



FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Ethiopia

Thematic window
Culture & Development

Joint Programme Title:
Harnessing Diversity for Sustainable
Development and Social Change

April | **2013**

Prologue

The [MDG Achievement Fund](#) was established in 2007 through a landmark agreement signed between the Government of Spain and the UN system. With a total contribution of approximately USD 900 million, the MDG-Fund has financed 130 joint programmes in eight Thematic Windows, in 50 countries around the world.

The joint programme final narrative report is prepared by the joint programme team. It reflects the final programme review conducted by the Programme Management Committee and National Steering Committee to assess results against expected outcomes and outputs.

The report is divided into five (5) sections. Section I provides a brief introduction on the socio economic context and the development problems addressed by the joint programme, and lists the joint programme outcomes and associated outputs. Section II is an assessment of the joint programme results. Section III collects good practices and lessons learned. Section IV covers the financial status of the joint programme; and Section V is for other comments and/or additional information.

We thank our national partners and the United Nations Country Team, as well as the joint programme team for their efforts in undertaking this final narrative report.

MDG-F Secretariat

FINAL MDG-F JOINT PROGRAMME NARRATIVE REPORT

Participating UN Organization(s) United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)- Lead Agency United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC)	Sector(s)/Area(s)/Theme(s) Please indicate Thematic window and other relevant sub thematic areas Culture and Development
Joint Programme Title Harnessing Diversity for Sustainable Development and Social Change (HDSDSC)	Joint Programme Number 00071978
Joint Programme Cost :- 3,556,631.00 [Sharing - if applicable] [Fund Contribution): USD UNESCO 2,890,787.97 UNDP 665,843.88 Govt. Contribution: 00.00USD Other: TOTAL: 3,556,631.00 USD	Joint Programme [Location] Region (s): Africa Governorate(s): The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia District(s) - Tigrai National Regional State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amhara National Regional State - Addis Ababa City Administration - Oromia National Regional State - Southern Nations, Nationalities and People National Regional State - Harrari National Regional State

Final Joint Programme Evaluation

Final Evaluation Done ☒ Yes ☐ No

Evaluation Report Attached ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date of delivery of final report -----

Joint Programme Timeline

Original start date 2 July, 2009

start date of the programme:- Completed

Final end date 31 December, 2012

(including agreed extended date) Yes

6 month no-cost extension granted from 2 July to 31st December, 2012

Participating Implementing Line Ministries and/or other organisations (CSO, etc):-

1. Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT)
2. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED)
3. Ministry of Education
4. Bureaus of Culture and Tourism (BoCTs)
5. Bureaus of Finance and Economic Development (BoFEDs) in financial management and procurement
6. Ethiopian Wild Life Conservation Authority in providing capacity building training and awareness creation on environment and wild protection
7. Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) in provision of Trainings
8. Credit and Micro Finance Institutions – in providing revolving funds
9. Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural heritage (ARCCH) in study and preparation of Heritage Site protect law, Management plans and other documents

Report Formatting Instructions:

- Number all sections and paragraphs as indicated below.
- Format the entire document using the following font: 12point _ Times New Roman.

I. PURPOSE

a. Provide a brief introduction on the socio economical context and the development problems addressed by the programme.

Ethiopia is an ancient country with a remarkably rich linguistic and cultural diversity. This diversity includes tangible and intangible heritage with both traditional and modern cultural expressions, languages, and centuries old know how in handicraft production. In fact, Ethiopia's cultural industry is perhaps one of the oldest in the world and is exceptionally diverse. The intangible heritage of Ethiopia is also rich with an exceptional variety including ceremonies, festivals, celebrations, rituals, and other living expressions. Moreover, nine of Ethiopia's cultural and natural heritage sites are listed on UNESCO'S World Heritage Site attesting to the outstanding universal value of Ethiopia's heritage. The rich cultural landscape is further enhanced by the representation of numerous religions including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and other traditional religions. The peaceful co-existence of these religious communities for centuries is a testament to Ethiopia's social cohesion. Moreover, Ethiopia is a land endowed with immense biodiversity.

In contrast to its rich cultural and natural heritage, Ethiopia is among the least developed countries in the world. Extreme poverty is the major challenge of the people of the country. Historically, state support for cultural pluralism was very limited and institutional capacity continues to be inadequate. Although the various cultural/religious communities have co-existed peacefully for centuries, inter religious dialogue was not encouraged under the former totalitarian regime. Despite the age-long peaceful co-existence of the diverse people of the country, this time around, it has started to see conflicts of religions and culture in the country.

As in many developing countries, population pressure, environmental degradation, poverty and global warming endanger Ethiopia's natural and cultural heritage. The living indigenous knowledge and practices in nature management have not been utilized to safeguard these resources. In addition, the creative industries are not well developed due to numerous reasons including inadequate legal framework, ineffective implementation of laws, weak operational capacity, and inadequate entrepreneurial capacity and age-long traditional marginalization of artisans. With respect to the aforementioned socio-economic context of the country, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) has engaged itself in an all round development endeavour aimed at eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development. The effort made by the FDRE to ensure sustainable development, as it stands, has bear fruit in enabling the country to be one of the fastest growing of the world. In view of this, the project which has been funded by the MDG:F has addressed the following development problems.

One of the major development problems in Ethiopia is the prevailing extreme poverty and joblessness. From this point of view, the project has contributed its share in the fight against poverty. In doing so, it has created job opportunities that increased the income of the target beneficiaries and made them to live better life through upgrading the weak skill, technical and financial capacity of the target beneficiaries and in some places linking with the market. It also organized producers within the craft industry.

Empowerment of women is one of the major development agendas of the government that was addressed by the project. In this regard, by acknowledging women's' role as both 'value carriers' and 'value creators, the project has benefitted very large number of them to get jobs and improve the lives of their families and themselves. The highest number from the target groups of the project who benefitted much from the project are women and youth.

As indicated above, the other major challenge for the cultural and creative industries in the country is the inadequate legal framework, ineffective implementation of laws, weak operational capacity and

inadequate entrepreneurial capacity. To this end, capacity building trainings and workshops were organized to the government institutions, NGOs, religious institutions, community members and other stakeholders which have highly contributed to mitigate the above mentioned challenges. Various laws, policies, heritage site management plans, dialogue tool-kits, studies, assessments and survey documents, Manuals, Heritage Maps, Tourism Plans, BDS, Tourist Guide and Posters produced and made available for use have created fertile grounds for future interventions on culture and development.

The other challenge that the project has attempted to address was the persistent problem in heritage management. As cultural heritage do not only generate income but also build social cohesion and mobilizing communities around its care and management, a number of need based capacity building trainings and workshops that helped the government institutions, non-government organizations, community members, religious institutions and other stakeholders in addressing the challenges as well as identifying and managing heritage conducted.

Although the various cultural/religious communities have co-existed peacefully for centuries, inter religious dialogue was not encouraged. As a result there have been cultural and religious conflicts in some areas. Since culture is a major vehicle for social cohesion and stability, the project has worked in promoting mutual understanding and appreciation of diversity (reciprocal understanding and respect each other), peace and reconciliation, which are essential elements for constructive engagement among different cultures and religions. In this regard, the project has organized and conducted a number of intercultural/interreligious dialogues that bring observable changes in the establishment of dialogue forums and making peace and reconciliation among people and thereby avoiding a number of potential conflicts that could inflict huge damages. The dialogue forums established have been instrumental in contributing greatly for the advancement of respect for differences as well as diversity. The intercultural/interreligious dialogues have, to a large extent, facilitated the change in an age-long attitude of marginalizing artisans. As a result of this, the artisans are now engaged in their business without intimidation, which was a serious problem thus far. Youths have also showed interest and started to engage in the business of the sector.

In the area of environment protection too, the project has been able to facilitate the sharing of experiences between the traditional and modern practices of environment protection. In this regard, the traditional environment protection knowledge and experience was shared to modern practitioners while the agro-foresters and environmentalists have shared their practical exercise to the traditionalists. This has given a lesson for those involved in the sector to look for the synthesis of the tradition and the modern while addressing the issue of sustainable environment protection. On top of these, the indigenous knowledge and practices of the community in relation to environment management are also well documented and are being utilized to ensure sustainability.

The project has also contributed in the creation/strengthening of cultural infrastructure and institutions, such as establishing cultural centers and renovation of museums that are significant generators of employment and revenues and contributed to strengthen the cultural tourism sector through production and selling of local crafts, music and cultural products.

The absence of any base line data or tangible statistical information with regard to culture, cultural and creative industry sector as well as their contribution to the national economy has been a major challenge for the development of the culture sector. The absence of tangible statistics has hampered the power of the sector to convince the government so that enough resource and budget be allocated. However, this project has created a base line data about the contribution of the sector to the national economy. It has been proved that more than 15.9 million which is about 19.5% of the total population are living through the income generated from the sector in the country. From this point, the project has conducted various researches, assessment, surveys, and produces draft policy, heritage site management plans, heritage maps, dialogue toolkits and manuals and other documents. In order to make this data accessible to government, NGO, Civil society, researchers and the citizen at large, a

cultural data base has been created a web based data base (www.ethiocraft.gov.et) and the data are being uploaded.

a. List joint programme outcomes and associated outputs as per the final approved version of the joint programme Document or last agreed revision.

Outcome 1:- Mutual understanding of commonly shared cultural/religious values and respect for diversity as well as natural heritage conservation strengthened.

Output 1.1:- National and regional stakeholders/traditional and religious leaders empowered on shared cultural/religious values and diversity as well as natural heritage conservation.

Output 1.2:- Systems on harnessing shared cultural religious values and diversity institutionalized.

Outcome 2:- Cultural and natural heritage including indigenous knowledge better managed, protected, and utilized.

