Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church  
Child and Family Affairs Organization (EOC-CFAO)  

2012 Annual Report  

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SUBMITTED TO KINDERNOTHILFE (KNH)  

EOC-CFAO  

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# Table of Contents

1. Introduction .................................................................................................................. 1  
2. Major activities implemented during the reporting period; ........................................ 1  
   2.1. Institutional Care and Support Program ................................................................. 1  
   2.2. Scholarship Program .............................................................................................. 2  
   2.3. Details of activities accomplished during the reporting period ......................... 2  
3. Communications .......................................................................................................... 6  
4. Capacity building ......................................................................................................... 6  
5. Monitoring and Evaluation .......................................................................................... 6  
6. Strengthening of partnership ......................................................................................... 6  
7. Adjustments made at organizational level; ................................................................. 6  
8. Challenges encountered and actions taken ................................................................. 7  
   8.1. Challenges encountered .......................................................................................... 7  
   8.2. Actions taken ......................................................................................................... 7  
9. Key lessons learned ...................................................................................................... 7
**Acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOM</td>
<td>Board Of management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCCs</td>
<td>Child Care centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSOs</td>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIFDDA</td>
<td>Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development Dialogue and Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOC-CFAO</td>
<td>Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church-Child and Family Affairs Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDRE</td>
<td>Federal Democratic Republic Of Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOs</td>
<td>Governmental Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Human Immuno Virus/ Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNH</td>
<td>KlinderNotHilfe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M &amp; E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVC</td>
<td>Orphan and other Vulnerable Children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Introduction

The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church-Child and Family Affairs Organization (EOC-CFAO) is a faith based indigenous not for profit Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) established under the auspices of the EOC with a major objectives of providing care and support as well as education to Orphan and other Vulnerable Children (OVC) and empowering their caretakers/parents.

The founding of the EOC-CFAO goes back to 1973 during which a great drought claimed tens of thousands of human lives and livestock population and caused displacement of large number of people and disintegration of families in the northern parts of Ethiopia. In fact, the drought and the subsequent famine were partly responsible for the 1974 popular uprising which brought about the demise of the then feudal socio-economic and political order. In response to such an extraordinary catastrophe which left tens of thousands of children without parents, the EOC-FAO undertook massive interventions programs through the provision of temporary shelter, food, clothing and medical care to drought stricken compatriots with special focus on OVC and their guardians.

Initially, the EOC-CFAO has been registered as a NGO in line with the country’s civil code No. 404/1960 and regulation No. 321/1996 for the registration of NGO. It also has been re-registered as Ethiopian Resident Charity in accordance with Charities and Societies proclamation No. 621/2009 and Council Of Ministers Regulation for the Administration and Registration of Charities and Societies No. 00/2009. Today, the EOC-CFAO is operating on decentralized basis through 19 Child Care Centers (CCCs) situated in five Regional States and one city Administration.

2. Major Activities Implemented During the Reporting Period

This report is about major activities undertaken in 2012 budget year which are entirely financed by KNH, about challenges encountered and lessons learned.

Through the three program components outlined below, the EOC-CFAO has exerted the utmost effort to ensure the provision of appropriate services to the sponsored children and their caregivers during the reporting period.

2.1. Institutional Care and Support Program

During the reporting period 86 children under residential care were provided with food, accommodation, clothing, educational materials, medical care and treatment, psychosocial and other types of support.
2.2. Scholarship Program

This program incorporates children and adolescents who live with their biological parents, relatives or other caregivers and children who live alone or in group. Also included under the above program are children under the foster ship program i.e. children enrolled in higher institutions of learning and those attending Technical, Vocational education and training.

