

Ethiopian Catholic Church (ECC)

Social Rehabilitation Strategy

Focusing on Children



December 2004



**Speak out for those who cannot speak
For the rights of all destitute
Speak out, judge righteously
Defend the rights of the poor and needy**

Proverbs (Chapter 31 versus 8-9)

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1. Abbreviation and Acronym

ACS	Archdiocesan Catholic Secretariat
CBO	Community based Organization
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSA	Central Statistical Authority
DCS	Diocesan Catholic Secretariat
ECC	Ethiopian Catholic Church
ECS	Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
HIV/AIDS Syndrome	Human Immuno Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
MOLSA	Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs
PAC	Pastoral Commission
SADCO	Social and Development Commission
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund

2. Introduction

The Ethiopian Catholic Church (ECC) is involved in the implementation of several humanitarian and social rehabilitation projects and programs through out the country. Most of the social rehabilitation projects and programs implemented by ECC have received recognition and appreciation by its partners, the Government, donors and the community at large. The ECC is well known for its philanthropic and humanitarian works through out the country. The ECC, among her social development and humanitarian works; social rehabilitation is considered to be one of her primary and major activities in almost all over the country. The social teachings of the Catholic Church have also made it clear that the role and responsibility to be played by the Catholic Church in the implementation of social rehabilitation projects.

Some of the social development and social rehabilitation project activities of the Catholic Church are related to, charity and home care for orphan and vulnerable children and the destitute, provision of social services, such as, education and health services, food security projects including emergency relief, and the promotion of gender equality, are among the prominent ones. The ECC is recognized and well known for its humanitarian work by Government authorities, international partners and above all by the poor the destitute and by socially excluded groups. Some of ECC activities are localized and concentrated in small areas, and some are wide spread all over the country.

The background for the preparation of the strategy is to establish and develop a systematized and concerted effort of all social rehabilitation activities implemented by ECC, and to strengthen our efforts in a coordinated manner and to bring long term impacts and changes in the life and condition of the poor, OVC and socially excluded groups.

It is in light of the above facts, that the ECC in order to further strengthen her social development project activities and to provide a systematized and coordinated effort to the implementation of social rehabilitation project within the Catholic Church has established the social rehabilitation unit at ECS level.

ECC in her mission statement states; "The Church contributes to mankind's pilgrimage of conversion to God's plan through her witness and through such activities and dialogue, human promotion, commitment to justice and peace, education and the care of the sick and aid to vulnerable groups (the poor and children)."

ECC under her vision and mission statement gives priority to the following five main core values;

- Dignity of the human person,
- Creating options for the poor,
- Social Analysis,
- Solidarity and
- Stewardship.

"No country on earth, no political system can think of its worn future otherwise than through the image of these new generations that will receive from their parents the manifold heritage of values, duties and aspirations of the nation to which they belong and of the whole human family. Concern for the child, even before birth, from the first moment of conception and then throughout the years of infancy and youth, is the primary and fundamental test of the relationship of one human being to another. And so, what better wish can I express for every nation and for the whole of mankind, and for all the children of the world than a better future in which respect for human rights will become a complete reality"

Address to the United Nations by His Holiness Pope John Paul II, 2 October 1979, no. 21.

The social rehabilitation strategy is designed on the basis of experiences that are gained from the works of Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission and also from other organizations working in similar type of projects. A social rehabilitation project in this context is meant to be projects for children, in particular for orphan and vulnerable children (OVC), the destitute, handicapped, and mentally retarded and for all social excluded groups.

Children in the society are among the group that needs special attention and care; and are highly exposed and affected to different forms of abuse and violation of their rights.

Children are the largest group of the population in many parts of the developing world and in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, children comprise about 50 percent of the total population. Hence, it would be appropriate and justifiable to give especial attention and care for children and their environment.

It is in this state of affair that ECC is committed to protect and improve the life and rights of all children and in particular orphan and vulnerable children through her social rehabilitation projects and programs. Most of the social rehabilitation projects and programs target and address vulnerable groups, such as, children, orphans, women, and also HIV/AIDS orphans and those HIV/AIDS affected and infected groups.

The social rehabilitation strategy document is divided into eight sections. It has Introduction, Background to the strategy, Objective of the strategy, the mission vision of ECC, highlighting the United Nations convention on the rights of the child and African Charter on the rights and welfare of children, Review of Government policies and guidelines, Poverty profile of Ethiopia and in its last chapter lists down the major social rehabilitation strategies of ECC.