Output 2.1:-The national, regional government and other stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSO's) gain competency in the identification, management, and protection of heritage including indigenous knowledge.

Output 2.2:- Policy and Regulatory framework as well as guidelines on the management and protection of heritage including indigenous knowledge revised and developed.

Output 2.3:-Local communities and grassroots organizations become more aware and actively participate in the management, protection, and utilization of heritage including indigenous knowledge.

Outcome 3:-The potential of cultural industries (handicrafts and creative) and tourism harnessed for income generation and poverty alleviation.

Output 3.1:- Living Culture Resource Center established and made operational.

Output 3.2:- Artisans equipped with better skills and technologies.

Output 3.3:- Mechanisms that empower and better integrate artisans into the market devised and made operational.

Output 3.4:- A system that enhance the contribution of creative industries in the economy and the social system improved.

Output 3.5:- Culture based tourism branding in the respective regions studied, designed and utilized.

b. Explain the overall contribution of the joint programme to National Plan and Priorities.

The national plan and priority of the Government of Ethiopian is indicated in the five years (2011-2015) Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP). Registering accelerated, sustainable and fair economic growth, fostering social development and ensuring its quality, develop capacity and enhance good governance and increasing the capacity and development effectiveness of women and youth are among the strategic pillars of the plan. Especially with regard to the culture and tourism sectors, the plan focuses on the following points.

- ensuring the sustainable development of tourism and conservation of Ethiopia's divers and unique culture and cultural heritage sites, and encourage community's participation so that cultural activities and tourism contribute their share to an overall socio-economic development and democratization process of Ethiopia,
- protecting and promoting Ethiopian cultural diversity; promoting the culture of the different nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia and developing these in harmony with modern education; enable the country to be competent in the international tourism market and particularly making Ethiopia one of the most selected tourist destinations of Africa and to create a conducive environment, whereby the country's wildlife and their habitats are protected and developed in a sustainable manner.
- Promoting inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue, in order to enhance mutual understanding and development. Enhancing and promoting Ethiopian nations, nationalities, and peoples languages and folklores.

- The cultural policy ensures to create a favorable condition to the languages, cultural, historical and natural heritage, fine arts, handicrafts, oral literature, customs and other cultural elements of the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia, receive equal recognition.

From this point, the project has the following major contributions.

- The Joint Project document supports the Ethiopian government efforts in alleviating poverty through the direct and indirect contributions of culture to economic growth. The direct contribution of the JP includes creation of culture related income generating schemes. In this regard, income generation opportunities through cultural industries allow economic development, diversification of income, and serve to supplement the income of the poor. The job opportunities created has increased income generation capacity of the project beneficiaries of which the majorities are women and youth who have shown an observable livelihood improvement. It has strengthening the development and implementation of culture related laws/policies and the incorporation of indigenous knowledge to heritage management.
- The indirect contributions include the creation of enabling and conducive environment for the citizens of the country at large by enhancing social cohesion, creating peace and stability among peoples that fosters socio-economic development through promoting mutual understanding and appreciation of diversity, reconciliation and peace, which are essential elements for social stability and constructive engagement among different cultures and religion. It also empowered the community with special emphases on empowering disadvantaged groups (women and youth).
- In order to ensure the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the cultural and natural heritage, legal frameworks have been developed. From this point, heritage management plans for World Heritage Sites, review of Cultural Heritage Inventory System and other relevant documents have been produced.
- With regard to enhancing and promoting Ethiopian nations, nationalities, and peoples languages and folklores, [Ethiopian](#) Languages policy drafted; the Cultural policy of Ethiopia, issued in 1990, revised; Orthographies, Grammars and Folklores on the languages of the Ari and Hamar ethnic groups studied, documented, produced and made ready for use.
- The languages policy drafted and the cultural policy revised as well as the Orthographies, Grammars and Folklores studies done for the Ari and Hamar ethnic groups creates a favorable condition to the languages, cultural, historical and natural heritage, fine arts, handicrafts, oral literature, customs and other cultural elements of the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia, receive equal recognition.

c. Describe and assess how the programme development partners have jointly contributed to achieve development results.

The major development partners of the project have contributed the following in order to achieve development result.

1. UN agencies

- UN agencies, as development partners of Government, have provided assistance in developing their capacity to fulfill their evaluation responsibilities. Facilitating and coordinating the mid-term and final evaluations as well as the implementation of the recommendations provided by the mid-term evaluation. Participating in the meetings of the High Level Steering Committee (HLNSC), Project management Committee (PMC) and Project Management Team (PMT) and giving innovative ideas on how to make the project more successful. The UN Agencies have also participated in

conducting the quarterly joint monitoring missions and Preparation of Annual Work Plan.

- Facilitating the smooth flow of fund based on the Harmonized fund transfer modalities.
- Preparation of the project Advocacy and Communication strategy, action plan and training on Participatory communication Approach, Tools, Methodology, Designing the project Communication Plan, Production of Communication Materials, Developing Partnership and Local Media Network and Communication Budget Organizing capacity building trainings to the project coordinators on Result Based Management (RBM), Planning, Monitoring and Reporting for Development Results and Gender issues.

II. ASSESSMENT OF JOINT PROGRAMME RESULTS

- a. Report on the key outcomes achieved and explain any variance in achieved versus planned results. The narrative should be results oriented to present results and illustrate impacts of the pilot at policy level).**

Outcome 1

Mutual understanding of commonly shared cultural/religious values and respect for diversity as well as natural heritage conservation strengthened.

- Social coherence strengthened and understanding of the commonly shared cultural/religious values created due to the fact that the common cultural and religious values are identified and promoted through the interreligious/intercultural cultural dialogues. As a result of the dialogue forums possible conflicts were protected. Destroyed religious institutions by the conflict have been rebuilt by the concerted efforts of all people. (Kindly see the attached success story of “Interreligious Dialogue for Peace Building”) This best practice has been replicated in various places. Youths have organized themselves and disseminate anti-conflict messages to their community members. The participants have shown strong will and eagerness to disseminate the message through existing institutions (schools, religious institutions, community association, etc) for peaceful co-existence and environmental protection through modern and indigenous knowledge.
- The shared values of various religious communities regarding environment conservation compiled and the capacity of religious leaders and community members built on tolerance and respect for the environment through inter religious dialogue.
- After the research documents produced on the Orthographies, Grammars and Folklores studies of the Ari and Hamar ethnic group Languages, the Hamar and Ari people have believed that they have the right to learn by their vernacular and asked for the preparation of curriculum in their vernacular.

Outcome 2 Cultural and natural heritage including indigenous knowledge better managed, protected, and utilized.

- Fertile grounds have been created for the cultural and natural heritage including indigenous knowledge of the country to be better protected and utilized sustainably. In doing so, Management Plan for the four World Heritage Sites, Review of Cultural

Heritage Inventory System, Assessments of Linkage between Natural and Cultural Heritage Protection and Indigenous Knowledge, Conservation Status of the Archaeological Sites of Harar and its Environs and the Review of World Heritage Conventions and Charters in line with Ethiopian Heritage Legislatives have prepared and made ready for use. The cultural heritage (Tangible and intangible) maps for the four regions have been prepared.

- As a result of the training conducted for heritage professionals and stakeholders on heritage identification, protection of tangible, heritage mapping and intangible heritage and site management methodology, the participants acquire the necessary knowledge and skill for a better management and protection of cultural and natural heritages.
 - The BoCT professionals have produced tangible and intangible heritage maps in their respective regions of Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNP.
 - The professionals who participated in the capacity building training by the project have renovated their museums in Harrar, Oromia and Tigray, renovate -the heritage, organize their museums in a way that are good for visitors and made operational.
- In addition to this, the experience the professional got in project management, monitoring and evaluation would be great asset for future project management and resource mobilization.
- Local communities and grassroots organizations have become more aware and actively participated in the management, protection and utilization of heritages including indigenous knowledge.

In general the capacity development trainings increased the capacity of governance to enforce the implementation of the developed policy and other documents in the field of culture. The policy and other documents are also improved conditions for cultural industries and to better define role of ethics and values for sustainable protection of natural environment through inter-faith dialogue.

Outcome 3

The potential of the cultural industries (handicrafts and creative) and tourism harnessed for income generation and poverty alleviation.

- The project has enabled 876 beneficiaries out of which 349 Male and 527 female from 52 Associations to fully engage into economic activities. As a result, the beneficiaries are now living better life.
- Women have got economic power through getting their own source of income and lead their family. This gave them to be free from economic dependency on their husband and increase their decision power on issues need joint decision of husband and wife in their house hold. **(Kindly see the attached success stories “We are now dreaming for better tomorrow”)**
- Youths have also got job and become self reliant. Some of the youth goes to the extent to transmit their knowledge to the age mate and creates job to other youths. There are youths who go to the extent to engage in philanthropy activities after they become self sufficient. **(Kindly see the attached success stories on Girmachew Worku)**
- Creation of fertile ground for future culture and development intervention to Harness the Cultural Tourism for Income Generation in Sustainable Manner.

- The various studies that produces documents on the Cultural Enterprises Business Development Service (BDS) Modalities, Identifying Actors in the Craft Industry Value Chain, the Assessment on Cultural Tourism, the Feasibility Study on Tourism Industry's use of Cultural Assets, Identifying Potential Customers for Craft Products through research on the Market Situation of the Craft Industry, the Marketing Strategies for Music and Painting sub-sector and the Modality of Linkage Between the Actors Along the Value Chain have created fertile ground for future culture and development intervention to Harness the Cultural Tourism for Income Generation in Sustainable Manner.

In addition to the above stated impacts, the project has also resulted the following.

