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Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

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ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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UNDP

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Subject: Submission of Annual Physical Report

It is to be recalled that The Ethiopian Humana Rights Commission has been implementing several activities based on the approved annual work plan for 2015-16 entitled Strengthening Democratic Governance to Accelerate and Sustain Ethiopian Transformation.

Enclosed herewith; please find the physical report. I remain,

With regards,

Addisu Gebreigzabier (Dr.)
Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
Chief Commissioner



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Ethiopian Human Rights Commission- UNDP Fund Annual Report for the Fiscal year/15

UNDP Programme Period	2013-2015/16
Project Title	Strengthening Democratic Governance To Accelerate And Sustain Ethiopia's Transformation
Key result Area (Strategic Plan)	Dem. Governance and Capacity Building
UNDP Atlas Award ID	Project No. 00076745
Implementing Institution	EHRC
Total Contribution	US \$
Total Expenditures as of the reporting date December 2015	US \$
Balance	US \$

• Context

Project Title: Strengthening Democratic Governance to Accelerate and Sustain Ethiopia's Transformation

Project outcome of UNDAF: by 2015, national actors have enhanced capacity to promote, protect and enjoy human rights and constitutional rights and accessibility to efficient and accountable justice systems as enshrined in the condition and in line with international and regional instruments, standard and norms.

Description of the Project: This project is a capacity development intervention aimed at consolidating the established positive momentum on building democracy and consolidation in Ethiopia. The strategic orientation of the project is to enhance government responsiveness to sustainable development by strengthening institutions, mechanisms and processes that facilitate and promote transparency, accountability, rule of law/justice, and wider participation.

Project output 3 of EHRC: capacity of national human rights machinery strengthened to effectively promote and protect Human rights.

Implementing Partner: MoFED

Responsible Parties: EHRC, EIO, FEAC, HOPR, NEBE

Reporting Party: EHRC



Results achieved under output 1: Mobilization of the general public for promotion and protection of human rights

1. Six Human Right Forums Established In Six Regional States

- Establishment of human right forums is considered as one of the pragmatic and sound strategy towards ensuring mass-based participation and motivation for institutionalizing the agenda of human rights. Accordingly, the Commission has established such forums throughout the regions whereby its branch offices are situated. In light of this, the Commission has established six human right forums in six regions: i.e. in Amhara, Debub, Tigray, Somali, Oromia and Assossa regional states. Under each forum various human right teams are established within the three human right clusters; namely; government, education and community based /public clusters. Accordingly, Six human right forums along their full structure in 6 regional states established and trained TOTs was given to 10,000 team leaders, who have been assigned to serve as representatives of institutions nominated under 18 clusters established across over six human right forums

2. Human right forums mobilization messages and programs, through both electronic and print Media channels, disseminated.

- As powers and duties of the Commission to educate the public, using the mass media and other means with a view to enhancing its tradition of respect and demand for enforcement of rights up on acquiring sufficient awareness regarding human rights. During the project period, the Commission preferred to use printing media to educate the public about human rights, and dealt to published and distributed agenda, wall Calendar, table calendar. Hence, a total of more than 8,000 copies of agenda, wall calendar and table calendars have been published and distributed to various representatives of human right forums.



3. Provide tailor-made human right trainings to the staff of the Commission

- Different training sessions organized and provided to 253 (143 M and 110 F) staff on various national policy and strategic packages, with a view of building on their competencies and thereby to make them able to discharge their tasks in diligent manner.
- 160 (101M and 59 F) staff were participated in the validation workshop, held at Bishoftu Ethiopian Management Institute, that organized to induct and validate on the overall performances of GTP-I and on newly designed strategic plan (GTP-II) of the Commission.

