflection Session with High Government Officials:** CoSAP has attended *an over lunch consultative meeting* being held with higher government officials invited at National Annual SHG Day Celebration arranged at DebreBirhan town on November 24, 2017. The meeting was to brainstorm and discuss on their impression, reflections and way forwards over the annual SHGs day event they attended and to create linkages between government higher officials and CoSAP on SHG work in Ethiopia. The meeting was attended by the state minister of FDRE Women and Children Affairs; D/Director General, FDRE Charities and Societies Agency Addis Abeba City Administration Women and Children Affairs Head; North Shewa Zone, D/Administrator; D/Birhan City Women and Children Affairs Head; Chairwoman and Secretary of CoSAP's General Assembly; Chairman and D/Chairman of CoSAP's Board of Directors, as well as members of CoSAP's board of directors and CoSAP Director. On the meeting, the officials expressed their happiness on what is being done regarding the SHG approach and that they were glad to witness model SHGs' member women who showed their work and evidenced the advantages they got from this establishment. On the occasion, issues of the SHGs legalization efforts being made and studies documented so far has been discussed on top of the briefings given on the successes and model practices of member organizations in SHG promotion in the country. The meeting was fruitful in which, higher officials particularly of Addis Abeba Women Affairs head promised to make further discussion at office level afterwards.
- **The 9<sup>th</sup> Gender Research Seminar (GRS):** CoSAP representing its member organizations has attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Gender Research Seminar (GRS) held at Ministry of Women and Children Affairs on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017. On the occasion presentation of Research on **"Food and Nutrition security of Women and people with Disabilities organized in Self Help Groups"** by Tear fund was shared to participants invited from government and non -government organizations. The research was conducted in Oromia and SNNP regions, four Wordas in SNNP (Segen peoples, Derashe , Amaro, Ofan ) and a Woreda in Oromia (Adama).
- **Discussion Meeting by Ethiopian Civil Society Forum:** A discussion forum dealing on the need for partnership between Charities and Societies (ChS) and Government line ministries (Ministry of education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of women and children affairs, MOLSA, and Ministry of Environment Forestry and Climate Change (MEFCC) was held on June 8, 2017 in Addis Ababa. As one of the invited Consortiums, CoSAP has been part of the meeting together with other networks representing the ChS and representatives from line ministries - Ministry of women and children affairs and Ministry of Economic and Finance. The meeting was so effective whereby CoSAP on behalf of its members could reflect on the importance of partnership between ChS and government offices as it will facilitate the smooth project implementation at all levels.



### 3.3. *Visibility and Communication*

- ***Update of Brochures:*** CoSAP's brochures being prepared in Amharic and English language were updated and published containing the descriptive account of CoSAP, and name of member organizations. More copies of the brochure have been distributed to wider target groups at annual SHG Day celebration (2017).
- ***Publication of Newsletters:*** In 2017, CoSAP published and distributed "Ras Agez" meaning "Self Help" bi-annual newsletter covering key performances of its member organizations and women institutions as well as important events of CoSAP. Accordingly, two issues (Issue No. 6 and Issue No.7) of "Ras Agez" newsletter were published and disseminated to member organizations and pertinent stakeholders.
- ***Website and Social Media:*** same as the preceding years, CoSAP continued to administer its website official Face book, Instagram and Twitter pages with an additional help of professional personnel being contracted on part time bases.

## **PART TWO: A GLIMPSE ON KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF CoSAP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND WOMEN INSTITUTIONS**