- The Ownership of the project by the Leadership of national and local governmental institutions is one of the major achievements of the project. This has been clearly seen in the fact that;
 - The MoCT and BoCTs have integrated the Annual Work Plan (AWP) of the project into their annual work plan.
 - They have provided full support for the project coordinators through assigning experts from their offices when ever required. This means, the project has able to mobilize a very large number of professionals though it recruited only one project coordinator.
 - providing buildings for the establishment of the LCRCs for free,
 - The project has also able to engage various government institutions, higher educational institutions, and parliamentarians, Associations, community and religious leaders into the project.
 - The project has been able to create baseline data in the country with regard to culture, cultural economy, cultural statistics and tourism. When this project was designed, the major challenge was absence of data base.
 - A centralized database on handicraft industry with an interactive website has been developed and made operational. The data base consist the information on the quality and quantity of products and services that highly promotes e-marketing.
- b. In what way do you feel that the capacities developed during the implementation of the joint programme have contributed to the achievement of the outcomes?**

The capacity developed during the implementation of the JP has contributed to the achievement of the outcomes in the following ways.

- **At individual level:-**
 - By providing new knowledge and experience and developing a sense of confidence on the target beneficiaries to fully and aggressively engage into the intended business or other related activity.
 - By helping to create partnership among stakeholders.
 - By enabling the beneficiaries to transmit their knowledge to others.
 - By creating an enabling legal environment so as to freely work.

- **Institutional level: -**

This has been mainly done through provision of capacity building trainings. As a result, the MoCT and BoCTs have got skill in project management, preparation of projects, Monitoring and evaluation, and producing of various legal documents. Based on the capacity building trainings, professionals working in the BoCTs have produced a number of research documents, Heritage maps and others by themselves.

- **Community level:-**

Traditional associations have also benefitted from the various dialogue forums and awareness creation activities and have started to engage in many different activities.

- c. **Report on how outputs have contributed to the achievement of the outcomes based on performance indicators and explain any variance in actual versus planned contributions of these outputs. Highlight any institutional and/ or behavioural changes, including capacity development, amongst beneficiaries/right holders.**

The outputs under outcome 1 have contributed the following for the achievements of the outcome.

- The dialogues forums, training and awareness raising activities conducted have enabled 1981 of community leaders, teachers from 99 Government schools at different levels, 14 NGOs, 14 CSOs, 51 Community based organizations (CBOs) and 20 other organizations to discuss in analytical manner on shared cultural/religious values and natural heritage conservation using a toolkit produced by the project. Based on training and discussion forums it was agreed to disseminate the message through existing institutions (schools, religious institutions, community association, etc) for peaceful co-existence and environmental protection through modern and indigenous knowledge.
- In order to conduct similar Interreligious/intercultural dialogues even after the closure of the project, a standardized intercultural/interreligious dialogue tool kits and implementation manuals that would serve to harness shared cultural and religious values and diversity developed and shared to regions. These documents have also created good working ground for further cultural development. It has also enhanced the capacity of the religious leaders, government staff and the cohesion among the society in general.
- The dialogue forums contributed for the protection of bio-diversity and forest area, promoting peace since church/mosques traditions on conservation of forest resources, tree seeds collection and traditional medicine were shared during the intercultural dialogue.
- The different training and awareness raising workshops, conferences and festivals organized have given the opportunity to peoples from different religious and cultural backgrounds to come together and know each other.
- Based on training and discussion forums, the beneficiaries not only agreed to disseminate the message through existing institutions (schools, religious institutions, community association, etc) for peaceful co-existence and environmental protection through modern and indigenous knowledge but also continued to share the knowledge they got.
- The experience sharing activities on the traditional and modern way of environment protection and sustainability have also enabled the community members better understand the need to protect and conserve environment especially forest.

- Baseline studies on the common cultural/religious values as well as study on natural conservation are done and the result of the studies disseminated to the regions to be used for the intended purposes.

The outputs under outcome 2 have contributed the following for the achievements of the outcome.

- Four heritage maps, 37 studies, 2 surveys, 6 assessments, 2 toolkits, 2 manuals, 2 Tourism plans, 2 BDS, 1 Tourist Guide and many posters related to tourist attractions, four World Heritage Sites management plans for Lalibela, Fasil Gibi (Gonder), Tiya and Aksum as well as the revision of site management plan for Jogul(Harar) world heritage site; review of cultural heritage inventory system in Ethiopia; Assessments of Linkage between Natural and Cultural Heritage Protection and Indigenous Knowledge; Conservation Status of the Archaeological Sites of Harar and its Environs; A guide line for the management plan of Ethiopian world heritage sites; Review of World Heritage Conventions and Charters in line with Ethiopian Heritage Legislation; Ethiopian languages policy; cultural industry development package; Orthographies, Grammars and Folklores studies of the Ari and Hamar ethnic groups Languages; a draft of the revised version of Cultural Policy of Ethiopia produced have contributed for the intended goals of the outcome.
- The Heritage identification, protection and site management methodology training conducted in Amhara, Tigray, Harari, Addis Ababa, Oromia, SNNP and MoCT, has enabled stakeholders from governmental and CSOs acquire knowledge and skill for a better management and protection of cultural and natural heritages. During the training it was also agreed on the national policy formulation process.
- Trainings on cultural industries including music, film, art, craft design, and production for artisans of different categories of handicrafts, Wild Animals counting techniques and conservation particularly along the historic route were given.
- The assessment and development of policies, law, regulations and site management methodology and plans; and the Orthographies, Grammars and Folklores studies of the Ari and Hamar Languages create favorable condition for future heritage protection and management intervention especially for the country's World Heritage Sites.
- Heritage identification, protection and site management methodology training conducted (in Amhara, Tigray, Harari, Addis Ababa, Oromia, SNNP and MoCT, has enabled stakeholders from governmental and CSOs acquire knowledge and skill for a better management and protection of cultural and natural heritages. During the training it was also agreed on the national policy formulation process.
- The Orthographies, Grammars and Folklores studies of the Ari and Hamar ethnic groups Languages enabled the members of the two Ethnic groups to ask their right to educate their children in their languages.

The outputs under outcome 3 have contributed the following for the achievements of the outcomes.

- Cultural infrastructure such as the establishment of Living Cultural Resource Centers (LCRCs), renovation and the new museums getting into service contributed for the potentials of the cultural industries (handicrafts and creative) and tourism harnessed for income generation and poverty alleviation. From this point, the target beneficiaries have started to use the LCRCs as sales outlet for tourists; as design 'house' where

products can be designed; centre to create opportunities for different producers to access micro finances in order to invest in improving their production; creative communication platform for the surrounding communities not only to learn from each other, but also to respect and protect their common heritage; showroom for promoting export of Ethiopian handicrafts; a workshop where artisans work every day on their creativity; and serve as a museum and a point to collect information.

- The attitudinal change observed on the artisans to resist the age-long traditional marginalization and feel proud of their professions highly supported them to fully engage into the business.
- The artisans associations are now become self-sustaining and capable of contributing to the socio-economic development of their communities.
- The project has able to create baseline data for the first time in the country with regard to culture, cultural economy, cultural statistics and tourism. When the project designed, the major challenge was absence of data base.
- A centralized database on handicraft industry with an interactive website has been developed and made operational. The data base consist the information on the quality and quantity of products and services that highly promotes e-marketing.
- A total of 876 beneficiaries of which 349 Male and 527 female from 52 Associations have received startup capital with the amount of 199,564.78 USD. The revolving fund, skill development training and production equipment provided have enabled beneficiaries to fully engage into business and improve the lives of their families. The increased income generated by the beneficiaries is the result of craft industries enhanced by developing and strengthening production capacity, quality control, and marketing of crafts.
- Craft trade fairs conducted in the project implementation has opened market access opportunity for 9121 project to sell and promote their products.
- The increased capacity and the understanding of the fact that culture contributes for development on the national regional authorities and local communities has contributed for the achievements of the outcome.
- Based on value chain studies conducted by the project on key actors in the value chain, identification of potential customers, established modalities of linkages and trade fairs organized, market linkages created for 126 beneficiaries organized in 6 associations.
- Professional skill trainings for artist enabled them to form their association and start benefiting from what they are producing.
- Cultural mapping and stakeholders sensitization held in cultural tourism sector which can be used for the development of cultural tourism conducted.
- Centralized database on handicraft industry with an interactive website has been developed. The data base consist the information on the quality and quantity of products & services of crafts as well as design bank and a facility for e-marketing. It is also useful for policymakers and analysts, who are responsible for the analysis and formulation of national development plans and policy recommendations with regard to

strengthening cultural industries as a strategy for poverty reduction and local economic development.

Table -1 Training, workshops and dialogue forums

	Year 1		Year 2		total	
	No	No. of beneficiaries	No	No. of beneficiaries	No	No. of beneficiaries
Skill development Training	24	1721	34	1983	58	3704
workshop	10	503	33	2994	43	3497
Dialogue forums	9	467	4	488	13	955

d. Who are and how have the primary beneficiaries/right holders been engaged in the joint programme implementation? Please disaggregate by relevant category as appropriate for your specific joint programme (e.g. gender, age, etc).

The primary beneficiaries of the joint program are government institutions and their professionals, religious institutions and their followers, community members, community associations, people especially women and youth engaged in the cultural and creative industries.

The government institutions have been benefited from the capacity building trainings and the policy, heritage management plan for World Heritage site, review of cultural heritage inventory system, assessments of linkage between natural and cultural heritage protection and indigenous knowledge for current and future culture and tourism related development interventions.