4. Celebration of International Human Rights Day

- International Human Rights Day, which falls on the 10th of December every year, marking the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Commission has celebrated the day; which has been celebrated for the 67th time in international and 9th time in Ethiopia. The celebration was aimed to promote human rights and mobilize stakeholder's agendas of human right. It is coincidental that the Human Rights Day often falls on the next day immediate after the celebration of the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples day that marks the adoption of the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The celebration of human rights day in this regard is very important, especially in raising the awareness of the general public and also ensuring the attendance of high ranking officials. Thus, this year's celebration was commemorated with the theme of "Respect and Protect Human Rights through Good Governance and Sustainable Development" is the motto the Commission has selected for this year; and OHCHR theme was "Our Rights Our Freedoms Always". To convey this message and raise human rights awareness, the Commission has organized different events and used different methods. Amongst others,

i. Marching

- One of the events was marching of about 287 participants who rallied from Gambella Branch office to center of the town where the final gathering and the official inaugural ceremony of billboard and continued to a place where a panel discussion was conducted. T-shirt and capes, bearing human rights message and the logo of the Commission have been distributed. At the middle of the show, the Chief Commissioners of the Commission have delivered a speech deals with the official launching of new billboard. The marching was at last finished at the regional council hall where a panel discussion was held.

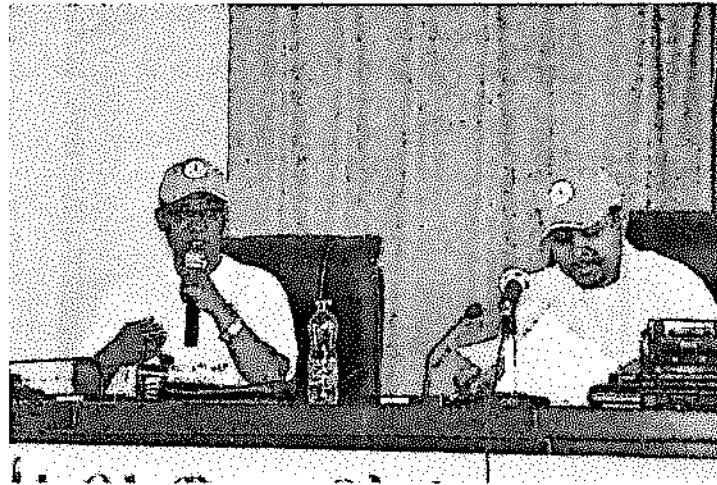


Marching during the event



ii. Panel discussion

- The commemoration of the human rights day held in Gambella capital of Gambella regional state was finalized by conducting panel discussion. The panel discussion theme was on “Eliminate Drawbacks of Good Governance via Respecting and Protecting Human Rights”. At the opening Chief Commissionaire and president of Gambella regional state have delivered a welcoming speech and representative of OHCHR read the statement of the UN-Secretary General.



Panpanel discussion participants

iii. Promotion through radio, TV and Printing media

- The Commission has continued promotion of human rights during the celebration of human rights day. Accordingly, a message dealt on the event was broadcasted via six media outlets (both printing and nonprinting media's) including Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation. In addition, SMS text message was sent to the public to all mobile users.

