



**YOUTH AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION**

Completion Report **(from January – September 2024)**

*on implementation of
The Local Cooperation Fund of the Embassy of Finland in Addis Ababa*

“Learning To Live Together”

***Capacitating the Youth to get Engaged in Youth-led
Sustainable Peace Dialogue Initiative***

*Supported by
The Local Cooperation Fund of the Embassy of Finland in Ethiopia*

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Table of Contents

1. Narrative Summary of Physical Achievement.....	3
1.1. Major Achievements	3
1.1.1. Summary of Major Results	3
1.1.2. Other Activities	5
1.2. Challenges and Lessons Learned.....	6
1.2.1. Challenges	6
1.2.2. Lessons Learned	7
1.3. Recommendation	8
2. Budget Utilization.....	8
3. Summary of Physical Report	9

1. Narrative Summary of Physical Achievement

This report presents the major achievements of the project, *‘Learning to Live Together-Youth led Peace Dialogue Initiative in HLIs’*. The four major areas of accomplishment during the three quarters (Nine months) are: (i) *Build Capacities of 4 HLIs through local partnership to Promote and Practice Democratic Values and Human Rights* (ii) *Establishment of Youth Peace and Human Right Ambassadors Network (YPAN) in the 4HLIs* and (iii) *Youth-Led-Social Action Initiatives in 4 HLIs - Facilitate Continuous Dialogues and Debate Sessions among Instructors and Students* and (iv) *Provide Public Awareness and Community Mobilization Events on Peace Education, Conflict Analysis and Protection of Human Right* in the Targeted 4 HLIs Through Social Action Project. Other activities include participation in finding risks and conflict sensitivity during the project start and end phase. **Secondly**, consultation meetings with key local actors in each district of the identified four targeted higher learning institutions (*Hawassa University, Dila University, Ambo University and Arsi University*) have been organized for issue briefing of FLC Program. Other activities which were not planned initially but include conducting research in eight districts of Addis Ababa City Administration and three regions (Oromia, Sidama and South Ethiopia) to investigate the engagement of Ethiopian youth in peacebuilding, examining their perceptions, practices, challenges, and opportunities.

1.1. Major Achievements

1.1.1. Summary of Major Results

The *“Youth-led Peace Dialogue Initiatives” through Youth Peace Ambassadors* aims to promote and support the role of young people in peace-building activities that contribute to living together in dignity and dialogue. The project is the result of a needs assessment done by the Youth and Culture Development Foundation (YCDF) and builds upon the contribution and perspective that youth work and youth policy can bring to peace-building processes in Ethiopia, especially through its preventive and educational nature.

Central to the project are the concepts of human rights, peace, and “deep security”, understood as long-term and deep-rooted processes ensuring equality in dignity for all, fostering intercultural dialogue, and providing real access to and participation in the democratic process in Ethiopia. This initiative started in September 2023 in four universities in three regional (*South Ethiopia, Sidama, and Oromia*) districts of Ethiopia over a period of twelve months.

Assessment to date shows that *“Youth-led Peace Dialogue Initiatives”* has achieved its overall goal as shown from the achievement of the four major results areas and next outcomes.

Towards this, the following results were planned to be achieved by YCDF: partnership, capacity building, youth-led SAP, supporting platforms through awareness raising and community mobilization event.

Result 1: Partnership proved with Key Local Actors and Youth Leaders (YLS) to deliver the planned youth-led initiatives.

The partnership was set up in the early stage of the project. The specific “*Consultative and Learning Workshop*” on key HR education empowered local stakeholders with necessary skills for tracking and auditing human rights respect, promotion and fulfillment at all levels in the districts of Dila and Hawassa. 75 Key Stakeholders also attended the project learning workshop has helped to impart a common understanding among the stakeholders and engage them from the outset and ensure ownership and accountability. The plan has been fully achieved in this regard. The youth-led peace dialogue contributes to this goal by focusing on improving local capacity for sustainability.