### **2.1 At Self Help Groups (SHGs) level**

- Significant numbers of women in the SHG, which are organized by the implementing partners, are engaged in their own self employed business after having been provided with basic business skill training and earning an income to support their family. The women in SHG has been demonstrating changes in their capacity to express themselves, read, write and calculate simple mathematics of their income generating activities and support each other on the cooperative learning.
- Member organizations have formed 85 new SHGs (32 in ERSHA, 23 in MCDP & 30 in RPC) consisting of 584 members. The new members have also acquired better knowledge and practical skill on basic concept of SHG approach, entrepreneurship and basic business skill, value and methods of saving ; business selection within the locality and features of successful business women.
- Women groups in the intervention kebeles of ABDI, ERSHA, and GURUMU have been taking active involvement in various social issues and development actions in their locality including undertaking awareness raising on Harmful Traditional Practices, and organizing annual afforestation campaigns,
- A good number of the SHG members have gained additional training supports on parenting skills (DEC & OPRIFS), Business Development Service (MCDP), beekeeping practices (ERSHA & GURMUU), and fuel efficient stoves production (ERSHA). Besides, in ERSHA, women groups in Seriti kebele have got the opportunity to share experience with SHGs engaged in fuel saving stove production and with CLA in MCDP Addis Ababa project in December, 2017.
- The project staffs at MCDP has provided training on Book keeping to 28 SHG book writers that helped the book writer to be better off on proper recording of saving, loan transaction and minute of management meetings. Similarly Leadership and Conflict resolution training was also delivered to 132 members drawn from 23 SHG for two days. The training has a paramount importance in enhancing member's capacity to handle conflict that may arise among their members.
- Women members of CLAs & SHGs in GURUMUU have shown improved capacity following the refresher trainings they received on SHG and CLA concept, formation and management. The groups are able to start performing the routines of their group by their own.
- On the other hand, SHG women in RPC working in collaboration with Adama city Women and Child Affair Office (WCAO). The women groups have made contribution (300 birr from each SHG) to the resettlement of people displaced from Somali region due to the recent political unrest for the resettlement of Oromo society dismantle because of disagreement with Somalia societies.

### **2.2 At Cluster Level Associations (CLAs)**

- CLAs and SHGs observed to have engaged on charity works particularly providing support to children who lost their families. In the year, for instance, TERET LEWTET“CLA helped 5 poor children with scholastic materials and enabled them continue their education in Addis Ababa. (OPRIFS)
- Opportunities for Linkage with GOs and financial institutions has been created for 8 CLAs through a one day workshop being organized in Addis Ababa by RPC for about 11 different government sectors in the woreda including women and children affairs office, education office, police office, health

office, and financial institutions. The CLAs have taken advantage of the occasion to present what they have achieved so far and to communicate what supports they need from various sector offices and institutions.

- Capacity Building Trainings was provided for 160 women members represented from 8 CLAs on CLA action plan preparation and wise investment from August 28-31/2017 in four rounds. Participants have received better knowledge on the concept of wise investment and improved understanding on how to review roles of CLAs, CLA's action plan, method of self-assessment/grading for SHGs /CLAs (RPC)
- Consultative workshop was conducted among CLA representatives, Community Facilitators and concerned government actors and discussed about the importance of working together to improve the status of SHGs and CLAs. They all finally come to term to strengthen the monthly review meeting of Community Facilitators with project office. Moreover, the platform was used to familiarize the concept of federation formation to government line office experts and CFs (ERSHA)
- In ERSHA, 13 CLA representatives were provided refresher training on CLA concept, formation and management. One new CLA has also been established at Cheki Kebele from 10 SHGs after providing refresher training on the establishment process.
- In JeCCDO, the newly established CLAs started to take strategic positions in their respective communities in mobilizing their members; the broader community and other stakeholders for the development of their villages and the wellbeing of their members, in fighting unfavourable social acts (including domestic violence on women, child trafficking, etc.) They also started to build the capacities of their member SHGs, solve some standing problems of their villages like organizing community discussions on health issues, sanitation campaigns, tree planting etc. CLAs have been given encouraging recognition by the local administrations.
- In MCDP, facilitation Skill Training was given to 52 members drawn from three CLAs from December 21 to December 23, 2017 in which the CLA members have benefited through improved facilitation skills. Similarly, the CLA members in MCDP were facilitated to visit group IGA on fuel saving stove production being facilitated by Enhanced Rural Self-Help Association (ERSHA) in North Showa zone. The visit was important in that the CLA members were able to understand how to identify and engage in feasible group IGA in their locality.

