



Terminal Evaluation on Reducing FGM/C and other harmful traditional practices to improve maternal health among women and girls in Tulla sub-city, Hawassa municipality, southern Ethiopia

UKAID Funded Project INN-078 Disability and Development Partners (DDP)-Grant Holder, Berhan Lehetsanat (BL)-Implementer

BY: Holster International Development and Research Consultancy; Tele: +251 913815144,
Email:Holster.InternationalConsultancy@yahoo.com, Contact person: Alem Ezezew (Director and Lead Consultant)

October 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS.....	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	5
SUMMARY	6
CHAPTER-1.....	7
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	7
1.1 GENERAL CONTEXT.....	7
CHAPTER-2.....	9
APPROACH AND PROCESS OF THE STUDY	9
2.1 SCOPE AND LIMITATION.....	9
2.2 METHODOLOGY.....	10
2.2.1 Desk Review	10
2.2.2 Field data gathering Mission	10
2.2.3 Data Collection and Analysis.....	11
CHAPTER-3.....	12
SYNOPSIS: SOCIAL OUTLOOK OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TULLA SUB-CITY.....	12
3.1 WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TULLA SUB-CITY	12
3.2 HTP IN TULLA SUB-CITY.....	13
3.3 FGM AT TULLA SUB-CITY.....	14
3.4 Major Social and Gender Norms in Tulla Sub-city.....	15
CHAPTER-4.....	17
PROJECT RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	17
4.1 MAJOR PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS.....	17
4.1.1 Early Marriage Decreased	17
4.1.2 Girls School Dropout Decreased.....	18
4.1.3 School Girls Confidence Boosted	18

4.1.4	Girls Academic performance Increased	19
4.1.5	Referral Linkages Established.....	20
4.1.6	Former FGM/C Practitioner abandoned the practice	20
4.1.7	Commitment of Community and Religious Leaders	21
PROJECT RELEVANCE, EFFECTIVENESS, EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY		23
5.1	PROJECT RELEVANCE.....	23
5.2	PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS.....	26
5.3	PROJECT EFFICIENCY	28
5.4	PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY	29
CHAPTER-6.....		31
PROJECT SENSITIVITY TOWARDS 'VALUE FOR MONEY'		31
6.1	ECONOMY.....	31
6.2	EFFICIENCY.....	32
6.2	EFFECTIVENESS	33
CHAPTER-7		34
LESSON LEARNT, RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION		34
7.1	MAJOR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION.....	34
7.4	LESSON LEARNT	37
7.5	CONCLUDING REMARKS.....	38
ANNEXES.....		38
	Evaluation TOR	
	Evaluation tool	
	Project logframe	
	List of participants	
	Case Studies	
	Evaluation Schedule	
	List of Documents Reviewed	

ACRONYMS

BL	Berhan Lehetsanat
BoFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
CC	Community Conversation
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CwDs	Children with Disabilities
DDP	Disability and Development Partners
EFA	Education For All
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
GOs	Government organizations
HN	Handicap National (former name of BL)
HTPs	Harmful Traditional Practices
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SNNPR	Southern Nation Nationalities and People Region
UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organization

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This evaluation work was possible only with substantial professional support from different individuals in DDP, BL and concerned government stakeholders. Maggie Owen, Finance and Fundraising Officer-DDP, will take the lion share in the professional support through project briefing, availing reference materials, providing invaluable comments to the draft evaluation report and also make the debriefing session more lively and interactive to reach common understanding on the outcome of the report. BL's Director and Project Manager significantly contributed on clarifying hazy ideas and findings popped-up during the evaluation work. Project coordinators, organized field data collection and provided necessary information related to the study.

Last but not least, project beneficiaries candidly spent their precious time and contributed their invaluable ideas to the realization of this report.

We are deeply indebted to all of you.

Thank you so much.

SUMMARY

This terminal evaluation work was conducted on the project entitled “Reducing FGM/C and other harmful traditional practices to improve maternal health among women and girls in Tulla sub-city, Hawassa municipality, southern Ethiopia”. The project was a three-year (October 2015 to 2018) life spanned project with a total amount of fund £249,427. DFID/UKAID was the grant source, while DDP and BL were respectively the grant holder and implementing partner.

The evaluation report is comprised of six chapters: Introduction about the project and project area, approach and methodologies of the study, major project results, achievements of the project in terms of; project effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, and sustainability of the project. The body of the report also encompasses the sensitivity of the project towards value for money analysis through the DFID 3E (Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness) approach for measuring value for money (VfM). The last two chapters respectively discuss the major findings followed by recommendations on the project implementation and concluding remarks of the evaluation result.

The evaluation team applaud the project rationale and the decision taken by all parties (the grantor, grant holder and local implementer) to engage resolutely in the combat against HTPs particularly FGM/C which is deep-seated in the heart and mind of the culture found in the project area. The project undoubtedly achieved a significant result in changing the attitude and behaviour of various segment of the population towards HTPs and FGM/C in the target area. Without the support of this particular project many of the results especially decrease in early marriage, decrease in school dropout, formation of anti-HTP platform, establishment of referral linkages that deal with HTPs and FGM/C wouldn't been possible. However, compared to the gravity of the problem in the project area, three years were not enough to fully address the issue of HTPs and FGM/C. Hence, it is highly recommended to look for mechanisms for the continuation of the project.

CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 GENERAL CONTEXT

Location, Topography and Population Size:

HawellaTulla is one of the eight sub-cities of Hawassa city. HawellaTulla is located about 11 kms in the outskirts of the City and has 12 Kebeles (1urban and 11 rural). The total area of the sub-city is 10,200 km². Agro-ecologically Tula is classified as 25% kolla 10% moist midland (Woina Dega) 65% highland (Dega) and the landscape or the topography is surrounded by undulating mountains and valleys but with fertile lands suitable for agricultural activities. According to the Central Statistical Agency's Population Projection of Ethiopia for All Regions Wereda Level from 2014 – 2017, the Tulla-Wereda total number of population was 159,841 (79,816 males and 80,025 females), of which the Urban population was totally 13,595 (7,046 males and 6,549 females), while the total number of Rural population was 146,246 (72,770 males and 73,476 females).

Description of Problem:

The assessment study commissioned by DDP in 2013 indicated that the most prevalent types of HTP in Tulla sub-city to be: FGM/C; early marriage; marriage by abduction; rape; and physical abuse of women by men (termed "wife beating" by the survey team). In round figures, 75% of respondents ($n = 160$), said that FGM/C is either "frequently" or "sometimes" practiced; 77% for early marriage; 72% for marriage by abduction; 84% for rape; and 75% for wife beating. Specifically regarding FGM/C anecdotal evidence (from an officer of the Hawassa municipality Bureau of Women, Girls and Children) suggests that perhaps 99% of girls in the target area are affected. The study found all the three types (as per the WHO

taxonomy) are practiced locally, although types I (removal of the clitoral hood and clitoridectomy) and II (excision) are more common than type III (infibulation)¹.