The social rehabilitation strategy has fifteen points or issues to address the problem of OVC and other socially excluded groups in its project design and implementation.

3. Background for ECC Social Rehabilitation Strategy

A number of reasons have initiated ECC to develop social rehabilitation strategy that focuses on OVC. The purpose and the need to have social rehabilitation strategy include;

- Whereas, social rehabilitation projects/programs require a clear work guideline and common understanding of issues and problems
- Whereas, projects/ programs should focus on long term and sustainable social rehabilitation measures
- Whereas, to improve ECC performance and implementation capacity towards social rehabilitation
- Whereas, to empower OVC through participatory project planning and monitoring,
- Whereas, to build self reliance and create confidence among OVC and other socially excluded (or marginalised) groups of the society,
- Whereas, to build and strengthen experience and achievements in the area of social rehabilitation project/program development & implementation,
- Whereas, to enhance the development of OVC by having developed strategic framework.

For whom is the social rehabilitation strategy?

The strategy is developed for social rehabilitation projects/programs that are designed and implemented by ECC. The strategy is mainly to serve as a guideline in the designing and implementation of social rehabilitation projects that focus on OVC.

The social rehabilitation strategy puts much emphasis on projects and programs that have their focus areas on orphan and vulnerable children, and in particular on the following group of orphan and vulnerable children.

- Orphans and abandoned children,
- Street children,
- Children working in the worst form of child labour,
- Sexually exploited & abused children,
- Child sex workers,
- Physically and mentally handicapped children,
- HIV/AIDS affected and infected children,
- Children that do not have access to education and health services, and
- For children in difficult circumstances
- Socially excluded (marginalized) groups of the society

Moreover, ECC, to improve its work in the implementation of social development projects needs to establish a clearer vision and understanding. This strategy document is expected to be a good basis for ECC to improve her work. It is also expected to serve as a guideline for those projects involved with orphan and vulnerable children and other socially excluded groups.

Working Methodology/Implementation Modalities

Based on the above understanding the social rehabilitation strategy reflects the voice of the voiceless through;

1. Advocacy on child rights issues through the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN - CRC), The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children and the FDRE Developmental Social Welfare policy.
2. Lobby with policy makers on legislative and policy issues, and community representatives and religious leaders on social issues that affect the well being of OVC.
3. Networking with organizations and associations that work on social rehabilitation projects and in particular with organizations working through community based social rehabilitation projects.
4. Maintain Gender equality in the screening and selection of project beneficiaries.
5. Adopting rights based approach to ensure that the rights of orphan and vulnerable children and socially excluded groups of the society have been respected.
6. To create awareness among children about their duty and responsibility.
7. Make the participation of children mandatory in issues that affect their life and well being.
8. Provide capacity building and training for personnel working with projects that are involved with OVC.
9. Conduct research and study about OVC before starting implementation of projects that deal with OVC.
10. Awareness creation among the community and project implementers on the handling of social rehabilitation projects/ programs.

4. General Objective

The general objectives of ECC Social Rehabilitation strategy would be;

- i. To ensure that social rehabilitation projects and programs (projects for orphan and vulnerable children, destitute, handicapped, mentally retarded, social excluded groups) are designed in such a way that it will promote the integral human development.
- ii. Ensure that priority is given to orphan and vulnerable children and the poor in the social rehabilitation works of the Catholic Church. Develop and initiate holistic approach, and provide systematic and appropriate strategic direction in the design and implementation of social rehabilitation projects and programs.
- iii. Ensure that social rehabilitation projects and programs implemented by Ethiopian Catholic Church take into account the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN- CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of children in her implementation of projects for children.
- iv. Develop social rehabilitation projects and programs (with the participation of different stakeholders, including the beneficiaries) to address social problems that mainly affect children and in particular vulnerable children.
- v. To provide basis as a safeguard measures in program development and implementation of social rehabilitation projects through institutional strengthening.
- vi. Enhance the capacity DCS in the identification, formulation and implementation of social rehabilitation projects and programs and in particular to projects that address child care and protection, and improve the delivery of services.
- vii. Empower children using participatory methods and technique in the design and implementation of OVC projects.
- viii. Adopt more coherent national strategic framework and develop accountability in planning, implementation and evaluation of social rehabilitation projects.
- ix. Network with local and international partners and with other stakeholders involved in social rehabilitation project activities.
- x. Lobby and Advocate on social rehabilitation policy and legislative issues that affect the rights of children and other socially excluded groups.