Result 2: Establishment of Youth Peace and Human Right Ambassadors Network (YPAN) in 4HLIs

The development of the youth peace ambassadors’ network within the three universities helps to promote practices of human rights education for 94 Youth (57 Male and 37 Female) young people. The aim is to develop a culture of peace by empowering young people and promoting human rights, dignity, equality, and respect for diversity through education, advocacy, and other nonviolent actions. More importantly, the peace ambassador network supports these 94 young people with knowledge, skills, time, resources, and space to become agents of change, peacebuilders, and advocates at the local and international levels. Indeed, it fosters sustainable peace and dialogue focusing on conflict-affected and divided communities, which address Human Rights issues in communities, efficiently respond to emerging Human Rights violations and contribute to high-quality human rights education.

Result 3: Youth-Led Social Action Projects (SAPs) through awareness raising activities delivered by trained 60 Youth Community Human Right Ambassadors Network (HRAN) that contribute to in and out of campus community dialogue learning sessions and which showcase positive youth participation both in the district of Dila and Hawassa. The activities increased significant awareness for integrating human rights approaches on how young people act related to economic, social, and cultural rights. To address contestable issues which divide among students in colleges, the units to be instituted in the target colleges will continuously work to find issues and helped dialogue sessions where students will hold a critical discussion on the issues and generate solutions as the means to promote human rights and democratic values. These young people mobilize the community in implementation of planned 3 HR and Peace-building SAP (24 hour in 6 months each event 4hrs) from January- August 2024. In general, it is hoped the youth-led- social action initiatives will increase young people’s resilience and active support for human rights and particularly values of freedom, tolerance, and non-discrimination.

Result 4: 293 young people (114 females and 179 males) become skilled and equipped to better contribute for “*Awareness Raising and Community Mobilization Event*” to start actions for peacebuilding in their local communities (Provide an expose of human rights-based approach to governance and service delivery in Educational Settings). In collaboration with targeted 2 HLIs (Hawassa and Dila Universities), this initiative conducted three awareness-raising programs on democratic values, tolerance, non-violence, intercultural understanding, moral and ethical values, etc to selected participants within the learning institutions. The Procedures for the promotion of the messages include messaging campaigns through audio mass media channels such as radio, University mini-media, social media, and print media.

1.1.2. Other Activities

The other main activities include staff capacity building activities and participation in research on “*Youth Engagement in Peacebuilding: Challenges and Opportunities of Ethiopian Youth*”. The role of youth in peacebuilding is crucial and multifaceted, as young people bring unique perspectives, energy, and creativity to efforts aimed at fostering peace and resolving conflicts.

This research investigates the engagement of Ethiopian youth in peacebuilding, examining their beliefs, practices, challenges, and opportunities in the districts of Arsi/Asela, Hawassa, Dila, Shasemene, Jimma, Mekele and Addis Ababa. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the study collected data from a diverse range of youth populations across Ethiopia. The key findings show that Ethiopian youth are eager to take part in peacebuilding efforts but meet significant obstacles, including limited resources, inadequate engagement platforms, and socio-political tensions.

Despite these challenges, they show resilience and innovation in local peace initiatives. The research highlights that while youth acknowledge the critical importance of their role in peacebuilding, they often feel disillusioned with existing structures. Socioeconomic barriers and a lack of recognition from traditional peacebuilding actors impede their engagement, perpetuating their marginalization in decision-making processes. To enhance youth engagement, the research recommends the creation of inclusive platforms for dialogue and decision-making, the strengthening of partnerships between youth-led and youth serving organizations and local governance, and the development of capacity-building programs. These strategies aim to empower Ethiopian youth as catalysts for peace and contribute to sustainable peacebuilding efforts in the country.

Pictorial presentation for Peace Dialogue Learning Sessions in Hawassa and Dila University and the Local Districts



1.2. Challenges and Lessons Learned

1.2.1. Challenges

Two major challenges that were met during implementation in the reporting period are, which is indeed the most important quarter in terms of executing sensitive activities, scope of activities and the correspondingly small budget. The formal project agreement between YCDF and Finland Embassy was made by the beginning of July 2023.