DDP and BL in partnership engaged in a five year project called *Education and Livelihood Opportunities for Girls and Women* (ELGW) funded by Comic Relief Fund. ELGW was broadly aimed to promote economic and education opportunities for girls and women, and also considered HTPs as a factor in the oppression of women. The ELGW project accomplished several tasks in the target area which in turn serves as a foundation for the formulation of this particular project. Some of the accomplishments in the past project (ELGW) include: new classrooms, latrines, library and science resources etc to improve Tulla high school. Together they set up the Women and Girls Resource Centre (through a JOA funded Project) and the community based project 'Education and livelihood opportunities for girls and women' which then all contributed to the development of this current project with its rather different theme².

¹ DDP Grant document Narrative Concept Note Ref. No: INN-08-CN-1563, Page #8

² Grant Proposal developed by DDP and BL

CHAPTER-2

APPROACH AND PROCESS OF THE STUDY

2.1 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The field work was limited to the 12 kebeles of Tulla sub-city where the project was operational. The secondary data gathering process was limited to the available information only pertinent to the project in the concerned government offices. As a primary source of information the study process considered selected focus groups and key informants within the boundary of the project implementation area. This study has a limitation in comparing and assessing results obtained with the project intervention to non-project intervention area. This is mainly due to time and budget constraints. Concerning time, the study had to be conducted during school closing period and many schools were already shutdown. Add to this, lack of availability of information, lack of cooperation from statutory agencies and government office were limiting factors for the evaluation work.

However, the scope of the end term evaluation for this specific project followed the major objectives as stated in the TOR:

- (i) To independently verify (and supplement where necessary), grantees' records of achievement as reported through Annual Reports and defined in the project's logframe;
- (ii) To assess the extent to which the project performed well and was good value for money, which includes considering;
 - ↳ How well the project met its objectives;
 - ↳ How well the project applied value for money principles of effectiveness, economy, efficiency in relation to delivery of its outcomes;
 - ↳ What has happened because of UKAID funding that wouldn't have otherwise happened; and

- ↳ How well the project aligns with UKAID’s goals of supporting the delivery of the SDGs, especially SDGs 1 (good health and well-being) and 2 (gender equality)

2.2 METHODOLOGY

The end of grant evaluation has used the following multiple data collection techniques:

- Analysis of secondary data sources
- Key informant Interviews
- Selected focus group discussion
- Direct observation at site

2.2.1 Desk Review

The initial desk review provided us general descriptions of the project and outlook of the project intervention area. The desk review included: documents from Tulla woreda high school, documents from Tulla woreda women’s and children’s office, documents from Tulla woreda court office, documents from DDP such as; project proposal document, logframe, UKAID Annual reports. These in turn enabled us to develop and redefine guiding checklists and thematic questions for the field data gathering mission. During the report write-up, along with the primary data gathered from the 12 kebeles of Tulla woreda, relevant regional, zonal and district level government documents were generally reviewed.

2.2.2 Field data gathering Mission

The field mission was conducted between July 09-14 by Holster International staff Ato Abebe Lemma and W/rt. Tsehay G/Egzabeher under the direct supervision of the Lead consultant Alem Ezezew. BL staff Tamiru and Tsehay fully supported and participated in the coordination of the field work. The field mission had generally the following main purposes:-

- To collect all relevant information directly from the intervention Kebeles,
- To verify important information from logframe and project report,
- To pinpoint the major challenges of the project implementation

Based on the objective of the evaluation, the consultant team designed and used the following mixed tools for field data gathering mission:-

➤ 15 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs):-

- Gemeto high school director

- Tulla woreda Women & Children office head
 - Religious leaders at Tulla sub city
 - Tulla woreda Court president
 - Tulla high school girls club leader
 - Former FGM/C practitioners (3 groups)
 - Community conversation facilitators
 - Anti-HTP committees
- **11 Focus Group Discussions:-**
- Tulla high school girls' club members
 - Tulla high schools non girls' club members
 - Tulla primary school girls' club members
 - Community conversation participants at Dato kebele
- One document for secondary Data Collection from woreda Court office
- Three documents for secondary Data Collection from woreda Police, Women and Children Affairs and Education offices
- Observation of the Women & Girls Resource Center & high school preparatory classes.

In general, the total number of stakeholders and beneficiaries who have addressed by the above listed tools were 81, comprising by KII 21 (6 male) and by FGD 60 (4 male). Beneficiaries for the evaluation study were selected in consultation with BL staff and concerned government stakeholders in the woreda as per the availability of the beneficiaries.

2.2.3 Data Collection and Analysis

A mix of participatory rural appraisal techniques was applied for data collection. This included; key informant interviews (KII), selected focus group discussion (FDG), direct observation at site and also analysis of secondary data. Guiding checklist and thematic questions were developed by the consultant, fine-tuned and endorsed by grant holder (DDP) and the implementer (BL). After a through explanation and discussion on the guiding checklist by the lead consultant the 2-person Holster team was dispatched to the intervention kebeles to meet the target focus groups and key informants

The qualitative data gathered both through the unstructured interview and the key informants were substantiated by the secondary data source from the different levels of government line offices and project document. Along with this, the consultant's practical insight from the field observation was included in the data analysis.

CHAPTER-3

SYNOPSIS: SOCIAL OUTLOOK OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TULLA SUB-CITY

3.1 WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TULLA SUB-CITY

Women and girls in general in Tulla sub-city are no different to the rural women and girls in other parts of the country regarding attitude of other parts of the society towards females. According to the survey result conducted by BL in 12 kebeles of Tulla sub city, in 2013, the economic condition of women is limited and unbalanced when it is compared to males. Only 9% of women/wives have access to and control over resources. Other research shows that the practice of FGM and other priority HTPs are mainly concentrated in African countries and to some extent in Asia and among immigrants from Africa to North America and European countries. In Africa FGM and other priority HTPs such as early marriage, abduction, and skin cutting occur in different degrees.