5. Vision, Mission and Values of Ethiopian Catholic Church

The vision and mission statement of ECC is the basis for the preparation of this strategy. The strategy heavily depends on the vision and mission of ECC. The following is ECC vision and vision.

The Vision of Ethiopian Catholic Church is serving the Kingdom of God. It constitutes serving the coming of the kingdom in individuals and in human society and spreading throughout the world the "**Gospel Values**" which are an expression of the kingdom and which help people to accept God's plan.

The Mission of Ethiopian Catholic Church:

The Ethiopian Catholic Church (ECC), is the presence of the Universal Church in this country, aims at Evangelization which includes promotion of integral human development.

The Church contributes to mankind's pilgrimage of conversion to God's plan through her witness and through such activities and dialogue, human promotion, commitment to justice and peace, education and the care of the sick and aid to vulnerable groups (the poor and children).

Values

- a) **Dignity of the human person** -The poor are subject of their own development and agents of change
- b) **Creating options for the poor and marginalized** - Combating dehumanizing poverty, restoring the sense of co-responsibility in building a better world, underling the position of women. Recognizing that women have to be given their rightful place in family and society structures.
- c) **Social analysis** - Any economic, social, political or cultural structure that opposes, oppresses or prevents change is wrong/wicked.
- d) **Solidarity** - A genuine sense of solidarity with the poor/most needy, a firm and preserving determination to commit oneself to the common good
- e) **Stewardship** - transparency, empower the poor, commitment to justice and peace, raise and voice on behalf of all the poor and socially marginalized of the world.

Establishment of Social and Development Commission

Based on the request by the Ethiopian Government, the Ethiopian Catholic Church Bishop's Conference has approved the setting-up, within the Ethiopian

Catholic Secretariat (ECS), of a "**Social and Development Commission (ECC-SADCO)**" to co-ordinate and manage the Social and Development activities of the Ethiopian Catholic Church; taking into account the Laws of the Church. SADCO is legally registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Code of Ethiopia of 1960 on 28th January 2000. The head office of the Commission is in Addis Ababa and shall have Diocesan Social and Development Coordinating Offices (SADCOs) within the country.

According to the revised constitution, the ECS is structured with two wings; Pastoral Activities Commission (PAC) and the Social and Development Commission (SADCO). The latter is overall signatory with federal offices relevant to areas of ECC Social and Development activities including humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia on behalf of Diocesan Secretariats.

Objectives of SADCO

The objectives of Social and Development Commission of ECS are to:

- a. Execute the mandates given to it by the Ethiopian Catholic Bishops' Conference in the field of integral human development, welfare and relief, both in normal circumstances and in emergency situations;
- b. Assist diocesan SADCOs and work in close collaboration with them in net - working socio-economic programmes at both National and Diocesan levels;
- c. Represent the interest of the diocesan SADCOs to the Federal Government and in international fora;
- d. Build and improve the capacity of the National and the diocesan SADCOs to ensure the achievement of their objectives; and
- e. Make its members aware of policies and issues which may assist and / or affect their work.



The children of the world cry out for love. In this case love stands for the real concern of one human being for another, for the good that each owes to the other in the bond of our common humanity. A child cannot survive physically, psychologically and spiritually without the solidarity which makes us all responsible for all, a responsibility which assumes particular intensity in the self-giving love of parents for their offspring. The Holy See attributes particular significance to the fact that the *Convention recognizes the irreplaceable role of the family* in fostering the growth and well-being of its members. The family is the first and vital cell of society because of its service to life and because it is the first school of the social virtues that are the animating principle to the existence and development of society itself. The well-being of the world's children therefore depends greatly on the measures taken by States to support and help families to fulfil their natural life-giving and formative functions.

The children of the world cry out for greater respect for their inalienable individual dignity and for their right to life from the first moment of conception, even in the face of difficult circumstances or personal handicap. Every individual, no matter how small or how seemingly unimportant in utilitarian terms, bears the imprint of the Creator's image and likeness (*cf. Gen 1:26*). Policies and actions which do not recognize that unique condition of innate dignity cannot lead to a more just and humane world, for they go against the very values which determine objective moral categories and which form the basis of rational moral judgements and right actions.

ECC social rehabilitation strategy is designed to serve as a guideline in the identification, planning and implementation of social rehabilitation projects and programs implemented by the Catholic Church. Its focus is mainly on children and in particular on orphan and vulnerable children.

The main purpose for the preparation of the social rehabilitation strategy is to provide ECC with clear strategic objectives that would serve as a working guideline in the identification, formulation, implementation and monitoring of social rehabilitation projects and programs.