2.3. Details of activities accomplished during the reporting period

- Each of the 1,320 children in 13 CCCs were given birr 350.00 on monthly basis to meet their basic needs such as food, house rent, clothing and educational materials;
- They were also provided with psychosocial support by pertinent staff and other professionals on how to develop self-esteem, positive attitude towards life, constructive behavior towards societal norms and tackle challenges they may encounter;
- Supervisory visits were conducted by Program Directors and Project Leaders (Social Workers) on monthly basis in order to learn the wellbeing of the sponsored children;
- The African child day was Celebrated;
- Education day was Celebrated;
- Awards were given for children who performed exceedingly in vocational trainings and academic education;
- Tutorial classes were arranged for children on such subjects as Mathematics, Natural Sciences and English Language in order to improve their academic performance and curiosity;
- Christmas gifts were given to children;
- Counseling services and spiritual education were given to children;
- Health professionals gave advice and counseling to guardians on how to keep personal hygiene and environmental sanitation and how to actively get involved in the prevention and control of the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic;
- The children have participated in the celebration of the Ethiopian New Year, Christmas, and Easter during which spiritual and educative messages were communicated to them;
- 167 Children who were facing health problems received medical treatment at nearby health centers and Megbare Senay Hospital;
• Children have taken part in Anti-AIDS clubs at the nearby schools;
• The CCC at Axum has initiated the establishment of a network with educational institutions in its vicinity in order to facilitate the smooth progress of learning and teaching process;
• Children have taken part in different sporting activities;
• Nine children who got tested HIV positive were provided with balanced diet;
• Children received medical checkup on regular basis;
• 456 children have attended technical and vocational schools;
• Educational materials, training clothes and other essential items were procured and distributed to the children who have taken part in technical and vocational training programs;
• 456 children who have undergone vocational trainings were given out transportation fee to schools and back home;
• 246 children have graduated from various technical and vocational schools after they have successfully completed their trainings;
• Each of the 246 children who graduated from technical and vocational schools was given out Birr 800.00 seed money for initiating their own businesses;
• Foster ship grant was paid out on quarterly basis to 239 sponsored children who have been pursuing their studies at various public universities across the country;
• 81 children have successfully completed their studies and graduated from various public universities across the country;
• Each of the 81 children who has successfully completed his/ her studies in various public universities across the country was given out birr 900.00 to buy clothes and writing down his/ her thesis;
• Each of the 81 children who has successfully completed his/ her studies and graduated from public universities was provided with birr 800.00 to meet his/her basic needs until he/she finds a job;
• The majority of Child Care Centers (CCCs) have organized ceremonies for their respective graduating students during which time they gave them different awards.
Table 1: Number of KNH sponsored Children in 2012 in two programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Se. No.</th>
<th>Project Number</th>
<th>Name of Child Care Center</th>
<th>Location (town/city)</th>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Scholarship Scheme</th>
<th>Institutional Care</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>60001</td>
<td>St. Yared</td>
<td>Axum</td>
<td>Program T</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>60007</td>
<td>Mekelle</td>
<td>Mekelle</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>60052</td>
<td>Apostle Paul</td>
<td>Gondar</td>
<td>Institutional Care</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>60062</td>
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<td>Kombolcha</td>
<td>Kombolcha</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>106</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>60126/7</td>
<td>Bahirdar</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>60171/2</td>
<td>Gethesemani</td>
<td>Sebeta</td>
<td>Program T</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>60173/4</td>
<td>Genete Eyesus</td>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>Program T</td>
<td>276</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>Goba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1320</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>1406</td>
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</table>

Some of the 2012 university graduates at a farewell party
Foster child Sara Alemnew was born on 01/01/1991 at Lalibela. Both her parents died of an unknown cause. She has an older brother who is an attorney in Woldia. Dr. Sara was admitted for support under the reunification program at the age of 8 at Genet CCC, in Woldia in 1998 and was enrolled at Lalibela elementary school. Dr. Sara was a very good student both in elementary and high school for which she was awarded different prizes from Genet CCC at Woldia.

Dr. Sara passed 12th grade National Examination with good results and joined Jimma Medical University in 2006 and successfully completed her studies in 2012. Dr. Sara excelled her classmates in her academic performance and received a medal award I from the president of Jimma University. Dr. Sara is the only girl brought up under our support program to receive a doctorate degree in medical education. EOC-CFAO is proud of her great achievements. We are also sure that her foster parents are highly delighted by her success.

We would like to thank Kindernothilfe and her foster parents for their unreserved support the have extended to Dr. Sara, and hope that others will follow on her footsteps. Dr. Sara is currently working in Dilla university specialized Hospital.
3. **Communications**

- Appropriate reply was given to the various comments and requests coming from KNH.
- The sponsored children were able to communicate with their sponsors throughout the year;
- The sponsored children and the project offices have sent out to KNH, message of thankfulness for its gifts and donations.
- Identity, transfer and leaving forms have been filled out by the relevant project offices and submitted to KNH by the Head Office.