Ethiopia is known for its history of diversified cultural and traditional practices. Some of these practices are beneficial to the maintenance and perpetuation of society as a whole, while others have long been affecting the livelihood and wellbeing of its population, particularly those of women and children. The positive practices such as breast feeding, post natal care, settling quarrels peaceably, social gathering, working in group (*Idir, Ekub, Debo*), extended family, and sharing of the provisions are beneficial for the health and psycho-social wellbeing of the society as a whole and for those of women and children whose needs have to be met and values preserved. Such beneficial traditional practices can be good examples even for the external world and have to be encouraged for their continuity. On the other hand, the severe harmful traditional practices such as FGM/C, early marriage (EM), food taboos, tribal marks and other skin cutting practices that affect the health of the population should be eradicated from the country³.

³ Study on Harmful Tradition Practices in Tulla Sub City, SNNPR, Ethiopia , September 2013

Women and children, the vast majority (75%) of the population, carry the brunt of HTPs in the country. Twenty one percent of the population is women of child bearing age. Marriage is universal and starts early. Contraceptive coverage is very low and child bearing is high. The cost of this high fertility is high as witnessed by very high maternal mortality and abortion rates and a risk of dying from maternal causes several hundred times higher than those experienced in the developed world. Ethiopian women suffer from work stereotypes and gender distribution of labor. Most are occupied in economically invisible work. Education as well as creating livelihood options for practitioners is crucial in the struggle against HTPs. It empowers people, women in particular, as they are the ones to instigate cultural values in their children, and thus enables them to withstand traditional pressures for conformity. However, the educational status of women is lower than men in least developed countries. Most of the harm through traditional practices is to health. Health institutions are expected to play a very important role against HTPs and in mitigating some of the harmful effects of the practices.

Most children in Ethiopia undergo some form of HTP, particularly girls who experience FGM. There is now an international movement to combat this practice, but systematic data on the incidence are lacking. HTPs such as FGM are considered sensitive cultural issues falling within the spheres of women and the family in Ethiopia. For a long time, the Ethiopian government and the international community did not give due attention to children and women who, due to ignorance or lack of awareness of their rights, endured pain, suffering, and even death inflicted on them⁴.

3.2 HTPs IN TULLA SUB-CITY

Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) are those practices for no therapeutic purpose which violate human and adversely affect the health (physical) and psychological wellbeing and the socio-economic participation and benefits of women and children in particular. HTP appears and continue damaging the society in Tulla sub-city.

The study (Research on Harmful Traditional practices on Girls and Women – DDP, 2013), undertaken by a local team of consultants led by a female officer of the Hawassa city Bureau of Women, Girls and Children confirmed that HTP is

⁴ECWG UKAID Year-2 Annual Report prepared by DDP and BL

considered as normal. In addition to cultural practices, such factors as lack of education among women, lack of communal sanction and male dominance are also mentioned. On the other hand, the research result confirmed that great majority of respondents reported that household members perceive HTPs as (1) sometimes criminal, abuse and denial of the right, (2) girls right violated, always criminal, and (3) non-violation of rights, respectively. Regarding girls', boys', men's and women's awareness and understanding about HTPs in the community, very few of the respondents noted that the awareness level of the community is found to be high. The majority of the respondents noted that women and girls especially disabled girls are the primary victim of HTPs. Therefore, BL believes that addressing health related problems and enhancing the education of Girls and women will help to support such socially marginalized groups of the society to improve their livelihood by empowering and enhancing their capabilities or productivity⁵.

3.3 FGM/C IN TULLA SUB-CITY

The same study mentioned above found out that the most prevalent types of HTP in Tulla sub-city to be: FGM/C; early marriage; marriage by abduction; rape; and physical abuse of women by men (termed “wife beating” by the survey team). In round figures, 75% of respondents ($n = 160$), said that FGM/C is either “frequently” or “sometimes” practiced; 77% for early marriage; 72% for marriage by abduction; 84% for rape; and 75% for wife beating. Specifically regarding FGM/C anecdotal evidence (from an officer of the Hawassa municipality Bureau of Women, Girls and Children) suggests that perhaps 99% of girls in the target area are affected. The study found all the three types (as per the WHO taxonomy) are practiced locally, although types I (removal of the clitoral hood and clitoridectomy) and II (excision) are more common than type III (infibulation).

Taking FGM/C, the consequences as regards MMR have been outlined by WHO (Effects of Female Genital Mutilation on Childbirth in Africa, 2006 Policy Brief: http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/fgm/policy_brief/en/,

⁵ECWG UKAID Year-2 Annual Report prepared by DDP and BL

retrieved 9/1/2015 – the seminal work on the subject quoted by, among others UNFPA: http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/fgm_2008.pdf, retrieved 8/1/2015). To quote directly from that paper: “The deliveries of women who had undergone genital mutilation were significantly more likely to be complicated by caesarean section, postpartum haemorrhage and prolonged maternal hospitalization than those of women who had not. Women who had undergone the most serious form of genital mutilation (type III) had a 30% higher risk for delivery by caesarean section than those who had not had genital mutilation. Similarly, women with type III mutilation had a 70% higher risk of postpartum haemorrhage than women who had not undergone genital mutilation. The proportion of women delivering for the first time who required an episiotomy ranged from 41% of those who had not undergone genital mutilation to 88% of those who had undergone type III. Among women who had had previous deliveries, the proportions were 14% and 61%, respectively”⁶.

3.4 MAJOR SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS IN TULLA SUB-CITY

Social norms are practices in a given society that are deep-seated in the heart of the culture. Deviating from the routine of the culture will have a serious consequence for the individual who go against the culture. He or she may be excommunicated from any social events. The social and gender norms exhibited in Tulla sub-city affected girls, particularly disabled girls, and women's ability to prevent FGM and other HTPs. Some of the associated proverbial sayings related to social and gender norms in the target area which were discussed in CC both with men and women groups are listed hereunder⁷:

- Uncircumcised girl/woman damaged household properties, girls’ circumcision hindered sexual desire and helps for smooth insertion for the male partner during sexual intercourse,
- Circumcised girls keep away dishonor and disgrace for family. Circumcised girls keep their hygiene clean
- Circumcision control women’s feeling and ensure obedience and the material property handled by such girl/woman will last-long

⁶ UKAID Project proposal INN-08-1565 Narrative

⁷FGD Findings during the evaluation study

- Uncircumcised girl did not get a husband, Uncircumcised girl did not get her husband's respect
- Insulted and bullied as "Does your mother lack razor blade?" "Don't you have a mother to help you circumcise?" The uncircumcised girl considered as not brave enough.
- Uncircumcised girl does not control her sexual feeling
- Uncircumcised girl categorized as "Weshelam" (homologous with the uncircumcised male penis).
- Uncircumcised girl insulted as "Why don't you circumcise your erected "Weshela" (clitoris- a sensitive elongated erectile organ at the anterior part of vulva in female mammals)
- Uncircumcised woman should be circumcised before marriage.
- A woman that has "Weshela" will not be chosen for marriage. If the woman married prior to circumcision, the bridegroom thrown her out and warned to return after correctly shaping her "Weshela" (clitoris).
- Males said to uncircumcised girl, "No way two males sleep together or passed the night on one bed". Girls with "Weshela" (clitoris) assumed as males.
- The uncircumcised girl is like a donkey with erectile organ, "Yesetina Masero Tinish Yelewim"
- Even if a woman gives birth to many female children, unless she gives birth to male child, she couldn't be considered as a woman who has children. Her husband considers himself as if he has no child. He says "I don't have a child."
- For girls with disabilities the common societal norms were; "Komatan man Yagebal", "Duddan man Yagebal" (who marry the disabled one) "Shiba" ("Koticha") meaning one not able to feed her husband.