ECC social rehabilitation strategy mainly discusses on issues such as, child rights, human rights, Socio - economic support, Psycho-social support and Educational support for children in particular OVC, and also for other socially excluded groups.

Social Rehabilitation projects/programs are multi sectoral by nature, and hence, it needs to be planned and implemented in cooperation and collaboration with all those involved in the design and implementation of social rehabilitation projects.

ECC SOCIAL REHABILITATION STRATEGY

1) To ensure that ECC social development and pastoral projects/programs are designed to address the issues of social rehabilitation; orphan and vulnerable children, and socially excluded or marginalized groups.

- ECC Social development projects and programs need to be designed holistically to address the problem of orphan and vulnerable children,
- Child care programming should give more focus and emphasis in designing of preventive aspects of child care projects/programs,
- Mainstream child based development activities (or child programming) at project and DCS level,
- Programs and projects designed for Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) should work in partnership and in collaboration with formal institutions and structures such as, Kebeles, NGOs, Micro enterprise organizations, cooperatives and GOs; and also with informal community institutions and structures (Idir, Mahber, Equib and others),
- Address the social problems of orphan and vulnerable children and their families by providing health, education, and social amenities,
- Improve the quality of interventions or activities provided for HIV/AIDS orphans & street children.

2) Study and assess social problems that affect children and that are mainly related to orphan and vulnerable children and their families.

- Conduct research and study to identify causes of social problems that affect the lives of children and in particular OVC before starting intervention,
- Propose holistic projects to address social problems and maladies based on study findings,
- Carry out integrated child programs that will improve the quality of life of orphan and vulnerable children. Such type of programs and projects should mainly focus in the following broad areas;
 - Advocacy and Lobby,
 - Community Education,
 - Economic support, and
 - Psycho-social support.

3) Mainstream social rehabilitation activities (in particular on issues and OVC projects in the implementation of various development projects by ECC.

Social problems are multidimensional and require multi sectoral project approach instead of a single sector or unit. In any organization, the issue of social rehabilitation should not be left for one sector or department alone. Without the integration of different project activities it would be difficult to respond to the overall social development project objectives and goals. Each Social development project is expected to address the issue of social rehabilitation, and in particular OVC projects in a coordinated manner. Therefore, here the strategy would be:

- To ensure that social development projects/programs in their design and implementation take into consideration social rehabilitation project activities and in particular the problem of orphan and vulnerable children and their families.
- Integrate social development projects/programs with social rehabilitation projects that address the issue of orphans, street children, abandoned children, disabled or differently abled children, and children exposed to the worst form of child labor, and other.
- Work through grass root organizations and institutions, such as, churches, schools, *edir* and *mahber* to create awareness on social development/ social rehabilitation project activities focusing on OVC and socially excluded groups.
- Lobby and Work with administrative bodies and police to ensure the rights of children and other socially excluded groups.

4) Identify community based preventative and rehabilitation projects that will provide long term support for orphan and vulnerable children.

Long term impacts and benefits of social rehabilitation projects could be realized only when projects are implemented through community based approach and in partnership with different stakeholders and by creating an enabling environment and opportunity for the project beneficiaries.

Hence, to ensure long term impacts it would be appropriate to work with different community organizations and other stakeholders, and involve project beneficiaries.

The participation of the community will strengthen local capacity and knowledge base and ensure ownership of the project. At the same time it would should lead to increased responsibility of the project by the community and also ensure its sustainability.

The following are projects that are implemented by ECC and other NGOs for the rehabilitation of orphan and vulnerable children, and other socially excluded groups.

- Orphanages/ children homes,
- Medical centers and medical care for HIV/AIDS orphans,
- Carry out adoption programs
- Foster care,
- Nutritional feeding centers,
- Provide legal services and counseling (legal protection) to abused children,
- Nutritional feeding centers and therapeutic services,
- Psycho-social support (for victims of rape, and other abuses),
- Education for children with learning disabilities,
- Provide educational support for orphan and vulnerable children through sponsorship,
- Skills training and support in income generating activities (or micro credit services) for child sex workers, street children and for others,
- Community based care services,
- Community awareness creation program,
- Shelter/temporary or permanent/ for the sick and elderly.

5) Develop strategic options for orphan and vulnerable children and in particular for children that are affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS.

ECC together with Government and other stakeholders will provide support, care and special attention for children infected with HIV/AIDS, and also to children who have lost their parents and guardians due to HIV/AIDS.