### 2.3 At Federations (TIMRETS) level

**TIMRETLELEWET FEDERATION:** The Federation is recognized at all levels and the members are actively involved in different local governance which has an added value for the federation. It is observed that the federation have and gained high recognition by the Adama town admin offices and forged better relation to get office from the government. On the other hand, the federation is found get involved in influencing government offices on the prevailing quality gaps in the education service of public and private schools in Adama town. The federation is making a relentless effort to list out causes of poor education quality in public schools, where their children learn and take up it to the concerned bodies in Adama. All federation members explain that it is their responsibility to advocate for change in quality education so that most of their children learning in public schools will have better chance to compete and succeed in the national examination as effectively as students of private schools.

**DEMBEL FEDERATION:** The federation has been actively engaged in promotion of women and children rights, women's property right, eradication of early marriage, awareness rising on child abuse. In current political unrest, the federation has largely involved in conflict management to maintain peace and security of their locality particularly through traditional/cultural means known as 'SIKE' (which is the traditional role of women in conflict management in Oromo culture). A well recognized contribution of the federation has been observed in promoting vaccination of children whereby the federation mobilized CLAs and assisted the health extension workers deliver the immunization services to children in remote rural villages.

**YITAWOK TIMIRET:** The federation has practiced a rotational leadership of women institutions thereby conducting selection of new leaders from the constituent CLAs. An exemplary work of the new leadership has also been witnessed in its effort to re-organize documentation, resume regular meetings, organize meeting with CLAs to familiarize objectives and action plan. Encouraging leadership exercise of the appointees was observed particularly conducting visit to CLAs and revitalizing linkage with different stakeholders like women and children Affairs office, and women's lawyer Association and others.



## **PART THREE: WOMEN INSTITUTIONS INVOLVEMENT IN ALIGNED PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS OF THE COUNTRY**

### **3.1 Participation of Women Institutions in Natural Resource Management**

During the reporting period women institutions together with the respective co-applicants have been making their concerted efforts to lobby and to secure land that will be used for plantation of seedlings. Accordingly in the reporting period CLAs mobilized by some co-applicants namely ABDI, ADAA, WSA, ERSWA, MCDP, MLWDA, HUNDEE and GURUMUU were able to secure about 28,320m<sup>2</sup> of



communal land from the respective local government. After getting the land the CLAs built fence around it and have started preparing the land for plantation. In line with this, the co-applicants and CLAs have further facilitated for the necessary preparations to conduct the afforestation campaign within the forth coming months of the rainy season-July to August-in collaboration with local government, key stakeholders, and the local community at large.

### **3.2 Women Institutions in Children Groups (CG) Project Implementation**

CoSAP in partnership with KNH has initiated Children Group (CG) project with an objective to promote the protection of children from various abuses in the community. The general objective of Children Groups promotion is to help create better environment for Children to lead decent life within their communities. The CG implementation is designed to be an entirely community based and to be primarily led by Cluster Level Associations (CLAs).

Based on this child protection initiative, Women institutions has become involved in the formation and implementation of children's group (CG) project and contributing to the growth of the groups as well as to the protection needs of children from different abuses. Accordingly, 13 CLAs has taken up the CG as part of their major role and has been implementing it in selected four member organizations including FC, SWAA-E, JeCCDO and WSA. They are now able to form 30 CGs and address the protection needs of 647(322 girls & 325 boys) children between the age of 7 to 16 that belong to the community where SHG approach is being implemented in Hawassa, Fiche, Mersa and Debreworkos.

The CLAs, as the prime entities to promote the CGs, have made their efforts to nurture the growth of the groups, thereby guiding the children to identify their needs, priorities and managing the day to day functions of their groups. The CLAs have also contributing in availing resources from different stakeholder with whom they have created linkage and networking in their target community.