The above mentioned social norms were indicative that how women and girls have suffered from culturally imposed HTPs, if they are disabled girls and women the problem will be much worse.

CHAPTER-4

PROJECT RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 MAJOR PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1.1 Early Marriage Decreased

Early marriage was one of HTPs deep-seated in the culture of the target community that resulted in fistula to the majority of girls in time of physically disproportionate sexual intercourse with male partner and during child birth. According to FGD participants and key informant interview, fistula cases and complications in connection with early marriage that claims the life of many young girls during child labor has sharply reduced. This is because the incidence of early marriage has significantly decreased in the target community through the concerted effort made by the project. Awareness created on HTPs to the community leaders and religious leaders, school girls club, the collaborative work of different stakeholders in a common platform and the establishment of cases referral linkage all played fundamental role to combat early marriage in the target area. BL project has created such an opportunity to bring all these various stakeholders together and voice loudly against early marriage.

Along with this, the secondary data collected from health office indicated, the total number of child population from 0 to 18 years old in the target woreda was 63,821 (35102 girls and 28719 boys). The number of boys and girls who have been affected by child abuse practices (physical punishment, rape, insult, abandonment) from July 2017 to June 2018 were 30 girls. Of these, the majority 25 girls affected were between 15 and 19 years old, while one girl is between 10-14 years and 4 were between 0-4 years old. These figures clearly showed that there was no single case of early marriage reported.

4.1.2 Girls School Dropout Decreased

There were multiple reasons for girls' school dropout in the target area, however; the main and common reason for girls' school dropout in this particular area was abduction and early marriage. In many case parents force their girl child to marry at early age largely due to cultural and sometimes with economic reasons. FGD and key informant interview revealed that girl's school dropout decreased in the target area due to the project intervention that created better awareness on the importance of educating girls. The school girls' club and school mini-media played an important role in boosting the confidence of girls to boldly and resolutely to reject the common cultural practices of early marriage. The school girls club is such an active peers' interactive learning forum and determined to protect the right of school girls through proper legal means. According to the interview with Tulla high school girls' club leader, there was a case that a 9th grade school girl was abducted and forced to get into early marriage without her consent. The girls' club leader along with the school director managed to conduct a series of discussions and convinced the victim's parents and the so-called husband. After several consultations the victim girl finally stood above the stigma of being an abducted girl and changed her mind to pursue her education. To this effect, the same girl promoted to 10th grade with good result.

4.1.3 School Girls Confidence Boosted

The project support in promoting the mini-media was found to be helpful and constructive in capacitating girls' and boys' active participation in mini-media club, able to using the available forum and enlighten their school peers about the appalling effects of FGM/C and HTPs as school teachers and club leaders remarked. Mini-media is communication mechanism found in the school where various issues of the community raised and discussed in the form of poetry, drama, news. It is a powerful tool to combat different forms HTPs and also bolster the confidence of girls since they openly participate in various activities using mini-media (recording and broadcasting set). According to school girl club FGD

participants, school girls participate in the mini-media through organizing and facilitating speeches, dramas, poems, literature, role-plays, as well as transmitting messages and leading dialogues to increase the awareness of students towards jointly eradicating HTPs. Besides, the students learned to listen attentively and understand the problems of their peers and became supportive to each other in time of need. They also communicate one another with respect and dignity. In the highly male dominated society, Girls' proactive participation in mini-medias to stand in front of students, teachers, parents and other community members, use microphone to make speech and convey messages, to teach and entertain questions and answer sessions on the various issues and common concerns of HTPs according to FGD was unheard of in the project area prior to this particular project intervention. The FGD participants also mentioned that the school girls not only gained self-confidence substantially but also reached out to the public to denounce the adverse effects of FGM/C and other forms of HTPs.

4.1.4 Girls Academic performance Increased

Regular tutorial services were supported for grades 8th, 9th and 10th girl students in the Women and Girls Resource Center (WGRC) and in their schools through arranging additional learning sessions for English, Mathematics and Science subjects supplemented with lectures, question and answer sessions as well as quick exercises and tests. The information collected from directors and teachers of Tula high school indicated that the tutorial service was also provided for 38 married students and for those who have economic and family problems as well as for school dropouts and absentees enabled to attend their education. This helped the girls to increase their understanding, competency and scoring better results. Improvement of girls academic performance; for example in 2016/17 academic year on 10th grade national exam, the point which has recorded at school is 4.0 for male and 3.7 for female student which is excellent performance. Moreover, interviewed Tulla High School Director and Teachers indicated that in 2015/16 academic season out of 62 girl students in 12th grade who sat for national exam, 21 girls (33.3%) were

passed the entrance exam and joined university of their interest. According to Gemeto high school director Improvement of girls academic performance; for example in 2009 EFY on 10th grade national exam, the point which has recorded at school is 4.0 for male and 3.7 for female student.

4.1.5 Referral Linkages Established

Issues of HTPs and FGM/C now a day are not left as such without being dealt properly with the appropriate authorities. The evaluation found the presence of a system through which the cases are reported for child protection service for vulnerable girls. The Police office spokesperson during the interview stated that the Kebele leaders inform the case to the police or the girls came to the police to directly report her case, then the police office will be responsible to facilitate and arrange the legal protection. If the cases of the girls required support, accordingly psychological counselling and treatment will be given; medical treatment will also be arranged considering the level of harm. The criminal (offender) will be legally accused and taken by the police to court after organizing the necessary evidences and witnesses for final penalty. In such cases police has given the legal protection for girls and women. According to the secondary data collected from the Police office, the number of children who have been affected by child abuse practices (physical punishment, rape, insult, abandonment) from July 2017 to June 2018 were 63 (48 girls and 15 boys). Out of these children, 29 girls and 12 boys were below the age of 10 years old. According to the interview with the woreda police spokesperson, the awareness created to girls about the availability of such kind of legal protection gave confidence to open up their cases to the appropriate legal body seeking for justice. To this effect, the police spokesperson confirmed several cases of HTPs came to the attention of concerned legal bodies and proper justices were served. Due to confidentiality the details were not discussed.