The artisans and artists have benefited from the skill development trainings, provision of production equipment and revolving fund to start up their business. They are also benefitted from provision of production and sales places and the market linkage created. These provisions have shown an observable change in the improvement their livelihood. The artisans also benefited from the awareness raising activities in that the age-long tradition of marginalization has been significantly reduced or eliminated in some project sites which encouraged the artisans to build self confidence and fully engaged into the business.

The religious and cultural institutions and their followers have benefited in a way that they got ample opportunity to know, understand and respect others values which in turn enjoy peace and peaceful co-existence with others.

d. Describe and assess how the joint programme and its development partners have addressed issues of social, cultural, political and economic inequalities during the implementation phase of the programme:

a. To what extent and in which capacities have socially excluded populations been involved throughout this programme?

The artisans which have been highly marginalized due to the age long wrong attitudes towards them are one of the marginalized community groups full involved during the project implementation time. They participated in skill development trainings and workshops, and intercultural and interreligious dialogues. These groups of people are now happily engaged into their business with out fear.

The women who have been excluded in most cases from the economic benefits have also been involved in trainings and workshops. They have benefited from the trainings, provision of equipment and business start up capitals. Most of the women have changed their livelihood.

b. Has the programme contributed to increasing the decision making power of excluded groups vis-a-vis policies that affect their lives? Has there been an increase in dialogue and participation of these groups with local and national governments in relation to these policies?

- As a result of the engagement of women into business and increase in their income, their negotiation power has increased.
- The members of the different religious institutions and cultural groups have continued to organize themselves in various forums at the national, regional and local level and discuss on various issues including government policies. For example, in the interreligious/intercultural dialogue forum, the national and international laws with regard to human right, individual rights and other issues raised and discussed.
- The Ari and Hammer ethnic groups found in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State have claimed their right to prepare curriculum after the Orthographies, Grammars and Folklores studies of their Languages have been done.

c. Has the programme and its development partners strengthened the organization of citizen and civil society groups so that they are better placed to advocate for their rights? If so how? Please give concrete examples.¹

d. To what extent has the programme (whether through local or national level interventions) contributed to improving the lives of socially excluded groups?²

e. Describe the extent of the contribution of the joint programme to the following categories of results:

a. Paris Declaration Principles

Since the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness focuses on creation of national ownership and capacity development to ensure management for results, mutual accountability, harmonization, alignment, and ownership as the key ingredients to development, the project has been worked to this end.

- **Leadership of national and local governmental institutions**

The project is very much successful in engaging the national and local government institutions in the project design and implementation of the project. It is also successful in creating strong feeling of ownership by the national and local government authorities.

- **Involvement of CSO and citizens**

The joint program has involved CSOs and Citizens in many respects. The CSOs have been involved in provision of tailored trainings, participating in validation workshops, dialogue forums and others.

Citizens have been the prime movers of the project throughout the implementation time. They have taken part in all trainings, workshops and dialogue forums. They also served as a source of information while the studies, assessments, and other documents produced by the project.

¹ Yes. Kindly see the parts on B and C.

² Kindly see the report on how key outcomes achieved and outputs contribution.

- **Alignment and harmonization**

In aligning and harmonizing the project outcomes, outputs and activities with the priority plan of the government, the project has already been prepared taking the priority plan of the government. Whenever it needs to adjustment, the project has made a number of meeting and consultations with government and other relevant institution to adjust the program. The project has been reviewed two times and adjustment made accordingly

- **Innovative elements in mutual accountability (justify why these elements are innovative)**

As per the recommendation of the mid-term evaluation, the Project Management Team (PMT) has included two regional project coordinators (the Oromia Addis Ababa). This helped in that since these to coordinators are directly involved in the actual implementation of the project, they have provide direct and important information to the PMT. It also created a sense of representation by the other project coordinators.

b. Delivering as One

- **Role of Resident Coordinator Office and synergies with other MDG-F joint programmes**

The role of the UNRC has been demonstrated through the following activities.

- At the national level, the MDG National Steering Committee (NSC) provides guidance to all the joint programs, which Culture and Development JP is one particularly in terms of coordination between programs and harmonization of procedures.
- By organizing capacity building trainings and workshops to the joint program staffs on various important issues such as on how to write effective success stories.
- It also organized experience sharing sessions among the five joint programs.
- By participating on the PMC and High level National Steering Committee meetings and providing invaluable ideas.
- By providing advices for the program management team whenever requested.

- **Innovative elements in harmonization of procedures and managerial practices (justify why these elements are innovative),**

The major innovative harmonization procedure is that UNESCO for the first time in the world has entered into Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers to implementing partners (HACT) modality.

As per the recommendation of the mid-term evaluation, the Project Management Team (PMT) has included two regional project coordinators (the Oromia Addis Ababa). This helped in that since these to coordinators are directly involved in the actual implementation of the project, they have provided direct and important information to the PMT. It also created a sense of representation by the other project coordinators.

- **Joint United Nations formulation, planning and management,**

The United Nations Agencies have been participated in the following major issues with regard to formulation, planning and management.

- planning of the Annual Work Plans (AWPs),
- Coordinating the quarterly conducted joint monitoring missions, In this regard, the UN Agencies have prepared the joint monitoring plans and project follow up and monitoring check list.
- Participating in the preparation of the revised work plan and improvement plans for the no-cost extension time

III. GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

a. Report key lessons learned and good practices that would facilitate future joint programme design and implementation

- All UNESCO, UNDP, MoCT and BoCT grasped enormous lessons how to manage joint programs in general and for cultural development in particular. Thus, any continuum new development programs would be more effective and efficient.
- The program has shown the implementing government innovative intervention areas to promote cultural values and that the potentials of these values can be harnessed and transformed into economic values. The program also disclosed the fact that there is a wide-range of issues that the sector should accomplish through regular budget or formulating similar projects (for instance, further promoting quality standards of handicrafts, creating strong market linkages and harnessing economic values of heritages through tourism development, implementing the proposed policy frameworks, etc.)
- The project also revealed the relevance of establishing strong inter-sectoral linkages for culture and tourism development (for instance, MoCT/BoCT should work with Religious Institutions, Bureaus of Education, Bureau of Agriculture, Youth and Women's Affairs, etc.).
- Promoting cultural diversity serves as a spring board to sustain the achievements of the program since it provides a range of opportunities and nurtures human capacities and values.
- Development of diversity of the cultural and natural heritages is perhaps the most important area to generate non-farm incomes (hence poverty reduction) for marginalized people and is decisive for the growth of the tourism sector.
- Unlike the other sectors, intervention to preserve and promote cultural heritages seems relatively not expensive, if well managed, but the rewards are so huge - particularly benefiting the poor and micro enterprises at the grassroots level and the nation at higher level through promoting tourism.
- This program showed that culture and tourism need to be considered as one of the focal areas for the development of the nation since it serves as a vehicle for social cohesion, stability and sustainable economic development. The program has already put in place the bases and helped to identify gaps for future interventions. That is, it

has created opportunities for a new intervention to build on what have been already established.

- Rather than undertaking several pieces of studies, fragmented workshops and training, it is advisable to organize comprehensively at national or regional level for efficient use of resources.
- A new program need to take into account the existing enabling environments; i.e.; socio-cultural, institutional and policy factors, before entering into operation.

b. Report on any innovative development approaches as a result of joint programme implementation

- The strategy the MoCT and BoCTs employed to implement the project is found to be an innovative approach to implement the project. The institutions have integrated the annual work plan of the project into their yearly plan and implement as if it is their own plan. While doing so, they have assigned their own professionals to execute the activities.

c. Indicate key constraints including delays (if any) during programme implementation

a. Internal to the joint programme

- Initial delay of nine months for preparation, particularly preparation of detailed AWP, for recruitment of the necessary staff in the government and UN Agencies and the elaboration of TOR for consultants
- Administrative problems within the Ministry of culture which highly impedes the efficacy and effectiveness of the project
- Few implementing staff (one full time coordinator in each region) with less experience in project management.
- Use of different procedures among the UN Agencies and delay in fund transfer
- Capacity problem in coordinating and managing projects due to shortage of experience in managing projects. The capacity problem is also seen in timely and quality reporting. This project is new experience for the ministry.
- The nature of the project. That is the project is over ambitious. All culture and tourism issues are included. The project has been implemented in six regions.
- Very little has been done with regard to communication that would contribute much for its visibility.

b. External to the joint programme

- Since the third tranche was not transferred, it becomes difficult to implement those activities that were very much important for realizing the full outcome and ensure sustainability. To some extent, it was also created a problem not to implement related activities that should be implementing after the completion some activities.

c. Main mitigation actions implemented to overcome these constraints

- Harmonized implementation of the JP is positively accepted by the HQs of UNESCO, which will facilitate the implementation with the recruitment of the M&E specialist, which positively accepted by MoFED.
- The JP from MoCT, UNDP and UNESCO reached at an agreement to meet as needed and communicate regional counterparts on a regular basis.
- Result Based Management, Planning, Reporting and Monitoring for Development of Results was conducted on April 5 and 6, 2011, Genet Hotel, Addis Ababa to the project coordinators at federal and regional level

d. Describe and assess how the monitoring and evaluation function has contributed to the:
a. Improvement in programme management and the attainment of development results

The quarterly joint monitoring missions conducted by the project management team has provided invaluable support for the project coordinator to make immediate corrective measures if any before it gets into irreversible challenges.

b. Improvement in transparency and mutual accountability

Since an open discussion held in every monitoring mission with the project coordinators and the beneficiaries, nothing will be done in secret. Especially, the fund allocated to each project sites will be to all project partners and stakeholders especially to beneficiaries, the culture of transparency has been worth mentioning. As a result, all have been engaged with a sense of ownership.

c. Increasing national capacities and procedures in M&E and data³

d. To what extent was the mid-term evaluation process useful to the joint programme?

The mid-term Evaluation has benefited the project in the following ways.

