



Civil Society Support Programme
Phase 2

Project Brief

June 2021



Hivos

Partners CSOs to deliver need based support on the safeguarding children and adult at risk policy revision and safeguarding practices.

3. Implementation of the project

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk project was implemented in December 2019 to May 2021 for the last one and half year. Even though COVID 19 pandemic is a major threat for the implementation of the project, in the last one and half year, Hivos Ethiopia had carried out various project activities and a total of 1,321,274 km was used to carry out project activities.

Output 1:- knowledge on safeguarding practice increased


In order to attain this result of the project, meetings and project launching virtual workshops on safeguarding practice were organized for 30 CSOs. On top of this, 12 staffs of Hivos attended one day training on Safeguarding Children and Adult at Risk. Whereas, the training and project launching workshop on Safeguarding Children and Adult at Risk policy and practice was organized for 68 partner CSOs focal person. In general, the training and workshop organized raised the awareness of 68 people on Safeguarding Children and Adult at Risk. The following results obtained under Output 1:-

- The safeguarding focal persons of Partner CSOs familiarized with safeguarding children and adult at risk tools and safeguarding policy structure and content
- The awareness of the safeguarding focal persons, directors and staffs of partner CSOs and their Co applicants on safeguarding children and adult at risk practices increased
- The commitment and interest of the management of the partners CSOs to exercise safeguarding children and adult at risk practices enhanced.

Output 2:- the technical capacity of the partner CSOs on safeguarding policy development and practice increased: under this output, activities such as coach and mentoring of CSOs on safeguarding children and adult at risk policy development, support CSOs to conduct self-audit, provide support to CSOs were delivered to 16 lead applicant CSOs and 13 of their co applicant CSOs. Moreover, purchase and distribution of self device for partner CSOs during the project period. Consequently, the mentoring and coaching build capacity of the partner CSOs. Along to this, they revised their safeguarding policy and developed safeguarding culture in their day to day organization practice. The partners CSOs have in place the complaint handling mechanisms such as suggestion box. They also developed the reporting and responding procedures of safeguarding children and adult at risk issues raised in their organizations.

Output 3:- type of services and service providers identified: under this output, activities like social CSO to map out existing service providers in their locality and develop and publish a national local service provider to victims of violence were done. The partners CSOs have identified 98 service providers in their locality. Furthermore, Hivos Ethiopia in association with federal and regional attorney identified 214 service providers. Accordingly,






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1. Introduction

Hivos Ethiopia is an indigenous non-governmental organization that is working to improve lives of children and youth. It has been working to the development of children and young people in the areas of Health, Education, Child Rights, Livelihood, Gender Equality and Disability. It is operating in Addis Ababa, Arba Minch, and Oromia regional States with the technical and financial support of its national and international partners.

Hivos Ethiopia has been implemented a project entitled "Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk (SCAN)" which will aim at enhancing the capacity of 23 CSRP grantees (lead applicants) CSOs to better understand, implement and comply with safeguarding policies, procedures, and requirements in relation to prevention of abuse and exploitation. The project is implemented from December 2019 to May 2021 and funded by Civil Society Support Programme phase 2 (CSSPP).

The project has major four expected results. The first result focused on raising the knowledge of partner CSOs staffs and Safeguarding focal persons. Whereas the second result aims at the capacity building of partner CSOs through mentoring and coaching. Output 3 targeted mapping and developing directory service providers that offer services for victims of violence. The last output focused on the documentation of lessons and best practices.

In order to attain the four outputs, Hivos Ethiopia has accomplished various project activities. In the execution of the project activities and achieving the intended objectives of the project, best results and lessons were identified. This project brief is developed compiled to document and share the best practices and lessons learnt in the execution of the safeguarding project which was executed in December 2019-May 2021 by Hivos Ethiopia with the financial support of Civil Society Support Programme phase 2 (CSSPP).

2. Strategy

In the execution of the safeguarding children and adult at risk project, the following strategies were applied to bring the intended results of the project.

A) **Organization Capacity and need Assessment:** In order to assess the capacity and needs of the partner CSOs, the organization capacity assessment was carried out in association with CSRP program Office. In the Assessment, Safeguarding was one of the criteria to assess the capacity, needs and gaps of the partner CSOs. The assessment tool to examine the knowledge, policy and practices gaps of 17 partner CSOs. Using the findings of the assessment as baseline, Hivos Ethiopia has tried to address the needs and gaps of the partner CSOs through training, mentoring and coaching.