4.1.6 Former FGM/C Practitioner abandoned the practice

Practitioners' Income Generation Activities (IGAs) were initiated by BL to enable former practitioners to generate regular and sustainable income for their immediate families, reduce economic dependency and to be productive members of the

community, and eventually to be successful entrepreneurs in the business environment of the locality. The engagement of former FGM/C practitioners in IGA enabled them to abandon practicing FGM/C for their livelihood. The shift of livelihood by the former FGM/C practitioners gave them intrinsic satisfaction since they become productive member of the community and also they become change agent and advocate of anti-HTPs in the community. As the evaluation found out from former FGM/C practitioner interviewees, the practitioners are engaged in shop keeping to sell various commodities and rearing and fattening of goats and sheep, based on their interest and experience. They are successfully carrying out their business and doing well with noticeable changes in their income and livelihood and have gained a reasonable income generated from their business. According to the discussion held with BL staff, the total number of former practitioners who have started income generating activities with the startup capital support from the project were 72 (52 in groups and 20 individually). The startup seed money was provided to the former FGM/C practitioner contingent to the successful accomplishment of livelihood training arranged by BL.

4.1.7 Commitment of Community and Religious Leaders

The community and the religious leaders are both respected and influential people of the target community. To win the hearts and minds of these people and make them lineup with the objective of this project itself was a huge achievement.

The evaluation team has confirmed that the religious leaders were strongly involved to underpin the project objectives in the 12 kebeles of Tula sub-city. They have attentively given sermons and educated the community about FGM/C and adverse consequences of the different form of HTPs and the need to fight against HTPs. Add to that, cross religions which is interfaith religious leaders of Muslim and Christian condemned FGM/C and other forms of HTPs in the target area, which was fully endorsed by the community.

During FGD, religious leaders confirmed that practice of FGM/C is not written either in Bible or in Quran. They also added that according to the Bible and Quran, there is information on the importance of circumcision only for boys.

On top of the community leaders and religious leaders support, the established anti-HTP platform played a crucial role in bringing concerned stakeholders together in a single common agenda. In the platform positive norms were strengthened and negative norms were discouraged and disseminated to the larger community. According to key informant interview in government office, the platform was where consensus reached to design bylaws towards anti-HTPs and sustain it through collective action in each community.

CHAPTER- 5

PROJECT RELEVANCE, EFFECTIVENESS, EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

5.1 PROJECT RELEVANCE

The relevance of the project intervention was assessed in line with the project objectives, its consistency with the problems and felt needs of the target groups, and its alignment with the national and regional policy, strategies and programs. The project was designed to address the deeply rooted problems of FGM/C and other HTPs prevailed in Tula Sub-city of Hawassa City (capital city of SNNPR).

The evaluation findings revealed that the project was relevant since it focuses mainly and specifically to address girls and women that are severely affected segments of the society. These target groups are highly exposed to gender and social norms that aggravate the issues of FGM and other HTPs as well as the dreadful health related consequences. Prior to the project intervention the target community groups were highly believed in the gender/social norms of the society concerning FGM/C & other HTPs as the practices were deep-rooted in the mindset of the society. These practices were passed on from generation to generation to the extent that the society not only accepted it as normal or customary tradition but also they were proud of it.

The findings indicated that BL intervention covered 12 kebeles of Tula sub-city, which are the target areas where the prevalence of FGM and other HTPs are highly intensified, deep-rooted and coupled with enormous problems of girls and women. The assessment research conducted by BL and DDP also confirmed that the issue of FGM was severe and needed immediate intervention. The designing process of the project was relevant as the prioritization of problems and needs identification was made with active involvement of different stakeholders of the target community such as; Anti-HTP Committee members and key government sector offices (women and children affairs, health, law enforcing bodies, education, schools, parents, and kebele administrations).

Prior to BL project, FGDs with CC facilitators, CC participants and Anti-HTP Committee members, confirmed that the magnitude and occurrence of HTP incidences were alarming and severe in the target area. These were mainly because HTPs were wrongly accepted by the community as normal good practice and entrenched in the society's culture. In addition to these, low awareness level, low level of education, behavior and attitude of the community, lack of knowledge on the health consequence of HTPs and fear of alienation by the society were some of the strongholds of HTPs in the area. The seriousness of the problem in the target area really demanded a very relevant project like this one.

The main approaches employed during the project implementation process was institutional capacity building such as training and continuous awareness raising on FGM/C and other HTPs that helped in reducing the practices. The project approach to curb the problem of FGM/C and other HTPs were very much relevant since the community needed more than anything else behavioral and attitude change through various methods of awareness creation used as a means to address the issues of FGM/C. Hence, the project intervention to fight against FGM/C and other HTPs was quite relevant to promote conducive environment for girls and women through integrated capacity enhancement, health, education for societal transformation to lower the prevalence of FGM/C and other HTPs and eventually eradicate their impact on health.

In addition, the evaluation also assessed the extent to which the project intervention was aligned with the situation of women and girls in target areas. All the important policy documents of the country mentioned that elimination of HTPs as major policy goals. All recent laws put a very favorable framework for action against FGM/C. The Ethiopian Constitution (1995) specifically mentions elimination of HTPs within a general frame of ensuring gender equality. The Family Law and the Criminal Code have specific articles prohibiting HTPs/ FGM/C. In this regard, the general objective of this project contributes to the effort of Government initiation in creating an enabling environment for girls and women through the provision of health-related services and become productive citizens.

It was observed that close collaboration of the stakeholders, integration of awareness raising with activities of girls and mini-media clubs have productively engaged the young girls and helped them in reducing their vulnerability to FGM/C and other HTPs. This in turn contributed to improving the health of girls and women in the target community. The project's focus on young school girls is also very much relevant to the government endeavor towards transformation of young people particularly girls to become self-reliant and productive citizens.

The project has co-signatory sectors such as SNNPR Women and Children Affairs and Education Bureaus that endorsed BL's project document. This had designed five major activities; Awareness raising, Capacity Building Activities, Education, Strengthen Women & Girls resource center through comprehensive services and Livelihood Promotion, which are relevant for the project areas towards preventing the FGM/C and other HTPs by way of integrating the activities. Its target groups are women and girls, while men and women community members are the indirect beneficiaries. The other key endeavors of the project which is found relevant is the engagement of different government sectors as implementing partners and the capacity development supports for different sector offices were valuable inputs for enhancing the awareness level of stakeholders, targeted men and women beneficiaries at community levels.