- It clearly indicates the critical problems of the project to be resolved with down-to-earth recommendations; and the achievements to be strengthen. For example, the recommendation to develop a scaled down revision of the current program with full participation of the regional coordination officers and get approval by the MDG-F and NSC.; the reduction of the LCRCs from 6 to 4, and strengthening the coordination mechanisms through the inclusion of the two regional project coordinators in the weekly Project Management Team meeting.
- It provides an opportunity to extend the project to additional six-month no-cost extension time with the practical guide lines and direction on how to prepare revised work plan for the no-cost time.
- It helped to prepare an improvement plan
- The Advocacy and communication strategy implement that increased visibility and discussion in the media as a result of the Program activities,

e. Describe and asses how the communication and advocacy functions have contributed to the:

a. Improve the sustainability of the joint programme

The ownership of the project by the national, regional and district government authorities has not only improved but also ensured the sustainability of the project achievements. Here the Amhara Regional Government has provided 500.000.00 birr (27,779.00) to the youth project beneficiaries to strengthen and sustain their work.

The understanding of the government authorities on the fact that culture can contribute to the all-out socio-economic development will also contribute to the sustainability of the project. From this point, some of the regional government authorities have decided to provide raw materials with very reasonable price to artisans from the nearby tannery and textile factories. They have also confirmed the fact that they realized culture can contribute much.

The socio-economic benefits the direct beneficiaries of the project gets from the project will be the corner stone for the sustainability. The women have already committed to continue their business since they have seen the results in their life.

³ Kindly see the report on how key outcomes achieved and outputs contribution

The capacity building and skill development trainings provided to the beneficiaries are also improving the sustainability of the project. The project beneficiary from the Addis Ababa has continued to provide trainings on film production, script writing to theater and other to other youths. The participants of the interreligious/intercultural dialogue forums from Addis Ababa have replicated their knowledge in their sub-cities.

The Advocacy and Communications Strategy has contributed its share in promoting the objectives and the major achievements of the project through various methods like the production of DVDs, awareness raising campaigns, dissemination of information through regional FM-Radio programs.

b. Improve the opportunities for scaling up or replication of the joint programme or any of its components

The fact that the beneficiaries have got economic and social benefits is one opportunity for scaling up the joint program. The ownership of the project achievements by the national and local leaders is also another opportunity to scale up. The improved legal framework is still another opportunity to scale up.

c. Providing information to beneficiaries/right holders⁴

f. Please report on scalability of the joint programme and/or any of its components

a. To what extent has the joint programme assessed and systematized development results with the intention to use as evidence for replication or scaling up the joint programme or any of its components?

- The feeling of “We can do it” and the ownership created on the BoCTs and their professionals is a corner stone to scale up and sustain the achievement of the joint program,
- Ownership of the achievement of the joint program at federal and regional government level is still a corner stone in sustaining the achievements of the project,
- The potential use the data base and the web site created in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism is one mechanism to systematize the results and use for future,
- Printing and publicizing the studies,
- The established Living Cultural Resource Centers and the link made with the regional TVETs,
- The full engagement of the beneficiaries into their business. The economic benefits they got from the project,

b. Describe example, if any, of replication or scaling up that are being undertaken

- The achievements in promoting mutual understanding of shared cultural/religious values, conservation of natural heritages and respect for diversity have already been replicated in many regions even in places that are not project intervention areas.
- The mechanism to utilize the revolving fund sustainably that has been provided to the beneficiaries
- The skill development training given by the project has been replicated by the Bishoftu Town Culture and Tourism Office.
- The provision of production and sales places by many city administrations in Tigray and Amhara has been replicated looking the results gained.

c. Describe the joint programme exit strategy and assess how it has improved the sustainability of the joint program

⁴ Who are and how have the primary beneficiaries/right holders been engaged

IV. FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE JOINT PROGRAMME

a. Provide a final financial status of the joint programme in the following categories:

1. Total Approved Budget 2.Total Budget Transferred 3. Total Budget Committed 4. Total Budget Disbursed

Outcome	Total Approved Budget	Total Budget Transferred (Transferred to IPS)	Total Budget Committed	Total Budget Disbursed (Utilized by IPS)
Outcome 2	550,091.00	453,993.00	453,993.00	453,993.00
Outcome 3	2,069,363.00	1,929,729.30	1,929,729.30	1,929,729.30
Outcome 4	142,500.00	142,500.00	142,500.00	142,500.00
Salary for project officers in 6 regions including UNESCO MDG-F JP staffs	116,000.00	102,000.00	102,000.00	102,000.00
Salary for project officers in UNESCO MDG-F JP staffs	36,000.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	36,000.00
Monitoring and Evaluation	70,000.00	90,000.00	90,000.00	90,000.00
Total Direct Cost	3,323,954.00	3,071,219.32	3,071,219.32	3,071,219.32
Indirect cost of UNESCO	189,116.97	189,116.97	189,116.97	189,116.97
Indirect cost of UNDP	43,559.81	43,559.81	43,559.81	43,559.81
Total Direct & Indirect Cost	232,676.78	232,676.78	232,676.78	232,676.78
Total project cost	3,556,630.78	3,303,896.10	3,303,896.10	3,303,896.10

b. Explain any outstanding balance or variances with the original budget

The variance between the planned transferred to the IPs and the amount utilised is managed by UN counterparts. But there is no outstanding balance or variance between the budgets transferred and utilised by the IPs.

V. OTHER COMMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

VI. CERTIFICATION ON OPERATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE PROJECT

By signing, Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNO) certifies that the project has been operationally completed.

PUNO	NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE
UNESCO				
UNDP				

VII. ANNEXES

1. List of all document/studies produced by the joint programme

No.	Title of the publication
1	As Assessment of Institutional Capacity at Regional and Municipality Levels and Stakeholders' Structure in Tourist Destination Management
2	Cultural Enterprises Business Development Service (BDS) Modalities
3	Common Cultural and Religious Values in Ethiopia: Cases From four Regions of the Country
4	Craft Industry Value Chain: Identifying Actors in Six Regions of Ethiopia
5	Cultural Tourism Assessment on the Cultural Assets of Six Regions of Ethiopia: Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, SNNPRS, Harari, and Addis Ababa
6	Feasibility Study on Tourism Industry's Use of Cultural Assets in Ethiopia
7	An Intercultural Dialogue Toolkit for Ethiopia Part-1
8	An Intercultural Dialogue Toolkit for Ethiopia Part-2
9	Living Culture Resource Center and Linkage in the Craft Industry
10	Market Situation of the Craft Industry: Identifying Potential Customers for Craft Products in Six Regions of Ethiopia
11	Marketing Strategies for Music sub-sector
12	Marketing Strategies for Painting sub-sector
13	Modality of Linkage Between the Actors Along the Value Chain to Harness Cultural Tourism for Income Generation in Sustainable Manner
14	Participant Manual on Interreligious Dialogue
15	Selection Criteria for Paragon Artists and Artisans
16	Shared Indigenous Knowledge (Values) of the Diverse Religious Communities to the Conservation of Natural heritage In Amhara, Oromiya and SNNPR Regional States of Ethiopia
17	Studies on the value chain of the craft industries and develop modalities of linkage between key actors in Oromia and SNNP Regions
18	(4) research documents disclosed opportunities and capacity building needs in woodcraft, handcraft and catering of cultural products found in the Oromia Region
19	Conduct feasibility study on the tourism potential of the cultural assets found in the Oromia Region
20	Identify and address the capacity shortcomings of local institutions concerning financial and non-financial business development services. Assessment of existing SME in Oromia, Tigray and SNNP regions and the Addis Ababa City Administration
21	Two assessment documents of site management capacities focusing on the world heritage site (1972 Convention) found in the Harrari region
22	Assessment of regulatory framework for heritage protection in the Oromia Region
23	an assessment of the Challenges and opportunities of the cultural industries, the existing and pending policy framework, and provide recommendations to improve in the SNNP
24	A baseline surveys of prevailing cultural/religious values and diversity in the Harrari region
25	Toolkits promoting good practices in intercultural/religious dialogue and diversity in the Harrari and Oromia regions
26	manual of the relevant best practices and toolkits in different native languages in the Harrari region
27	Maps of Tangible heritage assets in the Oromia, SNNP and Tigray Regions and the Addis Ababa City Administration

28	The establishment of community oriented tourism enterprises in Oromia and tourism business plan in the Harrari region
29	Business Development Service Provision for Enterprise Development in the Oromia, SNNP and Harrari Regions
30	Build / reinforce network of cooperatives to empower artisans in Addis Ababa City Administration
31	A Comprehensive Guidebook to Tourist destination of Oromia
32	Marketing strategies to promote the creative industries to assess the situation of creative industries in the Amhara and Oromia regions, and in Addis Ababa City Administration
33	Establish Linkage between the actors within the craft industries and with other” in the Oromia and SNNP Regions
34	Strategies/systems to organize the communities and allow for partnership alliance in the Oromia Region and marketing strategies to promote the creative industries in the SNNP

2. List all communication products created by the joint programme

1.	Documentary DVD CDs
2.	Brochures
3.	Leaflets
4.	Posters
5.	Features and Articles on government and private news papers
6.	Awareness raising articles transmitted through FM radios of the regions.

3. Minutes of the final review meeting of the Programme Management Committee and National Steering Committee.

MoCT, UNESCO & UNDP MDG_F Joint Program for “Harnessing Diversity for Sustainable Development & Social Change”

Minutes of program Management Committee (PMC) on the Joint Program

Date: December 14, 2012

Place: Conference Hall at National Archives.