Fortunately, it was before this agreement that some of the sensitive activities were undertaken using other sources of finance to avoid potential delay. To this end, YCDF made a great contribution by encouraging YCDF to do so even if the formal procedures delayed financial release. On the other hand, not all sensitive activities were undertaken as previously planned due to inevitable prioritization within the available resources. The progress reported here, therefore, must be understood in line with such background.

Similarly, cascading the **Training for 30 Youth Community Human Right Ambassadors Network (HRAN) in Ambo University** were delayed because of which engaging in **Social Action Projects (SAP)** also was not done early. The second and related issue was the delay in execution of **two SAP in Ambo and Arsi University**. These planned **6 Youth-Led Social Action** projects are based on various learning platforms for the targeted participants using the experience with intercultural and non-formal education approaches to community-level social cohesion and peacebuilding, known as the 3Bs method, or the process of *binding, bonding, and bridging (3Bs)*. These initiatives are opportunities for the participants to act for sustainable peacebuilding with young people.

Combined with other administrative issues for SAP executions, this was a big obstacle in starting actions for peacebuilding in their local communities. The other major challenge partly caused by the delayed engagement explained above is that the collaborating local actors for awareness raising and community mobilization events to start actions for peacebuilding in their local communities.

The challenges were, however, gradually solved as the youth (students) used their leadership skills, **“walking their talks”** in the **city of Dila and Hawassa**.

1.2.2. Lessons Learned

- It was learned that youth-led peace building programs are effective when the combination of local capacity building and partnership are ensured.
- Planning just a few Social Action Projects (SAP) in some districts can sometimes be risky as an external factor may dilute a demonstrable process and outcome. Fortunately, even though single SAP was initially planned in each of the 4HLIs, situations led to adjustment in favor of twofold SAPs (as explained above). Earlier and even better engagement of the youth became easy in the SAP that was added later. A related lesson is that combination of SAPs - some with favorable platform and others to be entirely started from the scratch- works well by systematically exposing the youth to progressions of challenges and increasing levels of engagement.
- Youth-led SAP will also foster sustainable peace and dialogue focusing on conflict-affected and divided communities. In addition, it will be supported to use human rights-based approach to combat social, economic, and political challenges in and around universities.

- Furthermore, it was proved that Active Citizen Social Leadership Skills Programme is powerful for youth-led development activities. We also entrusted some success stories to be produced as soon as possible after the implementation of the key priorities SAP. And in the meantime, also if an effort is made the YCDF will organize a similar tailored made youth-led programs for the peace ambassadors will meet at a network conference to share experiences and support each other in learning, action, and networking.

1.3. Recommendation

- Future programs must consider that SAPs become more successful if combined with Social Entrepreneurship in Peacebuilding approach which help reduce in violence. The idea is all about as a focus on innovation and systems-changing impact, not (necessarily) income generation.
- Events and campaigns must be planned with the next systematic means of engagement of stakeholders for better visibility of Youth-led peace dialogue initiatives.
- Other phases of Youth-led peacebuilding initiatives must continue with more intensive and systematic engagement of participating youth, particularly those who are already part of the program.

2. Budget Utilization

During the last consecutive quarters, the budget use which is from the remaining overall given budget ET Birr 729,059.68 is Birr 448,923.36 (61.57%). Aligned with the budget categories the major expenses are for Activity 3: Social Action Project (SAP) and Activity 4: Awareness Raising and Community Mobilization Event in the city of Dila and Hawassa. Other expenses which are for Project Management, Overhead and related administrative expenses are included. With the remaining amount of ET Birr 280,136.32 (21.22%) will be used for Activity 2: Training for 30 Youth Community Human Right Ambassadors Network (HRAN) and Activity 3: Social Action Project implementation for Ambo and Arsi Universities.