B) **Mentoring and coaching:** Hivos Ethiopia also delivered technical support, advice and guidance to partner CSOs in their safeguarding policy review and also in exercising safeguarding practice in their organizations. The mentoring and coaching were offered based on the gaps and needs of the partner organizations.

C) **Awareness raising:** Various trainings and workshop were organized to safeguarding focal person and directors of partner CSOs to raise their awareness on safeguarding children and adult at risk policy, procedures both virtually and in physical presence. Accordingly, the safeguarding focal person also organized training on safeguarding to their staffs and partners. These trainings and workshop addressed the knowledge gaps of the partner CSOs. They helped them to familiarize the concept, practices and standards of safeguarding. Besides, it enhanced their interest and commitments of the management and safeguarding focal persons.

D) **Monitoring and Follow up:** since this project focus on the capacity building of partner CSOs, frequent follow up and monitoring of CSOs is required to bring the results of the project. Based on the monitoring plan, Hivos Ethiopia had made frequent follow up and supportive monitoring of





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310 service providers was developed and published. Consequently, the referral linkage system with service providers is created and the operational safeguarding practice of partner CSOs is built up. During the project period, the following results obtained under output 1:

- National directory of service providers developed and published
- Referral pathway is created
- The partner CSOs identified the service providers and the service they offered in their country

Output 4 - Best practices, lessons and challenges on safeguarding documented and shared among target CSOs and stakeholders output four activities which focus on the best practices, lessons learnt were also carried out, under this output, activities such as monthly staffs and quarter review meeting and experience with CSOs partners were held in the period under report. These meetings created opportunities for partner CSOs to acquire learnt were learning and experience on implementation of safeguarding practices. Moreover, the best practice and lesson learnt documented and shared to the target groups and the wider community through:

- A digital Platform to share ideas and experience on safeguarding developed. For instance, telegram account
- Best practice and lessons shared through Hwot Ethiopia Facebook, poster and website


4. Results of the project

The safeguarding Project has greater impact on the capacity of the partner CSOs and applicants Organization. It builds their capacity on raising the awareness of the staffs and enhances their capacity to develop and exercise safeguarding policy and practice. The project enabled the CSOs to be much concerned on the protection of the rights of their beneficiaries and staffs and institutionalized safeguarding. This is manifested through in the various activities:

- In order to prevent abuse, Partner CSOs signed the safe recruitment process such as criminal background check and reference check when recruiting staffs
- The partner CSOs consider the safeguarding issues during project design and implementation. Some of the safeguarding activities are included in the project activities.
- The partner CSOs made their staffs to sign and respect code of conduct that contains what staffs are required to do and abandon to do within and outside the organization.
- The partner CSOs began to use consent form to take pictures of beneficiaries with requesting their permission
- The safeguarding policy of the partner CSOs are revised in accordance with risks identified and the self-audit tool. The policy addressed the minimum standards of safeguarding
- The interest and commitment of the management and board of bodies to institutionalize safeguarding in their organization increased.



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5. Lessons learn

In the execution of the safeguarding children and adults at risk project, Hwot Ethiopia has acquired various lessons. The occurrence of COVID 19 alerted to develop project risk assessment and mitigation plan. Besides, it also made Hwot Ethiopia to develop project acceleration plan. What Hwot Ethiopia has acquired as a lesson in the execution of the project which focus on capacity building of CSOs, the lead implementing bodies is required to be exemplary organization to share lessons and best practices and also to inspire them to exercise it. Apart from this, collaboration and partnership is the other lesson which was applied in safeguarding project and also contributed to achieve the project results.

6. Conclusion

The COVID 19 has greatly affected the country in general and the project in particular. The institution abandoned the training and meetings to be organized. Among the 14 months of the project period, more than 10 months of project period were spending with lockdown and project preparation phase. Even if half of the project period was spending due to COVID 19, Hwot Ethiopia has executed the project activities using digital technologies and keeping the proclamations and regulation of the government related to COVID 19. Within this short project execution period apart from the project target 16 partner CSOs, the project had addressed other 13 co-applicant CSOs which are out of its targets. This project enabled 29 CSOs to review their safeguarding policy and benefitted in exercising safeguarding children and adult at risk practices. In general, the participatory approach of the project execution coupled with the innovation of Hwot Ethiopia to use digital technologies made Hwot Ethiopia to be efficient in time and use of resource to deliver project activities and attain the results of the project.

Contact information
Hwot Ethiopia
Telephone: +251 11 685 0258
Email: hwotethiopia@hwotet.org
Website: www.hwotet.org
P.O.Box 27743 code 1000



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