Time: 10:30am

Participants:-

1. H.E. Mr. Dawood Mohammed----- State Minister, Ministry of Culture & Tourism , Chair person
2. Mr. Matoko Firmin, -----UNESCO Director and Representative
3. MS. Alessandra Tisot- ----- UNDP, Country Director
4. Ms. Ines Mazarassa----- Special advisor to the UN resident coordinator
5. Ms. Rita ----- Spanish cooperation Head
6. Ato. Akalu W/Mariam -----National Program Coordinator , member
7. Mr. Getu Assefa ----- Culture Specialist from UNESCO
8. Ato Kasahun Abate----- Deputy Program Coordinator, UNESCO member
9. Ato Seyoum Gezmu -----Program Finance Officer, Member & Secretary

Agendas:

1. Reviewing of the progress of the JP (narrative reports) reporting
2. Deciding the date of JP closing event.

Discussions & Decisions:

Agendas:

After well-coming the participants H.E. the State Minister, Ministry of Culture & Tourism, has briefly outlined the purpose of the meeting. In his briefing, he has stated that the main objective of the meeting is to review the implementation progress made so far, achievements, results & impacts created due to the JP as well as decide on the issue of project closing event.

The chairperson has also indicated that the monitoring mission made so far in regions is successfully accomplished & was quite useful that enable us to understand results achieved the impacts, & challenges encountered during the implementation process. With this introductory remark the floor is opened for the discussion.

Following, Mr. Akalu W/mariam the National Program Coordinator, has briefly presented the progress made, achievements, results obtained, & impacts created by the JP at federal & the program participating regions during implementation period.

In his presentation, he explained that the following main achievements are made by the JP:

- Small scale enterprises have been established in six regional states i.e. Oromia, Amhara, SNNPR, Harari & Addis Ababa & began to generate income for their lively hood
- As a result of the dialogues forum, possible religious conflicts were protected

- The shared values of various religious communities regarding environment conservation compiled and the capacity of religious leaders and community members built on tolerance and respect for the environment through inter religious dialogue.
- Management Plan for the four World Heritage Sites has been prepared
- Local communities and grassroots organizations have become more aware and actively participated in the management, protection and utilization of heritages including indigenous knowledge.
- Women & youth have got economic power through getting their own source of income and support their family
- Women & youth are the main target beneficiaries
- The establishment of the LCRC in four regions is a spring board for the development of the craft industries that will pave the way for industrialization.
- It is confirmed that the resource allocated to regions are fairly utilized for the intended purpose, which largely implicated in the establishment of revolving fund.
- The project has also able to engage various government institutions, higher educational institutions, and parliamentarians, Associations, community and religious leaders into the project.
- The small scale creative industries are established in almost all regions under the direct support of the JP & monitored by Regional Culture & Tourism Bureaus. For example Bakalcha Art Association of Oromia began to earn their lively hood by showing theatre, capacitating itself establishing office & logistic arrangements for their day to day activities while these youth were formerly jobless.
- It is an indication that the impact crated by this project is a contribution towards poverty reduction for the country.
- The sustainability of the project is also proved through the commitment of regional Governments made at all level in assisting & owning the whole process even after closure of the project.
- The program achievements, results, challenges has been brought to the regional presidents & they confirmed to give any necessary assistance & scale up in to the regular plan in economic development & poverty reduction strategies that insures sustainability.

Furthermore, the presence of the state minster with joint program monitoring mission have given an opportunity to communicate with the president of the regional Governments, Bureau Heads & others which also create an awareness about the project & make up their mind to give the necessary support towards its sustainability.

UNESCO Director also extended congratulations for the successful achievement of the project & advice to keep & scale up the success. The project has to work on the visibility of the achievements in Publication. The support of the Government is very important for sustainability .The link between this program & others has to be strengthened and How UNDP benefits this program was also discussed.

The Spanish cooperation representative too, appreciating the successes & achievements made and has suggested to focus on lessons learned, sustainability& the skill of the future M & E; while UNDP Country Director has suggested that the engagement of the regional governments is a strategic result in maintaining sustainability, the role of established LCRC's is of a paramount importance in poverty reduction and requested for their further enhancement as a cluster.

The UN Resident Coordinator Office also congratulates for the achievements of the project. However, the success story & achievements has to be communicated that culture is a tool to lift socio-economic development. There has to be a communication plan:

Who is the target?

What are key messages? It can be video, publication in multimedia & linked to the final evaluation.

H.E the state minister also stressed the power of culture for socio-economic development. The challenges encountered are:

- The project was over ambitious,
- Too many activity,
- Lack of experience in project management in the sector

Despite the challenges encountered the project has performed best.

The closing Event Ceremony:

The closing event ceremony progress activity has been reported by Mr. Kassahun, the chair person, that:

- Procurement of DVD for 15 minutes publication is in progress,
- Procurement of 500 DVD for publication of study documents is in progress
- Invitation for Regional IPs, Bureau Heads prepared,
- Logistic procurement is in progress

However, there is a constraint in budget performing due to program closing deadlines. In this regard UNDP Country director suggested that fund utilization can be flexible within December 2012 & Come up with budget breakdown & action plan of closing ceremony. It is also decided that the closing event date shall be on the 3rd week of January 2013. The contract of project coordinators also has to be committed for three months. With this the meeting of the day is adjourned at 10:30am.

4. M&E framework with update final values of indicators

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

NOTE: Baseline indicators do not exist for components 1, 2, and 4.

	Outcomes	Indicators	Sources of verification	Collection methods (with indicative time frame & frequency)	UN Participating Agencies	Risk and assumption
	<p>Impact1. Increased employment for the people of the project areas from the synergetic effect of strengthening social cohesion, safeguarding heritage, developing institutional capacity, producing income generating activities, and creating an enabling environment for cultural industries.</p> <p>Impact 2: Gender equality promoted and women empowered through their full participation and engagement in the process.</p> <p>Impact 3. Environmental sustainability ensured by enhancing indigenous knowledge and practices of natural heritage management.</p> <p>Impact 4. Mutual respect for diverse cultural heritage and sharing of common values leading to social progress and social cohesion</p>	<p>Employment-to-population ratio</p> <p>Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector</p> <p>Number of communities in project areas preparing environment friendly development strategies for sustained tourism industry.</p> <p>Percentage increase of communities of project areas that favorably respond for diversity of cultural heritage.</p>	<p>Federal and Regional Statistics agencies</p> <p>Federal and Regional Statistics agencies</p> <p>Regional Environment Offices</p> <p>Baseline and end term survey report</p>	<p>Review statistics and revenue pattern data</p> <p>Sample survey of project areas at the starting and end of the project life.</p>	UNESCO / UNDP	<p>Risk: Limited statistical information</p> <p>Assumption: The current global financial crisis will not have an adverse effect to Ethiopian truism industry.</p> <p>Assumption The current tolerance among different cultural and religious groups of Ethiopian will continue to prevail</p>
	<p>Outcome 1.</p> <p>Strengthening intercultural/religious</p> <p>dialogue to foster mutual</p>	<p>Number of dialogue forums organized.</p> <p>Number of advocacy and mobilization programs undertaken.</p> <p>Number of organizational frameworks maintained</p> <p>Culture of dialogue for enhancing social cohesion established.</p>	<p>Programme, government reports</p> <p>Project review reports</p>	<p>Discussion with the targeted groups. (at start up stage)</p>	UNESCO	<p>There would not be any resistance from target groups.</p>

	<p>understanding of heritage and the</p> <p>sharing of common values with a</p> <p>view of contributing towards social</p> <p>process and social cohesion.</p>					
Output 1.1	<p>Capacity of the national and local stakeholders in inter cultural/ religious dialogue improved.</p>	<p>Indicator: Six regional surveys conducted on prevailing cultural values Baseline: No such baseline surveys conducted Time frame: 2009- 2010</p> <p>Indicator: Five trainings conducted for national and local stakeholders (religious leaders, teachers, etc) on intercultural dialogue on which at least 40% are female participants Baseline: No such trainings conducted so far Time frame: 2009-2011</p> <p>Indicator: Five round tables academic discussions on promoting pluralism conducted with at least 50% participants are female. Baseline: No such discussions conducted so far Time frame:2009-2011</p> <p>Indicator: Five toolkits and seven thousand publications on best practices of in inter cultural/ religious dialogue completed. Baseline: No such toolkit is available. Time frame: 2009-2011</p> <p>Indicator: Five inter-cultural festivals organized on which about 50% of the participants are female. Baseline: There on-going related festivals being organized by the House of</p>	<p>Dialogue forums report. Survey report Workshops report. Training reports & proceedings. Discussions minutes. Goods receiving notes(GRN) Feedbacks & reports. Workshops report.</p>	<p>Feedbacks collected during each dialogue conducted. Pre-post dialogues & trainings évaluation</p>	UNESCO	Available data could be easily generated.