iv. Billboards and banners

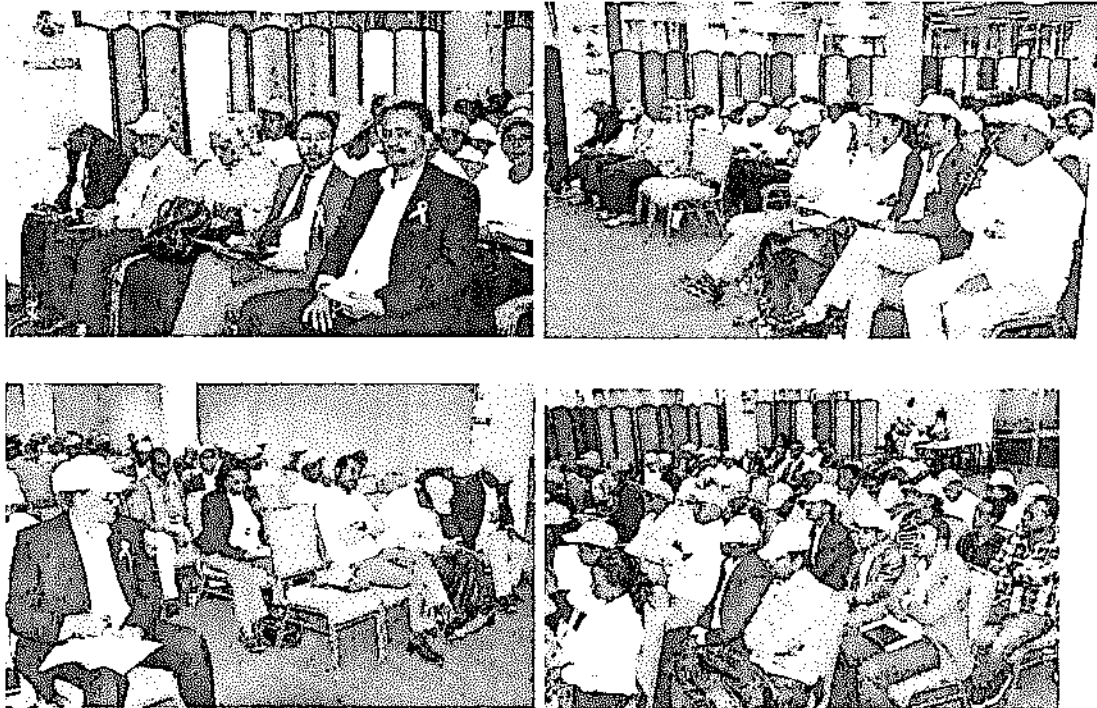
- One billboard and five banners bearing human rights messages are displayed at different parts of Gambella as part of commemoration. The billboard was displayed at the centre of the town.



The official display of Billboard in Gambella town



- In addition to the celebration at the national level, the day was also celebrated in all eight branch offices; Assossa 58 (48 men and 10 women), Mekelle 100, Jigjiga 82, Jima 51, Semera 250, Bahrdar 357 and Hawassa 157 (157 men and 63 women). As well as in Head office the event was celebrated with 121 participants attend on the event.



Commemoration of Human rights Day in Head Office



Achievements under output 2: strengthen protection of rights and redressing violations

5. Conduct investigation and redress human rights violations and publish 20 selected cases and or reports

- Investigation manual was approved by the Council of Commissioners' and operationalized.
- A total of 1372 cases have been submitted to the commission of which; most of the cases were solved amicably and counselling, while the remaining cases handled through investigation and referred to relevant institutions.
- More than 9693 cases were submitted to the Commission through hotline free calls and have been dealt through referral and advisory procedures.

6. Develop and publish human rights monitoring reports (National Human Right situational Report)

- The Commission, as national human right institution is expected to produce human right status report. Hence, a steering committee was set up; and designed an outlining (Component) of the report, preparation benchmarking 120 indicators, designing of questionnaires, identifying of background sources information, relevant laws, policies and consultancy. Accordingly, as per the outline the first stage of developing background document, Benchmarking, Data collection were conducted. Currently, the actual writing of the report is underway.

7. Provide financial support to strengthen the operational of existing legal aid centres and the opening of new centres

- The Commission has opened 126 free legal aid centres in cooperation with universities and CSOs, and more than 20,000 women, children, disabled and indigent members of the society have benefited from the service of the legal aid centres. To comprehensively manage the centres, the Commission conducted preliminary assessment dealt on how and to which centres financial support be provided; and when the centres submit their reports; how monitoring and evaluation of centres will be conducted; besides on how the



coordination of the centres with the branch offices will be effected. The assessment was conducted to mitigate problem so far identified by the Commission and to anticipate problem resolution techniques. Above all the assessment was headed concurrently with national legal aid strategy.

8. Conduct monitoring of the implementation of NHRAP at federal and regional levels

- The First National Human Rights Action Plan was adopted by the parliament and being implemented for the last three years. The action plan put an obligation and reached consensus for all concerned public agencies to incorporate the action plan into the annual working plan of implementing institutions as well as submit their specific annual work plans and performance report to the office. Hence, to flourish the national comprehensive results achieved, the second National Humana Rights Action Plan is being developed.
- The Commission as a steering committee member is playing crucial role by providing necessary technical and logistics in developing the Second National Human Right Action Plan draft. The draft plan was shared to management members of the Commission and they were being able to put forward their points of concern on the plan and able to magnify the role of the Commission in execution of the plan. Besides, the Commission set up a committee of three experts to conduct assessment on performance of the first (2003-2007 EC) Action Plan. The Committee was able to review the role of national human right institutions in developing, execution, reporting and monitoring of the plan, the role of public service in implementing of action plan; related with budget and human allocation, reporting and coordination system they follow with relevant stockholders and the performance of the plan in implementing the rights of women, children and other vulnerable group of the society.