<b>Table-3: number of CGs formed and member children</b>			
<b>Organization</b>	<b>CG category</b>	<b>Total numbers</b>	<b>Total number of CLAs</b>
<b>FC</b>	7-11 (5 CGs ) with 85 members (M=39) 12-16 (3CGs ) with 66 members (M=40)	8 CGs (151members)	<b>3</b>
<b>JeCCDO</b>	7-11 (7 CGs ) with 144 members (M=71) 12-16 (7CGs) with 144 members (M= 67 )	14 CGs ( 288 members)	<b>4</b>
<b>WSA</b>	7-11 (2 CGs )With 50 members (M=30) 12-16 (2CGs) with 50 members (M= 24 )	4CGs (100members)	<b>4</b>
<b>SWWA-E</b>	7-11 (2 CGs ) with 52 members (M=28) 12-16 (2CGs) with 56 members (M=26 )	4CGs (108 members)	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>		30 CGs (647 members, F=322 & M=325 )	<b>13</b>

## **PART-FOUR: MAJOR CHALLENGES AND MEASURES TAKEN**

### **4.1 Major Challenges Encountered**

While promoting the SHG approach in the country, the following major challenges were observed by CoSAP's member organizations and women institutions

- The recurrent political unrest in different part of the country has hampered the implementation of program activities. As a matter of fact, performance of some promoting organizations particularly those operating in Oromia and Somali regional states were influenced by the instability. (e.g. CDSA, ABDI, ADAA, and HUNDEE). The situation has caused irregularity of field monitoring and on the spot support program of CoSAP.
- The persistent change in officials of government offices was a setback to the timely completion of tasks that need supports of the respective government officials.
- Federations formed with highly dispersed constituent CLAs were unable to organize regular meeting of representatives due to distance and cost they incur. (Like in the case of Jinka and Gugufetu WSA).
- Regular staffs turn over in most field office of the promoting organization. Similarly, lack of facilitators in some areas after project phase-out and limited number of Community Facilitators (CF) has constrained SHGs to get technical supports.
- The increasing expansion in urbanization of major towns has caused displacement of targets SHG member living in most slum areas of these towns. resettlement of the women in different location of the new areas has resulted in collapse of the regular SHG and functions (JeCCDO, Hawassa )

On the other hand CoSAP has faced the ensuing major challenges during 2017.

- Limited source of income of CoSAP and thus unable to address the needs of its member organization as adequately as possible.
- Inadequate program staffing as compared to the geographical coverage and number of member organizations that needs to be coordinated and provided with the necessary technical assistance.
- Inconsistency in SHG implementation modality among member organizations

### **4.2 Measures Taken**

#### ***Measures taken by member organizations (and CoSAP)***

- Frequent discussions and communication has been done for activity re-planning as well as reschedule of monitoring programs

- Continuous introduction and communication with new officials has been made to finalize works started with the government office.
- Technical assistance and orientation on federation formation and CLA self assessment during supportive monitoring visits to members of federations. On top of the written reports, feedback sessions with staffs of promoting organizations were conducted to share findings of field monitoring.
- Some of the promoting organizations have attempted to assign volunteers as CFs
- Promoting organizations has been discussing with member of SHGs, CLAs and FEDs to find ways to meeting in their new places of residence.

### **Measures taken by CoSAP**

- CoSAP has developed its resource mobilization strategy that could guide for alternative actions to mobilize resources. And also assigned a separate unit to manage the resource mobilization effort of the organization.
- Attempts have been made to work under tight and prioritized work schools in consultation member organization
- regular on field support and feedback session at office level have been conducted to improve common understanding on standardized implementation the SHG approach in the country



## **ANNEX I: CASE PROFILES OF SELECTED SUCCESSES**

### **Case profile-1: A successful women from Hababo Guduru, Wollega (GURMUU)**

W/ro **Sukare Shanko** is a woman of 30 years of age with 4 Children living in Hababo Guduru Woreda in Lalistu Loya kebele. Her livelihood is based on farming over the plot of land she owns. Due to the small income she earns from farming, she was unable to meet all needs of her family. W/ro Sukare came to the SHG Called Kena under Yadatamne CLA which was established by Gurmuu's support in 1999 E.C. After coming to the SHG, She started saving regularly with the members.