		<p>Federation of Ethiopia. Time frame: 2009- 2011</p> <p>Indicator: Five training workshops on promoting multilingualism conducted for local leaders on which about 50% of the participants are female. Baseline: No such training workshops have been conducted Time frame: 2009-2011</p>				
Output 1.2	<p>Capacities of religious leaders to enhance tolerance and respect for the environment through inter religious dialogue improved</p>	<p>Indicator: Four forums on inter religious dialogue conducted –on which at least 40% of participants are female. Baseline: No relevant dialogue has been organized in structured manner thus far Time frame: 2009-2011</p> <p>Indicator: Shared values of various religious communities concerning natural heritage conservation reviewed, interpreted, compiled and shared among the various religious leaders. Baseline: No such work has been conducted yet Time frame: 2009-2011</p> <p>Indicator: Five awareness raising campaigns on shared natural heritage conservation values conducted-on which 50% of the participants are female. Baseline: No relevant campaign has organized thus far. Time frame: 2009-2011</p>	<p>Forums reports Assessment reports Campaign reports</p>	<p>Feedbacks collected during each dialogue conducted. Pre-post dialogues and trainings evaluation.</p>	UNESCO	

	Outcomes	Indicators	Sources of verification	Collection methods (with indicative time frame & frequency)	UN Participating Agencies	Risk and assumption
	Outcome 2 Developing and implementing the legal and policy framework to protect and safeguard Ethiopia's tangible, intangible, mobile, and natural heritage and enhance national capacity on museology, site management and inventory of intangible heritage	National and regional policies and regulatory framework to protect and safeguard Ethiopia's tangible, intangible, mobile, and natural heritage revised, formulated and implemented	Periodic and annual review reports, survey results	Conducting assessment (Annually)	UNESCO	Government commitment is expressed
Output 2.1	The capacity of the government and civil society enhanced in identification, management, and protection of tangible and intangible heritage	<p>Indicator: Two mapping exercises of tangible heritage in two pilot regions conducted. Baseline: No updated mapping exist Time frame: 2009-2011</p> <p>Indicator: One assessments of regulatory framework in two pilot regions completed Baseline: No such assessments have been done yet Time frame: 2009-2011</p> <p>Indicator: Five capacity building workshops on intangible cultural heritage conducted on which 50% of the participants are female Baseline: No such workshop have been conducted previously Time frame: 2009-2011</p> <p>Indicator: Assessments of the site management capacities in two pilot World Heritage Sites completed,(UNESCO) Baseline: No such assessments have been done yet Time frame: 2009-2011</p> <p>Indicator: Five trainings in site management methodology and cultural tourism strategy Baseline: One site management training (at Aksum) has been conducted Time frame: 2009-2011</p>	<p>Periodic reports & blueprints</p> <p>Assessment report</p> <p>Workshops report</p> <p>Assessment findings</p> <p>Training reports</p> <p>Periodic site reports</p>	Reviewing blueprints, assessment, training, workshops & site management reports (Periodically).	UNESCO	Local governments and communities will commit themselves to implementing the output.

		<p>Indicator: Two site management plans at World Heritage Sites prepared.</p> <p>Baseline: No relative management plans available</p> <p>Time frame: 2009-2011</p> <p>Indicator: Six regional museums along the World Heritage Sites assisted.</p> <p>Baseline: No such work done yet</p> <p>Time frame: 2009-2011</p>				
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Output 2.2.	<p>Revision and development of policies and legal frameworks as well as capacity building to implement laws/policies</p>	<p>Indicator: One assessment of the national and the selected six regions legal and policy frameworks completed,</p> <p>Two consultation workshop to identify gaps in the existing and pending legislation as well as policies on national and regional levels (six selected regions).</p> <p>One final assessment document with concrete recommendations prepared.</p> <p>One national policy document revised and developed.</p> <p>One national legal/regulatory document revised and developed.</p> <p>A minimum 50% participation is envisioned for women (300) and youth at the training and consultation processes.</p> <p>Baseline: No such assessment nor consultations regarding the policy and legal text have been conducted</p> <p>No revised policy exists</p> <p>Time frame: 2009</p> <p>Indicator: Five trainings of MoCT and BoCT staff in implementing cultural policies undertaken.</p> <p>Baseline: No training of MoCT and BoCT staff on policy revision has been conducted</p> <p>Time frame: 2009-11</p>	<p>Assessment reports</p> <p>Endorsed policy & legal documents</p> <p>Training feedbacks</p>	<p>Reviewing assessment, training and actual reports. (Periodically).</p>	UNESCO	<p>Government and relevant offices will commit & cooperate properly.</p>
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2.3.	Output 2.3 National Implementation framework strengthened	<p>Indicator: Two implementation modalities of new cultural heritage protection framework developed</p> <p>Five capacity building workshops and training completed, and follow up conducted.</p> <p>A minimum 50% participation is envisioned for women and youth at the training and consultation processes.</p> <p>Baseline: No such modalities have been developed; no relevant training has taken place</p> <p>Timeframe: 2009-11</p> <p>Indicator: Two monitoring mechanisms developed. Baseline: No such monitoring mechanism exists Timeframe: 2010-11</p> <p>Indicator: Culture Resource Centers established and existing centers strengthened in the four regions and on the national/federal level. Baseline: A small number of centers exist (to be assessed by the project) Timeframe: 2009-11</p>	<p>Periodic reports & modalities Workshop reports & feedbacks</p> <p>Mechanisms put in place Assessment & data collection formats</p>	<p>Reviewing assessment, training and actual reports. (Periodically).</p>	UNESCO	<p>Government and relevant CSOs will commit & cooperate properly</p>
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	Outcomes	Indicators	Sources of verification	Collection methods (with indicative time frame & frequency)	UN Participating Agencies	Risk and assumption
	Outcome. 3 Harnessing the potential of the cultural and creative industries particularly heritage based activities such as handicrafts and cultural tourism for income generation, economic development, and poverty alleviation.	Number of people engaged on cultural industries. Number of enabling environments created. Number of mobilization programs carried out	Periodic and annual review reports, survey results,	Conducting assessment (Annual)	UNESCO & UNDP	All inclusive and attracts all to participate
Output 3.1	Capacity of national authorities and local communities enhanced through the development of a comprehensive and centralized database of the cultural Industries	Centralized database established. Indicators: Data collected and compiled.	Data collection & filed documents	Review periodic reports. (end of the year 2008/09)	UNESCO	An all inclusive and basic data will be compiled.
Output 3.2	The capacity and income generated through the craft industry enhanced by developing and strengthening production, quality control, and marketing of crafts.	Indicator: Procurement of equipments for Living Culture Resources Centers. Five training of trainers conducted. Women and youth participation ensured. Skills of trainers upgraded. Baseline: Build on previous skills of CHP and recruited a new competent culture entrepreneurs in the new regions Time frame: 2009-11 Indicator: Nine training on design, production, marketing, and quality control conducted. Women and youth full representation ensured. (UNDP) Baseline: 400 artisans trained by outside consultant hired by CHP, but now assumed by their own colleagues (TOT) Timeframe: 2009-11 Procurement of supplies and equipment. Indicator: Five Follow up workshop conducted. Women and youth participation ensured. Baseline: The need has been identified by CHP Time frame: 2009-11	Training reports Purchase & receiving orders. Workshop and manuals preparation reports. periodically	Review the reports. (Periodically).	UNESCO & UNDP	All inclusive and attracts all to participate

		<p>Indicator: Five manuals of relevant best practices in numerous languages prepared</p> <p>Baseline: Such aid materials do not exist.</p> <p>Timeframe: 2010-11</p>				
Outputs 3.3	Artisans empowered and effectively integrated into the market.	<p>Indicator: Sixty three of key actors identified. (UNDP)</p> <p>Baseline: Increase the number of key actors by two fold, 10 in each region and three in Addis Ababa.</p> <p>Time frame: 2009-11</p> <p>Indicator: Ten potential customers identified. (UNESCO)</p> <p>Develop four modalities of linkages between the actors along the value chain.</p> <p>Indicator: Fifteen links within the craft industry and outside the industry established. (UNDP)</p> <p>Baseline: The CHP did not create customers for the organized beneficiaries</p> <p>Time frame: 2009-11</p> <p>Indicator: Six craft trade fair established.</p> <p>Baseline: The CHP did not prepare appropriate modality for linking the beneficiaries with actors in the value chain</p> <p>Time frame: 2010-11</p> <p>Two International trade fairs</p>	<p>A Assessment report</p> <p>Assessment report</p> <p>Survey reports</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Physical & financial report</p>	<p>Reviewing assessment, survey,</p> <p>Performance, physical and financial reports ((Periodically).</p>	UNESCO & UNDP	Artisans will cooperate.

		<p>participated.</p> <p>Secure preferential treatment status</p>				
Output 3.4	<p>Artisans empowered and their social status improved through the mobilization of artisans and community awareness raising campaigns</p>	<p>Indicator: Nine cooperatives established.</p> <p>Baseline: CHP organized four cooperatives Time frame: 2009-11</p> <p>Indicator: Five workshops conducted. Women and youth participation ensured.</p> <p>Baseline: CHP organized six workshops Time frame: 2009-11</p> <p>Indicator: Five advocacy manuals developed.</p> <p>Baseline: No manual prepared by CHP Time frame: 2010-11</p> <p>Indicator: Five awareness raising conducted.</p> <p>Baseline: No awareness raising program was conduct. Time frame: 2009-11</p> <p>Indicator: Seven training of experts completed.</p> <p>Baseline: No training was conducted by CHP Time frame: 2009-10</p> <p>Indicator: Subject incorporated into curriculum</p> <p>Baseline: No such experience Time frame: 2009-11</p>	<p>Legal registration documents</p> <p>Workshop report</p> <p>TOR, Contractual Agreement and Periodic report</p> <p>Popularization feedback</p> <p>Training & performance reports</p>	<p>Reviewing, legal document, Training & workshop report</p>	UNESCO	<p>Local communities will accept and accommodate creative artists</p>
Output 3.5	<p>Development and enhancement of other cultural industries such as music, film, and books.</p>	<p>Indicator: Seven assessments conducted.</p> <p>An assessment of the existing and pending policy framework and recommendation to improve it completed</p>	<p>Assessment report</p> <p>Modalities put in place</p> <p>Training reports</p>	<p>Evaluating assessment and training report and actually produced Documents</p>	UNESCO & UNDP	<p>Market opportunity Will be available</p>