Achievements under output 3: Mainstream Women, Children and PWDs rights

9. Mobilization of the public through community conversation for the promotion of human rights including right of women, children and PWDs

- The Commission held various community conversation for promotion and protection of human rights of women, children and PWDs. As indicated in the first national human right action plan the right of the elderly; the Commission conducted community conversation; so as to enhance awareness of the society to support and aid the elderly. As the efforts to make society realizes that family and community care and support of the elderly is more effective than dependence on the institutional option. Besides, the conversation with the relevant authorities to prioritize the rights of elders in all their structural levels.
- The Commission plan to set-up women's forum, to smoothening the environment for women employee in the commission, which helps them to conduct conversation, share work experience and to mitigate problems they face on their right. To set up the forum pre-conditions was already fattened and being at last stage to establish the forum.

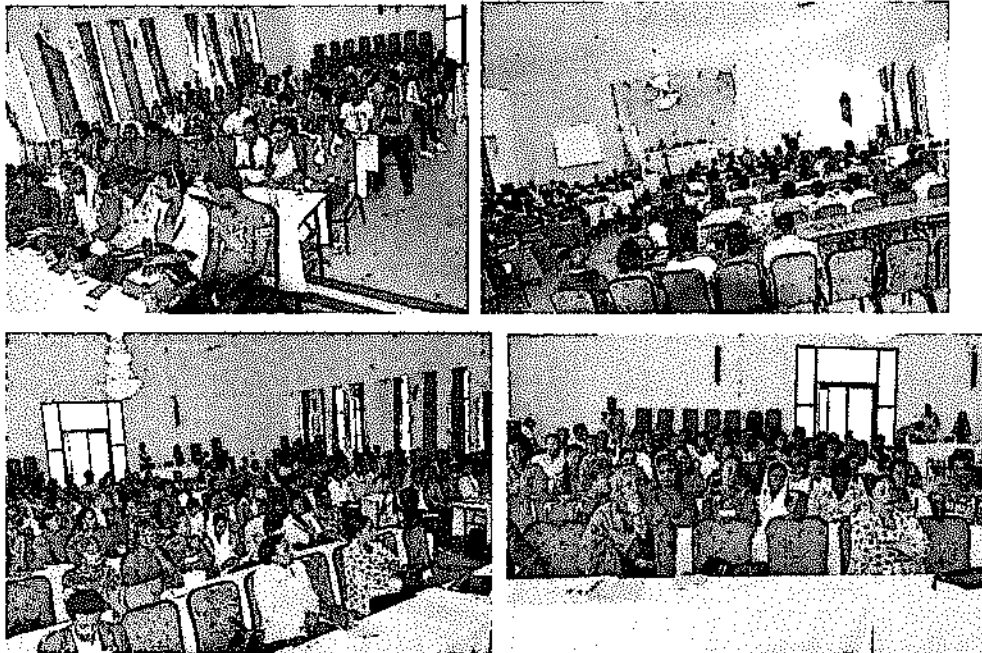
10. The International Day of Elders

- The International Day of Elders was commemorated in 1 October in Tigray regional state at Mekelle city with Tigray Elders Association. The event was celebrated with theme of the international 2015 commemoration "Sustainable urban development for elder's involvement and beneficiary"; hence, it was organized by visiting to elder's site and conducting presentation topics on rights of elders to 89 (86 men and 3 women) participants. In addition, the commission has provided financial and technical support to the Elders association; to play in promoting and protecting right of elders.