On the other hand, we also predict budget gap for the remaining activities resulting from currency fluctuations adversely affect the quality of achieving the intended results. As a result, the management of YCDF decided, in nearly all budget categories, we will made efforts to increase the expenditure accordingly. However, we must clarify that these adjustments were not formally incorporated initially into the budget as part of the realignment process prior to their expenditure. Nevertheless, it is manageable for us to do so in order to keep the quality of the project deliverables.

3. Summary of Physical Report

Fiscal Year: 2023/24

Name of Implementing Agency: Youth and Cultural Development Foundation
Project Title: Learning to Live Together - Youth Led-Peace Dialogue Initiatives
Project Code /NO: YCDF/EF-FLC/23/001
Project Period: Sep 2023 – July, 2024
Donor(s): Embassy of Finland in Addis Ababa

Project Location:
Region: South Ethiopia, Sidama and Oromia
Cities: Hwassa, Dila, Ambo, and Asella
University: Arsi, Dila, Hwassa and Ambo
Project Budget for the year: Birr 1,319,732.00 (Donor)
Total Budget for the year: Birr 1,787,825.00
(Donor+ other sources)
Project beneficiaries: 5,120 (both Direct and indirect)
Reporting Period: Month: Sep 2023 to Sept. 2024
Quarter: Q1-Q4

Components and Activities	Unit	Project Plan			Project Accomplishments				Up to end of this quarter		Remark
		Project Life	Total for the Year	Quarter I	In Quarter II-IV		In the Year		Qty	%(*)	
					Qty	%	Qty	%			
Component 1. Consultative and Learning Workshop on Key HR Education with Key Stakeholders	Persons	150	150	150	134	89	134	89	134	89	Coordinated Centrally, by YCDF
Component 2. Training for Youth Community Peace and Human Right Ambassadors Network (PHRAN)											Preparations made; training carried over to 2nd quarter (requested by Ambo University)
2.1. Selection of 120 Youth Community Educators	Persons	120	120	120	95	79	95	79	95	79	
2.2. Training of 120 Youth Community Educators	Persons	120	120	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Training manual translation (English to Afan Oromo)	Set	1	1	1	1	100	1	100	1	100	
Training manual duplication 120 copies	No	120	120	120	120	100	120	100	120	100	
Printing of IEC/BCC materials for Youth Community Educators	Set	1	1	1	1	100	1	100	1	100	
Component 3. Social Action Project (SAP) - Start and implement a Social Action to Human rights and human rights protection in conflict-affected Communities, Peace Building and Conflict Transformation in their Collage											Mobilize 200 participants for community participation in implementation of planned 4 HR and Peace-building SAP
3.1. College Community Dialogue Learning Sessions	Person	200	200	50	2		293	146.5	293	146.5	In Hawassa & Dila University
3.2. Produce Success Stories of the SAP and Disseminate for Learning	No	4	4	4	2	50	2	50	2	50	Documentation of the learning session process and identify at least 1 or 2 most significant change
Component 4. Awareness Raising and Community Mobilization Event to start Actions for Peacebuilding in their Local Communities											
4.1. To create awareness among teachers and learners on Human Rights related responsibilities and initiate actions for peacebuilding in their local communities	Month	4	4	0	2	50	2	50	2	50	Two Peace and Security advocacy learning workshop meetings held and hosted by respective collage (Hawassa &Dila)
5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning											
5.1. Progress Monitoring	Month	12	12	9	9	100	9	75	3	75	Follow-up, Learning and Sharing
6. Others (not planned originally)											
6.1. Organize peace-building dialogue among youth- Youth Led Peacebuilding Efforts	No	-	-	-	4	100	4	100	4	100	Peace-building dialogue at Dila and Hawassa

Project Financial Report (Please look for separate excel sheet)

Appendices

- A. Please include any **supporting documents for your indicator data**. This includes sign-in sheets and activity verification forms.
- B. Please include **photos** as required by your specific agreement.
- C. SAP Work Plan