The project was relevant and aligned itself to contribute to the achievement of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) at National level. Particularly, the stated SDGs such as; ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (Goal 3) and achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Goal 5) in one way or another addressed by BL project intervention. For instance; it made a major contribution to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for girls and women. In this connection, the project has intervened in various awareness creation activities particularly towards anti-HTPs and problem of FGM/C which causes health problem such as fistula and eventually maternal death. Furthermore, the project has made great effort on former FGM/C practitioners to shift their livelihood through various IGS (Income generating Schemes) as part of empowering women. Add to these, there are gender clubs in the schools supported by BL project which play a major role to narrow gender inequality at

school level. There are also community conversation dialogues which involve men and female community members at kebele levels which is good opportunity to discuss male and female different gender related issues and find solutions that can contribute more to bring gender equality and empowerment.

5.2 PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS

This part of the evaluation report presents the evaluation findings on project results and tried to observe the attainment of the specific objectives and changes that could be attributed to the project. The evaluation finding revealed that the project has been effective as it has significantly achieved the primary objective (as stated in the project proposal) in delivery of health associated services such as counseling, personal hygienic sanitary materials and raising awareness for women and girls as well as target community. The project was effective in bringing about behavioral and attitudinal changes through enhancing the knowledge, ability and experience of the community members such as religious leaders, girls club members, school directors and teachers, parents, Anti-HTP committee, FGM/C practitioners, CC facilitators, CC participants and integration of key development partners of local sector offices including law enforcing bodies. These community members who were once advocates of HTP have now become advocates of Anti-HTP and actively involved in project implementation to contribute for the prevention and removal of various issues of FGM/C and other forms of HTPs in the target community. The project was also successful in providing access to schoolgirls' tutorial classes and for adult women to functional adult literacy (FAL) services at the WGR Centre during the project period.

The evaluation team assessed the effectiveness the project towards achieving outcomes against the set Indicators in the logframe. Details are discussed hereunder.

Indicator-1: *Number and percentage of the adult population of Tulla sub-city demonstrating a positive attitude towards abandoning: a) FGM/C practices and b) any of early and forced marriage, marriage by abduction, wife-beating, and rape.*

Based on the evaluation findings from the FGDs and key informants, it was revealed and understood that the adult population of Tulla sub-city have developed encouraging

behavior and progressively changed their attitude to eradicate the FGM/C practices. The various awareness raising, capacity building training and experience sharing undertaken in the project period had shown an enormously positive result. The members of schools girls' clubs (which also involved uncut girls) and media clubs, CC facilitators, CC participants, former HTP practitioners and Anti-HTPs Committees, religious and community leaders, the key government stakeholders including schools and parents who played a supportive role in project implementation had witnessed the following: they acquired knowledge about the adverse consequence of HTPs, developed positive attitude towards abandoning FGM/C and HTPs in general. They also indicated that they will resolutely fight to stop FGM/C, early and forced marriage, marriage by abduction, wife-beating, and rape practices at the sub-city level. As indicated in the three years (up to mid-2018) BL Report a total number of 15,301 adults have been enabled to show positive attitude towards reducing of FGM/C and other forms of HTPs (early and forced marriage, marriage by abduction, wife-beating, and rape at villages, kebeles and sub-city levels).

Indicator-2: *Number and percentage of former FGM/C practitioners reached by the project who are no longer practicing FGM/C.*

The annual report and information obtained from BL confirmed that the project identified 100, and 92 women out of them engaged in awareness raising, of whom 72 went on to IGA training and support. Therefore, the total number of former practitioner who have started income generating activities with the support of the project is 72 (52 in group and 20 individually), that is 78.2% of the plan. FGD with former practitioners indicated the following evidences which are occurred because of income increment from their livelihood shift, 28.20% responded for family cloth and students' uniform, 25.64% for transport cost and 25.64% for the cost of students' exercise book.

Currently 89% of their family members including their grandchildren are at school. This is one of the effective and great contributions of the project. All former practitioners or 100% of them agreed to stop and condemn FGM and other HTPs which are practiced on girls and women at various levels.

Indicator-3: *Number of kebeles where religious leaders preach sermons against FGM/C.* As the log-frame showed, the planned milestones and the target (2016-2018), has indicated that the religious leaders preached in 4 kebeles (2016), in 8 (2017) and in 12 kebeles (2018). This was achieved by the project. As the evaluation found out the religious leaders were strongly involved in the 12 kebeles of Tulla sub-city. They attentively given sermons and educated the community about FGM/C and adverse consequences of the different form of HTPs and the need to fight against the HTPs.

Indicator-4: *Number of kebeles where actions to tackle HTPs are taken by Anti-HTP Committees and the sub-city level Coordinating Committee.*

The project reached all targeted 12 kebeles including the sub-city in 2018. BL reported that the committee organized at sub city level is involved in identifying the target community members for the dialogue with BL and women and children office (2016 annual report). Tulla sub-city Anti-HTP Committee members who participated in the FGD confirmed that BL strengthened the existing structure of Anti-HTP Committees in collaboration with the women and children affairs office at sub-city and kebeles levels.

5.3 PROJECT EFFICIENCY

The efficiency part deals with the project physical and financial performance and gives emphasis to the accomplishment of the planned activities in a cost-effective way. The project has injected numerous inputs to bring about the expected outputs in cost efficient manner. Materials provided to school girls like sanitary pads were locally made which is by far less cost than the imported one. The nature of the project like awareness creation needs small money like serving coffee for the participants, however; the impact cascaded to the wider community through participants. The evaluation team observed that the project has operated with reasonable efficiency. The project was implemented through utilizing its human, material and financial resources to achieve the desired outputs and towards meeting the objective. Optimal utilization of the actual available resources including existing facilities enabled BL to easily and efficiently deliver the anticipated services and reached wider sections of the target communities through various interventions.

According to the evaluation findings, the project intervention had addressed in bridging the awareness, skill and implementation capacity gaps of the BL's target groups and stakeholders. The capacity building intervention of BL had immensely increased the efficiency of key staff of stakeholders towards achieving the desired goal of HTPs eradication. Add to that the strong collaboration and linkage between BL and government sector offices assisted to develop shared responsibility. This boosted the efficiency of project implementation since the lofty burden of the project was shouldered not only by BL but also by various stakeholders. Instances of various HTPs in the community are resolved with the involvement of multiple entities such as; women and children offices, law enforcement (police and judiciary), education office and schools with shared responsibilities. This in turn creates time efficiency, cost efficiency and labour efficiency for BL to engage into other community beneficiary activities per the project document. In general, the effort of bringing all stakeholders onboard to address the main objectives of the project made the project more cost efficient since shared responsibilities are created among stakeholders.