11. Commemoration of 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence:

- In connection with the commemoration of the 16 days of activism it was celebrated to massively campaign against gender based violence in head office and all branch offices. At national level the event was celebrated at Hawassa; able to address violence against women and human rights in collaboration with Hawassa, Dilla, WolaytaSedo and Arbaminch universities via panel discussions. A total of 112 (68 men and 44 women) representatives from students, instructors, higher officials from Hawassa and others attend on the event and the motto of the day “Let Us Protect Gender Based Violence as They are Human Right Violations”. Hence, to enhance awareness brochures were distributed to the participants. The day was also celebrated in all branch offices.

The objective of the 16 days of activism is to mitigate Against Gender Based Violence by creating awareness to concerned stakeholders would take effective measures to comprehensively respond to violence against women. The campaign also aimed at bringing to the attention of participants the crucial role of men to end violence against women.



Celebration of 16 days of activism

12. Celebration of universal children's day

- Universal Children's day, commemorated every year on the 20th of November. The Commission including all branch offices has celebrated the day by organizing different events. The national celebration of Universal Children's day was undertaken in Asossain collaboration with Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation. A total of 353 (150 men and 203 women) students and other representatives from schools attend the event. The day was celebrated with a motto of "sustainable development for children's right and participation" marked through different contests among children, awareness raising program through question and answer session on the rights of the child and also a discussion among school children and instructors was held. Moreover, the Commission has also organized a question and answer contest during the event. The questions mainly focus on the rights of children and mandate of the EHRC and the participants were children from elementary schools. Girls took part both as attendants and as participants of the contest. The event was also broadcasted on Ethiopian Broad Casting Corporation on children's program for 45 minutes for two days.

It is believed the celebration of the event in such activities would raise the awareness of the public in general. The celebration in the area, such as this one, have contributed to raising awareness on the rights of the child paving the way for mounting campaigns on harmful traditional practices that affect the enjoyment of the rights of the child.





Celebration of persons with disability day

14. Establish human right clubs at schools and conduct protection activities

- To promote and protect human rights in school, the commission has already opened human clubs at primary, secondary and at university level. During this report period, the Commission has also opened new 43 human right clubs; 10 at Semera- Afar regional state, 23 at Mekelle- Tigray Regional State and 10 at Gambela- Gambela Regional State. In addition, the Commission has also strengthened the already opened human right clubs.

15. Develop thematic reports on women, children and PLDs and publish them

- The Commission has able to produce a document on human rights and children for primary and secondary school students. The document specify on the thematic areas of human right and children, which exerting its effort towards integrating and inbuilt the concept of human rights since their child hood. The document was designed and prepared in child friend approach, so as children easily understand their rights.

To distribute the human right document, a national workshop was conducted with participants from higher official of all regional educational bureaus and all regional commissionaires in Adama. During discussion an agreement was reached on partnership between all regional bureau and two city administration and the Commission on how the two parties exert their effort to improve awareness of children on their right. Ultimate, more than 10,000 child friendly human rights document was distributed to all primary and secondary school in all region and two city administrations.



The Commission has been conducted prototypical results in promoting and protecting the rights of women, children and other vulnerable groups of the society in aligned with National Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP -1). Hence, to publishing the achievement comprehended by the Commission in promotion and protection the right of desegregated group of the society since 2003-2007 E.C is well-intentioned. The team set-up has already collect data, analyze and finalized the first draft, which only necessitates approval by higher commissionaires for publication.

16. Organize workshops, pilot projects and awareness and advocacy campaigns on protection of vulnerable groups from HTP

- The Commission organized training with Ethiopian Elderly and Pensioners National Association, to enhance awareness of the society in respecting of the right of elderly and sensitization role of the Commission in promotion and protection of elders rights.

The Commission has been able to prepare children anthem, which helps children to easily understand their right. The anthem has been distributed to various primary and secondary schools in the country and currently it was distributed to various 11 primary schools in located at Benshagul-Gubmuz regional state via Assossa branch office.

• Challenges Faced

- * The limited amount of fund guaranteed for the fiscal year hinders for the implementation of the Commission set out in the annual plan.
- * Delay in submission of both physical and financial reports from branch offices.
- * Late approval of the AWP UNDP-funded project.