- Lobby and advocate for policy measures to provide care and support for HIV/AIDS infected children and for children who are orphaned due to the death of their parents by HIV/AIDS,
- Provide free medical support to HIV/AIDS infected children whenever possible,
- Create job/ employment opportunities to HIV/AIDS affected children,
- Provide home based care to HIV/AIDS infected children,
- Provide psycho - social support to HIV/AIDS affected and infected children,

6) Implement social rehabilitation projects and programs that address the problem of orphan and vulnerable children, and other socially excluded groups of the society.

In social rehabilitation projects there is a need to develop broad based and integrated approach to support the survival and development of OVC, and for the socially excluded groups.

The different groups of children that need support and care and the socially excluded groups are shown in the following table.

Different groups of children that need support and care	Other socially excluded groups that need community based social rehabilitation
• Legal and psycho-social support for abused children and for children who were used by child traffickers • Medical support for HIV/AIDS infected children • Support & care for HIV/AIDS orphans • Community based rehabilitation projects for child sex workers • Community based rehabilitation for street children • Foster care & adoption programs abandoned children • Provision of Skill training and micro credit facility • Nutritional projects for malnourished children • Physically disabled /handicapped/ • Rehabilitation projects for mentally retarded children • Educational support for blind, deaf, dumb and mute children	• Project support for HIV/AIDS Victims through community based projects • Project support for victims of rape and other abuses through community based projects • Project support for elderly and aged persons through community based projects • Project support for People affected due to drought and disasters /flood, fire, etc/ • Rehabilitate refugees and displaced persons

The above list does not include all the social problems and difficulties faced by children and other socially excluded groups. However, there might still be more social problems that vary from region to region and from one culture to the other.

- The projects and programs designed for the above groups of children and the others should be community based and participatory. The project designed should enable children to support themselves and stop becoming dependent on the project and on the community.

- Projects need to be designed to make the children to become more creative, assertive and able to adapt their environment, and also make change in their behavior and attitude.

7) Implement Child Rights Programming on the basis of UN –CRC and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

Child rights programming means to adopt the UN-CRC and African Charter on the rights and welfare of children to plan and implement the goals and objectives that strengthen the rights of children.

- Adopt the rights based approach in the designing OVC projects as per the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child.
- Adopt Development and social welfare policy of Ethiopia and alternative child care programs in OVC project and identification.
- Implement projects that would improve the quality of life for vulnerable children.

8) Strengthen the Institutional and Organizational Capacity of ECC Social Rehabilitation Projects/Programs.

- Improve and strengthen the organizational and institutional capacity of ECC to undertake social rehabilitation projects that address the problem of orphan and vulnerable children and other socially excluded groups.
- Strengthen the technical capacity of ECC social rehabilitation projects/programs through training, seminars, and workshops in the area of project identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Build and strengthen the local resources capacity of ECC in terms of skilled and trained human resource and in financial resource capacity.

9) Carry out lobby and advocacy works for the right of children and other socially excluded groups.

Influencing legislators and policy makers through lobby and advocacy on policy issues and legislative matters (that affect the well being of OVC) should be among the strategic approaches and priority tasks of ECC. In the same manner, lobby and advocacy could also be carried out at community level to influence local authorities, traditional leaders and influential persons and religious leaders that have power in the community.

- Advocate and lobby on problems and issues that affect the rights of children [child trafficking, child abuse, right to education, harmful traditional practices, worst forms of child labour, gender discrimination, violence against children, right to health services, free medical service to HIV/AIDS infected children, etc].

- Lobby for the proper handling child prisoners by law enforcement authorities.
- Lobby for the equality, justice and peace of all persons deprived of their rights.

10) Network with organizations and institutions [such as, International donor agencies, local or private donors, NGOs, Civil societies, Government organizations, and other partners] and work together on issues and problems that affect the rights of children.

Lobby and advocacy works could achieve its objective if there is a good networking with organizations and institutions that have similar objectives. An organization or institution that works alone would not be able to achieve its objective and bring impact or change within a desired time frame. It is only through networking and partnership only that it would be possible to put pressure on policy makers, legislators and other groups of the society in order to bring policy and attitudinal changes.

- Strengthen the network and communication capacity of ECC through training and workshops.
- Establish ECC networking groups on social rehabilitation and children and other issues.
- Strengthen experience sharing, good practices and approaches within ECC projects and programs.
- Network with organizations that have similar objectives and approaches.

11) Design a Management Information System for Social Rehabilitation Projects/Programs.