5.4 PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability of this project is assured by its participatory nature which ensures the involvement of the target community. Active and strong participation of all concerned stakeholders including the target community from project inception to planning and implementation of planned activities had been one important strategy that BL pursued for ensuring sustainability and ownership. The findings of the evaluation revealed that feeling of ownership among government and community stakeholders has been increased in the process of project implementation that give impetus to ensure institutional sustainability of the outcomes. From the very outset, key project stakeholders were identified, their respective roles were defined for their direct involvement in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project. In such a participatory process, the strategy has been an integral part of an ongoing project management that also gave thrust for the project continuity since technical sustainability was ensured through the process. The community participation in selection of the needy target groups, CC facilitators, and schools has made the process

very transparent, acceptable and enhanced the contribution and sense of ownership of the community. In addition to this, various training has been given for community conversation facilitators, religious leaders, community leaders and practitioners at grass root levels that brought attitude change. The awareness creation training coupled with the attitude change has boosted the community's technical capacity to further continue and sustain the project.

In addition, the evaluation finding proved that the initiation of the project has government support which ensures institutional sustainability of the project. As it is stated in the National Constitution, Art 4: "Women have the right to protection by the state from harmful customs. Laws and practices that oppress them and cause bodily or mental harm to them are prohibited; In addition there is also national women policy and strategy at country level which support gender equality." In this regard, BL project has government policy supports which in other words ensure the sustainability of the project. In this evaluation, sustainability of the project results was also analyzed from the perspective of institutional, technical, attitudinal changes and access to resources.

CHAPTER-6

PROJECT SENSITIVITY TOWARDS 'VALUE FOR MONEY'

The purpose of the value of Money (VfM) drive is to develop a better understanding (and better articulation) of costs and results so that we can make more informed, evidence-based choices. The evaluation study considered the DFID 3E approaches of VfM⁸.

6.1 ECONOMY

The economy part tries to answer the question 'did the project buy inputs of the appropriate quality at the right price?' And tries to seek to achieve a balance between crude economy and good quality/VfM. The following are good examples of the project VfM with respect to the economy⁹:

- Buying coffee in bulk for community conversations at a time of low price, which can then be used during the season of coffee price hike.
- Project purchases, such as food, paper and pens for meetings, sanitary pads supplies for girls, are all locally procured not imported.
- Capital purchases made in Year-1 continue to meet the project's needs.
- Local salary inflation is more challenging, as project funding only allows for small inflation increases: the reality is far greater. However, this project benefitted from economies achieved by sharing staff costs between different projects on a time cost basis, and also from continuing to use the services of a (now-ex) staff member of an Ethiopian organisation working in a similar field, Kembatta Mentti Gezzima, to contribute FGM/C expertise.
- Local inputs such as the project-funded radio programmes have been sourced from trusted collaborators in previous projects, where there was already a platform of established programmes and collaborations in which new material with a specific anti-HTP/FGM/C focus could be integrated.
- Using a part-time consultant who is skilled in anti-HTP when a local coordinator staff member left, within the available budget limit.

⁸ DFID approach for VfM

⁹BL staff discussion and project document review (Annual report)

6.2 EFFICIENCY

This part of VfM tries to look the project from the perspective of how efficiently did project inputs convert to outputs through project activities? Best examples of the project are as follows¹⁰:

- Exposure visit with likeminded organization such as KMG is cost effective and keeps BL from making mistakes.
- Use one of the KMG staff a local partner to train BL staff with their own training material without incurring additional cost for training material preparation
- Posters and other information media were developed in collaboration with relevant government offices, using their well-developed and trained resources.
- Collaborative working within the local field team is also important and results in efficient use of local travel for multiple purposes.
- Local salaries are broadly benchmarked to relevant government development office grade/salaries.
- BL has extensive experience of local resources through other projects with DDP, for example adult literacy materials, and livelihood training and inputs.
- Project expenses are bound by Ethiopian government controls on activities and expenditure, including a mandatory limit of 30%(overhead)/70% (project) local cost breakdown.
- Cost sharing with concerned government offices on some events like Red Ribbon Day celebrating girl's achievement. In this day the project only had to cover half the cost of the program. Other parts are covered by concerned government office. Also using the WGR Centre built through a previous DDP/BL project as a key project resource.
- The project's quarterly radio broadcasts on FGM/C and HTPs have been 'embedded' in a more frequent schedule of BL-led broadcasts, through another DDP (disability focussed) project, giving them access to an established audience.

¹⁰BL staff discussion and project document review (Annual reports)

6.2 EFFECTIVENESS

This part of VfM considers the question of how well the project outputs achieved the desired outcome of poverty reduction / changes to beneficiaries and target groups. The following are few examples of the effectiveness of the project¹¹:

- Because of this project different actors/stakeholders (such as Ministry of women and children office, law enforcement - Police and judiciary, education office and school community) came into picture to resolve the issue of HTP
- Former practitioners completely stopped practicing FGM and became advocates of anti-HTP
- Former practitioners commence their own livelihood with small start-up/seed money. Most of their livelihood shifted from risky business of FGM to IGA.
- Influential people of the community such as religious leaders, elderly people, community leaders come to in a single platform and take collective action on gender and social norms that aggravate HTP
- Religious leaders in the target community condemned HTPs particularly FGM/C and also agreed that any member of the community who went outside of their areas for FGM/C should face justice
- School girls during FGD brought about the issue of FGM, saying that “if God created me intact, why do people want me to cut out the important part of my body.” They challenged the religious leaders in such a way. This shows deep attitudinal change among school girls which potentially cascade to their peers and family members.
- We have noted (above) in this year changes in the behaviour of FGM/C practitioners (a new cohort was engaged). They ceased to practice FGM/C and become advocate for anti-HTP.
- Increased confidence in expressing aspiration among girls in education
- legal and other redress for women and girls experiencing FGM/C and other HTPs seen through cases brought to the WGR Centre this year

¹¹BL staff discussion and project document review (Annual reports)

