JP GEWE Annual Review Meeting Workshop Report

April 06-07, 2016
Adama Ras Hotel, Adama Town
I. Background

The JP Annual Review Meeting (ARM) is part of the programs monitoring and evaluation framework. The Meeting was organized by Ministry of Women Children and Youth Affairs (MoWCYA) and took place in Oromia Regional State, Adama town from 06-07 April February 2016. Participants from all regions and city administration of the country were present. Apart from the regions participants from the federal ministries i.e MoWCA, MoFEC, JP implementing UN Agencies except for UNESCO, UNICEF and UNFPA; major donors of the program i.e Norway embassy representative were present throughout the meeting.

The ARM had the objective of assessing the progress being made in relation to the implementation of 2007 EFY AWP and identify constraints in the implementation of the program and being the last ARM, discuss on the way forward for the program.

A keynote address and an opening remark were made by ................. 1 The meeting session was mainly moderated by Ato Mebrahtu Yimer, Program and Resource Mobilization Team Leader at MoWCYA.

The methodology used during the meeting include PPT Presentations and Panel discussion among participants. Structured after the meeting agenda, this workshop report aims to summarize the highlights of the meeting, plenary discussions and identified action points.

II. Brief presentation on achievements and challenges under EFY 2007 AWP and JP GEWE Monitoring Visit

Addisu and Million – Kindly provide brief summary of your presentations

Summary of discussion on the presentation

- In some regions the leadership commitment for JP must be checked and an accountability mechanism set up to ensure the same. (SNNPR)
- Where there is delay in releasing fund, the reason for the same must be communicated in a transparent manner.
- In some cases, fund might not be transferred even after regions have prepared a detailed action plan.
- It would be good if other regions share their experience of how they managed to get a 90% loan return and what their strategy have been.
- It is advisable if the JP had a mechanism where best practices in performance is shared between regions
- In Addis Ababa the budget that is allocated for implementation of interventions is very minimal.

The is a misconception that GBV prevalence in addis ababa is very low and donors are not

1 Please find attached summary of the opening remark. (Please provide the text of the opening remark)
interested to fund initiatives related to GBV. It would be good if this issue is considered under the third phase of the JP.

- The presentations would have been better if plan versus achievement is presented.
- During the presentation it was mentioned that a GBV code of conduct was drafted before the JP intervention. Hence, it should be corrected in the report.
- The JP is totally aligned to government development plans and government office programs hence commitment of leadership in the implementation of the program is not and should not be an issue.
- Implementing UN Agencies do not hold proper monitoring in some regions such as Gambella this must be corrected during the next phase JP.
- Whenever we identify challenges we must assign a responsible/accountable organ for the same in order to ensure accountability.
- Norway: the effect of the draught on the implementation of the program has not been raised in the discussion and participants were invited to share their views on the matter. Some regions stated that the draught had an effect where there is a population follow to other areas which makes the same inaccessible for community conversation and follow up. In some areas hit by the drought there is a challenge of school dropout.
- Question regarding the attribution of success to JP particularly on reduction of HTPs was raised from Norway.
- In Afar the draught forced the BoWCA to bring community conversation participants to Woreda level rather than hold the discussion at Kebele Level. Also the frequency of discussion was reduced to once in a month rather than twice a month which was the case.
- There was a question regarding the attribution of success to the JP in some areas such as HTP and the likelihood of diffused resulted due to duplication of efforts in one area. In response to this, regions highlighted that in fact the JP created a coordination mechanism where by government structures in target Woredas make sure that only Woredas’ or Kebeles not covered by the JP will be targeted for other similar interventions. The experience was similar for almost all regions. It was also indicated that the trend is where the JP starts an intervention and that intervention is stopped other actors such as NGOs take up on the experience and build up on it in the same area.
- In regions such as Tigray, NGOs that were found to intervene in the same focus area of the JP were made to change their target Woreda to avoid duplication of effort.
- In Benshangul, some interventions started by the JP GEWE Phase I was discontinued in Phase II. Hence, Save the Children was made to take up the initiative and continue the work. Also there is a trend in the region where the fund from the JP is so nominal, other organizations are invited to fund the initiatives so as to make up for the gap. Also Sique/NGO took up the interventions of the JP GEWE as a best practice and started working on similar area in the region.
- Challenge with regard to budgeting, particularly budget from the government was highlighted during the discussions. Most HTP related functions were totally left for UN Agencies or other development partners to cover for the costs and where budget is delayed or altogether not sent,
this creates a significant inconvenience to the region where activities planned for the year are not carried out.