		<p>Baseline: Four assessment programs conducted Time frame: 2009-10</p> <p>Indicator: Three modalities developed.</p> <p>Baseline: No modality developed Time frame: 2009-11</p> <p>Indicator: Five professional training conducted. Equal participation of women ensured.</p> <p>Baseline: Eight programs facilitated Time frame: 2009-11</p> <p>Indicator: Five marketing strategies developed.</p> <p>Baseline: No strategy developed Time frame: 2009-10</p>	Strategies in existence			
Output 3.6	A cultural tourism strategy based on culture branding identity.	<p>Indicator: Seven assessment of tourism. Baseline: No assessment done Time frame: 2009</p> <p>Indicator: Seven assessment of institutional capacity conducted. Baseline: No assessment done Time frame: 2009</p> <p>Indicator: Seven consultation with stakeholder conducted. Baseline: No consultation with stakeholders done by CHP Time frame: 2009</p> <p>Indicator: Three workshop of incoming tour operators conducted. Youth participation ensured. Baseline: No workshop of operators Time frame: 2009-10</p> <p>Indicator: Five strategies developed. Baseline: No strategy developed</p>	<p>Assessment report</p> <p>" "</p> <p>Stakeholders feedback</p> <p>Workshop report</p> <p>Strategy document put in place</p>	Evaluating critically assessment, feedback, Workshop report & Strategic document	UNESCO & UNDP	Necessary data & information will be generated

		Time frame: 2009-11				
Output 3.7	3.7 Capacities of existing enterprises strengthened and community initiatives started	<p>Indicator: A feasibility study conducted Baseline: No study was conducted Time frame: 2009-10</p> <p>Indicator: Enterprises, opportunities and capacity building needs identified Baseline: No enterprises opportunity and capacity identified Time frame: 2009-11</p> <p>Indicator: Tourism community oriented enterprises delivered. Baseline: No enterprises delivered Time frame: 2009-11</p>	<p>Study reports</p> <p>Needs assessment documents</p> <p>Support delivery reports.</p>		UNESCO & UNDP	Data can be collected & generated Easily
Output 3.8	System for enterprise support and development established	<p>Indicator: Eight business development provisions developed. (UNDP) Baseline: No business development provision Time frame: 2009-10</p> <p>Indicator: Seven institutional capacity assessments conducted. (UNDP) Baseline: No assessment made Time frame: 2009-10</p> <p>Indicator: Twenty three small scale income generating activities initiated and follow up undertaken. Woman and youth participation given special consideration. (UNDP) Baseline: No activities initiated Time frame: 2009-11</p> <p>Indicator: Eight festivals organized. Baseline: No festival organized Time frame: 2009-11</p>	<p>Performance reports</p> <p>Assessment reports</p> <p>Business development reports</p> <p>Pre & post events reports.</p>	Reviewing critically periodic reports.	UNESCO & UNDP	Data can be collected & Generated easily

Success Stories

I

Intercultural/religious Dialogue for Peace Building

Ethiopia is an ancient country with a remarkably rich linguistic, religious and cultural diversity. Historically, state support for cultural pluralism was very limited and institutional capacity continues to be inadequate. It is a country where the diversified nationalities live together in harmony and tolerance. Although the various cultural/religious communities have coexisted peacefully for centuries, inter religious/cultural dialogue was not practiced widely.

Recently there are signs of religious conflict occurrences occurred in different parts of the country including in Addis Ababa. For instance the conflict in Oromya region between muslims and Christians at a place called Asandabo in Jimma Zone is a case in point which caused immense destruction. The cause of the conflict was attributed to that a torn Qoran page found in a hotel bath room. The Muslim community considered this as disrespect for their religion and opened an attack on Christians.

As a result of the conflict, a total of 61 Churches and houses were burned down and thousands of Christian religion followers were displaced abandoning their homes. The conflict has inflicted very incalculable social, economical and moral loss on the people of Jima and its environs.

It is at this very moment, that the Harnessing Diversity for Sustainable Development and Social Change (HSDSDSC) project facilitated a forum where the leaders of the different religions and cultures come together and discuss and resolve the problem. The Oromya region coordinator of the JP in collaboration with the Oromya Bureau of culture and the local administration has organized a five days interreligious dialogue forum in Jimma town, Oromia Regional State.

Research papers were presented on shared values among religions, traditional method of conflict resolution, the importance of religious dialogue to promote mutual understanding, the contribution of each and every people and the community from various cultural group and religion in building the common consensus and promoting peace and peaceful co-existence.

In the dialogue forum, 124 participants of which 60 are females were drawn from all religious communities of Orthodox, Muslims, protestant, traditional believers and other stakeholders from Jimma and the surrounding zones took part. The participant of the forum exhaustively discussed on the paper presented in relation to the conflict that has been flared in the zone. Group discussion and general discussion were conducted.

After the training, a better understanding created among the followers of different religions whereby all the participants unanimously agreed that all religious leaders should preach peace, love and respect to one another and humanity at large.

On the forum, the participants formed one coordinating committee having five members from the various religious communities and stakeholders. The municipality of Jimma town provides them an

office for free and currently the Provisional Coordinating Office in Jimmaa town, continue with the awareness creation and advocacy work among their followers in different Woredas Mosques and Churches.

Followers of the respective religions have bringing together resources finance, labor and material and together they reconstructed the destroyed churches and residences. The established committee members have continued their regular meeting and disseminate the information they got from the training till now at the grassroots level.

The Harnessing Diversity for Sustainable Development for Social Change Project, funded by the Spanish Government, has been implemented in the Oromia Regional State to redress exclusion and promote pluralism, utilizing the important contribution of culture to poverty alleviation, social progress, and sustainable development. This project also aims to further develop ongoing efforts to alleviate poverty (MDG 1), promote gender equality and empower women (MDG 3) and ensure environmental sustainability (MDG 7). To this end, the project has shown down-to-earth achievements among which this story is one to be mentioned.



II

An artist created from a Street



Born and grown up in Gondar town, Girmachew Worku left his home to Addis Ababa at the age of 15, in 1993 E.C. after he lost his mother and father at the age of 3 and 12 respectively. Addis Ababa had not welcomed the young Girmachew, who has no relative and forced to live in the street. After a long time street life, he started working half day selling news paper and half of a day on parking lot. He rented a small house with the small amount of money he earned. Since he had strong interest for art, he watched theatres whenever he got entrance fee.

“The day I joined the project was a turning point to my life. In January, 2010 I heard from my friends about the project Harnessing Diversity for Sustainable Development and Social Change (HDSDSC) program, one of the five joint programs for the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in Ethiopia working on Culture and Development), which is about to provide training for youths on theater directing, acting and script writing.”

Girmachew further said, “I requested the organizers to include me in the list of trainees but I was told the selection was over. I insisted patiently to get a chance even without the small amount paid to trainees for transportation. Finally, my request was accepted and I am given the chance to be trained and the result of my training was a theatre I wrote in Amharic called ‘*Set Argachew*’. Since my work is well accepted by the public, I succeeded in writing a series of theaters ‘*Yehilina Dagna*’, ‘*Minew Shewa*’, ‘*Asitegniw*’, ‘*Yefelasfawe Kilet*’, ‘*Korojoye*’ and ‘*Yemogn Tela*’, which has been performed in different places including ‘Hager Fikir’ theatre.

Girmachew organized his friends and collect used clothes from the community and staged one of his theatres, “*Yechilanchil Tesfa*” to support the destitute. He provided financial support with clothes for destitute, elders and street children living in Addis Ababa, Arada Sub-city. He also presented his life experience on the program prepared to change a life of street children.

Enriched his knowledge and skills through experience, currently Girmachew /26 years/, is working with well known film producers as actor and sound recorder as well as assistant director in seven films being under production. He has a vision to establish his own film production firm.

II

“We are now dreaming for better tomorrow.”

It has been proved that the craft industry has been can play significant role in poverty alleviation, social progress, and sustainable development if it is managed properly. In this regard, the Harnessing Diversity for Sustainable Development and Social Project has been implementing in the Tigray Regional State since July 2012. It has contributed for the creation of a number of Small and Micro enterprises through skill development trainings, provision of production equipments and revolving fund as initial capital to initiate business by letting women and youth to better understand and make full use of the cultural resources.

One of the women benefited from the project is Mrs. Selas G/Sellasie, a chairperson of the “Silas Gebre, Tsega W/Hawaria and Atsede Tesfay Women Basketry Association” Saese’e Tsaeda Imba Woreda. Mrs. Silas has forced to stop her education due to economic reason and lives very destitute life for many years. Since she didn’t have any opportunity to try for better life, she was forced to work in a safety net “Food For Work Program” that can only helped her to live a hand to mouth life.



“I had never thought that life can be changed and live a better life.” Said Mrs. Selas said, “I didn’t have any work that can be considered as work and help me t change my life and continue my education. Life was so measurable and desperate. In 2011, I heard about a training organized by the project held in Wukro and participated. It was after the training that i decided to have my own business and work. Immediately, I intimated the idea to establish our association with my two friends.”

Mrs. Selas has participated in a training organized by the project with her two of her friends and started their business in the production and selling of baskets. In this regard, the project has provided skill training and revolving fund of 666.70 USD as a business startup capital. But Mrs. Selas and her two friends took only 111.10 USD and started their business and start their business in Basketry. Now Silas and her friends have paid back 88.90 USD loans they take from the project

Mrs. Silas said, “Now we have able to pay back most of our loans, have raw material worth of 60.00 USD and products worth of 160.00 USD. We have no market problem. Thanks to the project, we are now started to think better tomorrow. The project has increased our awareness and understanding in how we can produce in good quality.”



Some of the products of the Association

The project has provided a total of 39,444.44 USD to 99 beneficiaries (90 women and 9 men) found in 15 Associations. It has shown the fact that culture to contribute to the economic development of societies especially women and youth which serves as a weapon to fight poverty through income generation.