CHAPTER-7

LESSONS LEARNT, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

7.1 MAJOR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Organizing former practitioners into saving and credit cooperative and engaging them in self-employment small business was a considerable measure towards livelihood self-sufficiency. However, the women lack ability to formulate their business plan to manage their IGAs and financial transactions. Thus BL should take an immediate action to assess their status and provide with simplified guideline on the organization and management of IGAs and the necessary knowledge and skill in developing business plan with practical application.
- ❖ The willingness and dedication of CC facilitators in the combat against HTP in their community is highly appreciated. However, their effort for compiling diverse social norms and gender biases in their target kebeles should technically be supported. These could include computerized database installation for systematic compilation and documentation to generate informative information for wider dissemination. To share project result, different best practices and lessons to others there should be appropriate knowledge management system and documentation and dissemination at all levels. Add to that the limited capacity of facilitators in monitoring and reporting of their activities and achievements need to be enhanced through refresher training, continuous mentoring and backstopping supports.
- ❖ The role of CCs to achieve project objectives is undeniably important; thus to address more community members by CC, the number of facilitators should be increased and also be supported by concerned government offices.
- ❖ The intermittent participation of government actors in the CC dialogue with all their workload in their respective office is appreciated. However, the full participation of concerned government actors from women and children office,

health office, and youth office, cooperative and agricultural offices will make the CC dialogue more dynamic and vibrant. Hence, their full participation should always be encouraged in every dialogue since they provide information from the government side on specific dialogue that really seeks solution.

- ❖ The devotion of BL to bring about a change in the target community is a lasting legacy in the community. However, BL need to have continuous staff capacity building and technical support from DDP to cope up with the ever changing development approaches.
- ❖ Considering provision of sanitary pads for school girls may help keeping girls in the school for short term. However, in the long-term BL has to critically consider how the future support should be especially supplying of girls sanitary pads and related materials so that schools can get clear direction towards sustainability of the activity. BL has to consider producing of locally made pads by enabling community members through skill training along with designing of business venture mechanisms for sustained income earning. This could avoid dependency syndrome or expectation of sanitary pads from the school and project.
- ❖ Though not by this project, the construction of resource center for women and girls by BL in the area is very much important since it helps students discipline themselves to properly study their subject and also gain other knowledge from books in the resource center. However, it was observed that the Women and Girls Resource Center was underutilized. BL needs to aggressively work on publicizing and promoting the role and service center to its target community including the schools as well as the Tula sub-city government and relevant private and NGOs operating in the areas. The center could also be a potential for resource mobilization (cost recovery) to sustain the benefits of facilities.
- ❖ The formulation of Anti-HTP committee in the area was crucially important to properly fight HTP in the community. However, The Tulla Town Anti-HTP Committee role and responsibility, its linkage with BL and its project needs to be clearer. Besides, the committee has no by-laws, structure and other related guiding procedure to clearly know and lead its tasks properly. BL need to make

discussion with the committee members and come up with the solution that makes the Anti-HTP committee fully functional.

- ❖ The provision of incentives such as tutorial service for academically weak students, support of books and laboratory materials for schools boost the teaching and learning process in the area. However, schools need to be treated on equal basis. Though there is a financial limitation to address the needs of all schools; however, schools needed to be properly communicated why Tulla high school, as the cluster centre, got more benefits than other primary schools. This is because some communities complained that all attention was given only to Tulla high school. There should be clear direction and information for all high and primary schools on the detail approach, strategy and the type of provisions which are carried out by the project.
- ❖ Through this project, school girls club in primary and high schools are well-structured and functional. BL has to extend its project and associated supports to reach other unreached areas, so that it will contribute more to reduce and eradicate HTPs at various levels.
- ❖ Project phase-out is important part of project cycle and needs to be well articulated in the project document. However, the phase-out strategy of the project is not well communicated with concerned offices, so, there should be clear direction and information for concerned actors.
- ❖ Engaging all influential members of the community in the fight against HTP was BL's highly commendable work. However, these respected individuals (such as men, elders, religious leaders, etc.) need more and continuous training and awareness on the type and consequences of HTPs at various levels. Particularly emphasis should be given to religious leaders since they have good opportunity to be listened to and heard by the majority of community members.
- ❖ BL conducted important capacity building; however, the sporadic nature of capacity building program was not based on need assessment, it was one-time event and not accompanied by refresher course, training materials were generic and disability issues were not fully addressed.

7.4 LESSONS LEARNT

- ✓ Wide open, interactive and responsive discussion in CC sessions is instrumental as effective pathway of reaching and mobilizing the community, to exchange information and diffusion of knowledge that add value for life skill learning, changing behavior and attitude of the community members.
- ✓ Community conversation dialogue is one of the big platforms which brings attitudinal change on HTPs at kebele levels: this platform has been facilitated and managed by their own language facilitator and at their respective area. This is a good approach or strategy to reduce and/or eradicate HTPs, so, it should be scaled up with other areas with the support of its stakeholders
- ✓ Community's feeling of responsibility and openness during CC sessions helps to root-out the gender and social norms, wrong beliefs and perceptions of the society and to ultimately eliminate all forms of HTPs.
- ✓ Comprehensive and continuous awareness building of women and girls on HTPs is supportive to save them from harm, vulnerability and care for other community members from the incidences and related issues.
- ✓ Strong relationship between school teachers, students and parents helps in inspiring the community for mobilizing resources to ensure a rewarding teaching-learning and ownership atmosphere.
- ✓ Movement of girls and their clubs in frequent dialogues, sharing of knowledge and experiences on HTPs and its detrimental consequence among and between their peers, families and the community at large at different forums makes it easier to be listened to, acknowledged and to consistently avoid the dominant influences of gender and social norms.
- ✓ Working closely in partnership with government stakeholders and using the existing structure up to grass-root level enhances the participation in implementation and exchange of technical supports also lay foundation for maintaining and sustaining project results and benefits

7.5 CONCLUDING REMARKS

This project has brought about an enormous attitudinal change in the community in the way HTP were previously perceived. The participatory nature of the project implementation from all parts of the community –women, school girls, elderly men, religious leaders and concerned government office representative made the deeply rooted HTP practices, particularly FGM, no more again in that community. The support made to primary and high schools created an enabling environment for girls to develop confidence, voice out their problems and commitment to pursue their education to be a better citizen. Without the support of the project for the formation and strengthening of school club, girls in the area will remain timid and vulnerable for any kind of sexual violence and HTP.

In a nutshell, with respect to major project result indicators such as; relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability this project was by and large successful. The sensitivity of the project towards value for money must be compared to the incalculable results achieved in the mind and hearts of the community. In this regard, each and single penny invested by the donors in this particular project was not spent without value. Finally compared to the need in that particular area and adjacent areas it is highly recommended to continue and scale-up the project.

ANNEXES

1. TOR – Evaluation of UKAID INN-078.docx
2. Interview guiding questions.docx
3. List of participants in the evaluation study
4. Project logframe
5. Case study
6. List of documents reviewed
7. Final evaluation schedule