W/ro Sukare says that “ I took a loan of 400 ETB for the first time from my SHG and started sell of variety of grains together with my husband. Besides, my husband has also engaged in animal trade thereby moving within the nearby towns (e.g. from Dadu to Bereha). We invested the money on purchase of 2 sheep, 1 cow and now increased in to 2 Oxen, 5 Sheep, 1 cow and 1 Hen. We got 4.5 hectares of land from Kebele. Over which we cultivate different crops like Teff, Pea, Bea, Niger, Maize, and Cabbage. Our life is showing better changes over time and become capable of sending our children to school.

Following the integration of SHGs with a project on Enhancing Sustainable Natural Resource Management & Resilience to Climatic Change of Women, W/ro Sukare has got an opportunity to gain additional skills on Beekeeping and agro forestry. Now W/ro Sukare has planted different trees like Wanza (cordial) on 0.5 hectare of land, 400 Gravilia tree, Tid around her yard ,Vetevar and Bee fodders. In addition, she also planted about 200 Coffee, 7 orange, 6 Mangos, 2 Papayas, 6 Avocados, 8 Apples, 1 Banana, 1 Mandarin and different vegetables. Apart from this, W/ro Sukare started to produce Honey with her family's support and has 30 traditional Beehive. At last she explains her achievements saying: *“since I joined to SHG and got Gurmuu's support, my life has changed a lot. I become advantageous socially, and economically and also best Practicing on coffee, Beekeeping and Agro-forestry after having received training support by Gurmuu. Currently, I am able cumulative a capital of 100,000 ETB which was never been far from 5000 ETB before I joined the SHG. In the future I have a dream to grow more to change my life and my family”*.

## Case Profile-2: A successful women from Bahirdar (DEC)

W/ro Aletashe Adera, a mother of 6 children is a 45 years age living in Gonbate kebele of Bahir Dar Zuriaworeda. She is a member of ‘Serten Endeg’ Self Help Group established. She is living in a place where most of the community member used to encourage and arrange early marriage. Since she didn’t get support from her husband, she was obliged to shoulder all the responsibility to raise and nurture her children with a very small income she earns from farming. She says:

*“My being organized in the group makes me beneficial in many ways and I really motivated to engage in different income generating activities. Using my farm land, I started sowing ‘Tefe’ in modern system along with other crops’.* W/ro Aletashe, further explains her success

Saying that *“Last time, took loan of 1,000 ETB from my group and I bought 7 hens by 500 ETB and 500 ETB for improved seed of Tefe. I have got a net profit of 4,000 ETB from both activities and paid back my loan to the group. I am so happy with all assistances I received from Development Expertise Centre (DEC). I am so glad that my children are attending their school with full confidence. Unlike in the older years of my*



*life, I am now actively involving in the fight against Harmful Traditional Practices, early marriage, as well as wrong perceptions against education of girls and women. Besides, I and my group members have improved social interaction and able to make regular discussion on a wide variety of issues during our weekly meetings’*

**Case profile-3: A successful women from Adama (RPC)**

W/ro Ehete Getachew is a member of **Tibeber CLA** and lives in Adama city kebele 11. She is a mother of five children living with her husband, who is a daily labourer. W/ro Ehete, has taken a loan amounting to 12,500ETB from her group and bought laundry machine before six months ago. With this loan, she is supposed to make monthly repayment of 1200ETB along with a 100ETB service charge after two months of grace period. As she planned, her business on washing service has gone well and within the past four months period, Ehete has already paid back 4800 ETB with a service charge of 400 ETB. Besides to her laundry, she is also making business by baking and selling of bread, and Enjera. She has a plan to add a second laundry machine to do her business with greater scale.



W/ro Ehete with her laundry machine

## Annex II: 2017 Statistical information of the SHG approach in Ethiopia

Description	Figure
CoSAP member NGOs	28
Total Number of SHGs	12,427
Total Number of SHG Members	229,763
Total Number of Children of SHG Members	525,159
Total Number of CLAs	726
Total Number of Timrets (Federations)	24
Total Number of Children Groups (CGs)	30
Total Number of Children in the CGs	647 (322 girls)
Total Saving	ETB 75,673,980 (USD 3.4 million)
Total Capital	ETB 99,674,194 (USD 4.53 million)
Total Loan given out	ETB 133,460,059 (USD 6 million)