- A comment was made from Afar that there must be a synchronized effort between BoWCAs and BoJs at the regional level for better impact. However, as it stands now all responsibilities are left for the regional BoWCA. There is sometimes a trend noted in the Region that some communities declare the abandonment of FGM in a particular Woreda and still carry out the act in another Woreda. This can only be followed up on by the law enforcement branch of the regional government, hence why their involvement is very necessary.

- The JP was very successful in Somali region in terms of tackling the worst forms of FGM which are currently almost not committed. Through the program it was made possible to reach the grass root community to the level of Kebele. Also, the GBV coordination meeting which was initiated by the JP enabled the signing of MOU with each organization working on the areas of GBV to ensure that there is no duplication of effort is created.

- Most regions were in agreement that before the JP there was a lack of coordination and after the intervention of the JP, regions were conscious of duplication of effort and directed any newly initiated program to areas that are not covered by any program.

- A challenge was noted in Oromia where awareness is created among the public yet the justice and law enforcement machinery lags behind. This created a situation where when the community brings cases to the justice sector, due attention is not given which in turn becomes discouraging. Also, HTPs are still committed in remote areas of the region, this must be given due attention in the upcoming JP.

- Why is there not a change in technical issues related to M and E and quality of reports despite the continuous capacity building effort by the JP was among the quarries made. It was stated that this is mainly attributed to the high turnover in the various offices. It was even noted that only few people that took part in the last JP GEWE Review Meeting were present in the current meeting due to turn over.

- While male engagement could be raised as best practice in some regions, in other regions such as Benshagul it was found to be harming to involve men in IGA efforts towards targeted women. The men were noted to dominate the fora. Accordingly, caution must be taken when we push for male engagement.

- In some regions, rather than turnover of experts at office level, turnover of CC facilitators was raised as a challenge.

- There was a report on results related to Gambella region in the presentation on the JP GEWE MPTF annual report. The representative from Gambella commented on this saying there was no intervention in the region in 2007 and the report should avoid mentioning the region.

- One of the results of the JP raised from a participant is the experience of the JP GEWE targeted women in cultivating Tomato which was not the case before the JP intervention.
- There is a gap in documentation and reporting since the people who report and document are different from the people who are usually taking part in capacity building trainings and review meetings such as this. This must be remedied in the next JP GEWE.
- In Gambella, UNICEF under outcome 4 budgeted however have not released the fund which created a gap in implementation of the regional plan on the area.
- Despite the high expectation the JP raised in relation to Gender Responsive pedagogy, almost nothing has been done on the area. Similarly, there is no study carried out so far with a view to measure the impact of life skills training on students.
- Some regions highlighted that more must be done with regard to HTP abandonment declaration. Without declaration all efforts towards sensitization will not be able to be measures for result.
- Delay in reporting and fund request apart from delay from Agencies to release fund has continued. There must be a built in mechanism in the next round JP to curb this challenge.