The development of Social Rehabilitation Management Information System would strengthen the information, communication and experience sharing among the different projects of ECC implemented in country and also with the Catholic Churches world wide.

- Strengthen and developing the Management Information System (MIS) of ECC social rehabilitation projects/programs.
- Organize regular workshops on selected social rehabilitation issues, and make experience sharing visit to the different ECC projects.
- Assess social rehabilitation projects within ECC and promote promising and good practices.

12) Coordination and facilitation of Social Rehabilitation Project activities will be established or maintained through steering committee.

The coordination and facilitation of social rehabilitation activities of the Ethiopian Catholic Church will be at ECS level. ECS will be responsible in coordinating and facilitating social rehabilitation projects/programs focusing on children through its Social Rehabilitation Unit. The unit will work in collaboration with a steering committee that is formed by DCS representatives. The roles of the steering committee will be;

- Strengthen working relationship and experience sharing within ECC,
- Update and revise the strategy when it is necessary,
- Establish a network and communication with partners and other organizations.
- Initiate participatory planning of social rehabilitation projects (focusing on children),
- Coordination and periodical review of social rehabilitation project activities,
- Identify training needs for personnel working on social rehabilitation projects.

13) Empower and strengthen Grass Root and Community Based Organizations working on social rehabilitation

- Provide capacity building support for organization working at grass root level, in particular with orphan and vulnerable children.
- Initiate for the establishment of grass root organizations that would be able to carry out community based social rehabilitation projects using local resources and initiatives.
- Work with grass root and community based organizations (CBO), such as Idir, Mahber and the like, and strengthen their capacity and knowledge towards development projects/programs.
- Creating capacity for local institutions and association to provide community based support for OVC.
- Create awareness among the community about OVC.

14) Design, plan and implement social rehabilitation projects/ programs through Community Participation.

Projects developed with the participation of the community would ensure the continuity and sustainability of the project create awareness and also increase the awareness level of the community members, support and contribution may also be ensured.

- Social rehabilitation projects should be developed and planned in consultation and participation of clients, local authorities, communities.
- Communities should also take part in cost sharing mechanisms, in decision making and in monitoring and evaluation of the projects.
- Establish community (or social) safety nets.
- Maintain transparency and openness in project planning and implementation.
- Establish appropriate selection criteria of beneficiaries.

15) Establish a strong monitoring and evaluation system that would improve and strengthen ECC working methodology, implementation capacity and finally contribute to improved project implementation.

- Establish participatory monitoring and evaluation system that will ensure good planning and implementation of projects and programs.
- Building institutional capacity of DCS's in planning, monitoring and evaluating social rehabilitation projects/programs
- Measure project impacts and benefits that have accrued to beneficiaries and community.
- Establish impact measuring system or mechanism in consultation with beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

6. Conclusion

The ECC social rehabilitation strategy is a guideline designed to assist us in our implementation of social rehabilitation projects and programs. It may not encompass all social rehabilitation issues and problems; however, it is just one step forward in our work. It could also be considered as a good and positive starting point. It leaves a room to learn and improve further in the future. We should bear in mind that in our daily life that we learn every day, similarly, our development works and endeavors are also learning processes. Hence, let us be ready to learn and improve day by day. That is how we can bring changes and improvements in our works daily life. It is only when we have contributed to the needy, the poor and oppressed that we can actually say that we achieved something in our life.

The strategy insists on holistic and multi disciplinary approach to address the problem and issue of children and in particular OVC. The objectives of the strategy could be achieved through joint effort. It is the duty of all social development departments (food security, health, water, education, gender, and etc).

The strategy takes a new look into the participation of children in all our project activities. Projects/ programs designed and planned for children should be planned and designed with the participation of children, and not only for them. Children have the capacity to work as peer counsellors, facilitators and in other related activities. They are better informed of the special circumstance and life experience, and we should not forget also that they are future leaders of our world.

In spite of, the existence of the constitution and other directives or guidelines, children in Ethiopia, face several problems and difficulties due to cultural, social, economic and politically reasons. Most of the problems are multi - faceted and have several dimensions and might not be resolved by a specific sector or program.

The situation of orphan and vulnerable children reflects their social environment (family and the community). The problem of HIV/AIDS orphans is a very critical problem that should be given timely and immediate attention. Projects/programs that plan to address the problem of children needs to work through the family and community (including the school). It is mainly through community based approach that we could bring changes and make difference. In this regard, the strategy is meant to guide us to bring changes and improvement in the life OVC and socially excluded groups.

7. Study and Research Documents Referred

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