4. **Capacity Building**

Two EOC-CFAO staff members have taken part in training on the preparation and implementation of Child Protection Policy (PPP) that was organized by KNH.

5. **Monitoring and Evaluation**

During the reporting period pertinent EOC-CFAO’s staff members have made Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) visits to the respective project sites. In addition, the program directors of each CCC were communicated by telephone from the head office on a range of issues regarding activities under implementation. The M & E staff members have made effective use of all meetings and workshops organized by the head office to disseminate to project staff important messages on timely submission of reports, updating of children’s data and appropriate utilization of resources.

6. **Strengthening of Partnership**

The EOC-CFAO has continued to work with institutions with which it has already established partnership. These include Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA), Orphan and Vulnerable Children Network of Civil Society Organizations of Ethiopia (OVC Network of CSOs) and the Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development Dialogue and Action (EIFDDA). Additionally, the EOC-CFAO is ingeniously striving to establish partnership with other organizations that are working for and with poor children.

7. **Adjustments Made at Organizational Level**

During the reporting period the EOC-CFAO has made an adjustment to its organizational set up as per Charities and Societies regulations. Accordingly, a new General Assembly (GA) and a new Board of Management (BOM) were set up.
The GA comprises of some members of the Holy Synod of the EOC and individuals selected from GOs and NGOs in their personal capacity. On the other hand, members of the BOM were selected from among members of the GA. In addition, a by-law that guides the day-to-day activities of the GA, the BOM, the Secretariat (Head Office), Project Offices and Community Committees at the project level has been prepared, and submitted to Charities and Societies Agency for approval.

8. Challenges Encountered and Actions Taken

8.1. Challenges encountered

- high staff turnover for better salary and other benefit packages elsewhere;
- The children can hardly afford the expense of meeting their basic needs because of high inflation and the rising cost of both food and non-food items.

8.2. Actions taken

- We have brought the aforementioned problems to the attention of KNH in order to come up with realistic and lasting solutions;
- New employees have been hired in the place of those who have resigned;
- KNH made monthly stipend increment of the children to mitigate the problem brought about by soaring price of food and non-food items as of January 2013.
- KNH made salary increment for the entire staff to alleviate the financial problem they are facing.

8.3. Key Lessons Learned

- The EOC-CFAO has come to know that motivating children to participate in community activities such as Sunday schools, sport clubs, environmental education and Anti-HIV/AIDS clubs would help them to develop sound social interactions, internalize values, and sustain righteous behavior and character which ultimately draw social acceptance and integration.
- The EOC-CFAO has already come to realize that donors are making a paradigm shift as regards the kind of strategy they are supposed to adopt for meeting the needs of children in difficult circumstances. Thus, they are no more willing to pay for residential Child care programs which in their belief are too costly to manage. The other debate against this scheme is that most children who reside in residential homes fail to abide by established norms on account of their lack
of attachment to the community. The Ministry Of Women, Youths and Children of the FDRE is also voicing its resistance to institutional child care program due to the reasons mentioned above and has recommended that institutional child care program should be adopted as a last resort after all other options are exhaustively applied. Therefore, taking our experience into account and realizing that residential child care program is no more a viable option, EOC-CFAO is planning to change to community based child support program its long standing strategy of supporting children in residential setting.

- The EOC-CFAO has as well recognized the urgent need of diversifying its donor base and initiating community based child support programs in the years to come. This has been clearly stipulated in the Strategic Plan and Management Document that guides the organization’s direction for the coming three years (2013-2015). Likewise, the EOC-CFAO is committed to looking for as many potential donors as possible both at home and abroad. Additionally, the EOC-CFAO has understood the need to establish new partnership with a range of organizations and strengthen the existing ones in order to access resources, and exchange experience on matters that affect the lives of children under difficult circumstances. Finally, we would like to re-affirm our commitment for boosting our relationship with KNH, our long standing development partner without whose help our mission of helping out Highly Vulnerable Ethiopian children would not have been realized.