III. Brief presentation on Financial management of the JP /PIM

Addisu and Million- kindly provide brief summary of the presentation on financial management

Summary of discussion on the presentation

- There is a challenge related to DSA rate for Government Officials and community members as implementation follows the PIM. From Tigray for example, it was stated that the PIM standard DSA for community members is below the government DSA which became a challenge. Also, most Community Conversations involve religious and community leaders where it is a challenge to provide them with similar DSA with other community members.
- There was an agreement among participants and moderators of the meeting that the PIM need to be revised before any further step is taken towards JP GEWE III. The participant from MoFEC responded to this by indicating that the Ministry is going to take the bi-annual meeting it has with Regional BoFECs to hear the challenges they face while implementing the PIM with a view to make amendments to part of the Manual where the most challenge is found.
- It was further stated by participants that there must be a general meeting before the PIM is revised so that it accommodates concerns of the different stakeholders that apply the PIM.
- For international travel it was suggested that the fund should not come through government account since liquidation post facto has a lot of hustle i.e receipt is requested for spending’s if it is processed according to government financial rules.
- For some IPs, even after the fund is in their account notification does not reach them on time which is creating problem.
- Another challenge raised was, challenges related to procurement where agencies release fund with delay and they expect liquidation before the end of the budget year whereas government procurement processes takes lots of time which further create challenges with liquidation and reporting.
IV. Brief presentation on JP GEWE III

Ato Mesfin Zewide from MoWCA had a presentation on the proposed JP GEWE following which participants provided preliminary comments which is summarized below: Mesfin, Addisu and Million

– please provide summary of presentation

Summary of discussion on the presentation

- It is noted in the challenges section of the presentation that there is a limited baseline which further makes it difficult to measure results at the end of the program implementation. How is this problem going to be addressed in the III phase of the JP?
- With regard to women economic empowerment, it should be clear at what level the JP GEWE III plans to intervene i.e is it going to focus on rural women/urban women/women in the civil service. The level of intervention need to be clearly outlined since the intervention to be made to support urban women is different both in strategy and focus than that is made to support rural women.
- The support provided to economically challenged high school students used to be administered by BoWCAs in the past, currently the support is being made by BoEs. This is a challenge since it is the BoWCAs that female students approach whenever they face difficulties related to finance i.e financially challenged female students usually lack the means to transport to their parents at the end of the school year and they submit their request for support to BoWCA.
- Financial support to needy students should not be something that could be terminated at some point since it has severe consequences for target students.
- With regard to accountability, it was noted that it shouldn’t only be limited to financial accountability and there must be a system where regions should be made accountable related to their performance.
- It was suggested that there must be a target to capacitate women organizations at all levels and in various aspects since as it stands currently, they play a multitude and crucial role in the community.
- There doesn’t seem to be an intervention on the participation of women in the Judiciary. It is noted that the intervention that particular branch of government is different both in its nature and strategy. It would be good to have an assessment on the challenges towards the participation of women in the judiciary and identify possible intervention to integrate it in the JP.
- It was pointed out that at some point the JP need to have highlevel intervention focusing on legislative reform to facilitate further promotion of GEWE i.e legislative quota for the participation of women in leadership and decision making, amendment of policies to align it to current emerging global and regional normative frameworks such as the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- The outcome on mobilization cannot be a standalone outcome and it should be mainstreamed under each intervention.
In closing the session on JP GEWE III, Ato Mebrahtu underlined that this is just the beginning of a multi-round discussion on the proposed program and regional IPs will have a chance once the program is cleared by the Technical Working Group of the current JP GEWE.

V. Closing and follow up action

The Program was officially closed by H.E Zenebu Tadesse, Minister – Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The minister in her closing remark emphasized on two areas namely resource mobilization and documentation of results, issues that are highly interlinked. She further made a call to implementing partners that they need to ensure that there is value for money and each region need to maximize on each resource that is mobilized.

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Responsible entity</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Organise JP GEWE TWG meeting to further discuss on JP GEWE III</td>
<td>MoWCA</td>
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<td>2 Finalize annual reporting of 2015 to donors</td>
<td>UN Women and UNFPA</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>Deadline is for physical report submission</td>
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