

OVC-COVC PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2017

GENERAL

One of the objectives set for 2017 was to increase the number of beneficiaries in the program and it has experienced a notable increment regarding last year, starting with 159 beneficiaries and finishing with 207.

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES		
	JANUARY 2017	DECEMBER 2017
OVC	97	115
COVC	62	90
TOTAL Nº BENEFICIARIES	159	205

The COVC added 30 beneficiaries more during 2017, starting the year with 62 beneficiaries and finishing it with 92. These beneficiaries were already part of OVC and the reason for transferring to COVC was because there was a huge difference in number of beneficiaries between both branches of the program. The other reason for transferring was the lack of Afan Oromo language knowledge from the COVC social worker, making impossible to communicate with the beneficiaries from the rural area. The beneficiaries transferred from OVC are all Amharic speakers, so she does not have any problem of communication and we avoid misunderstandings.

BENEFICIARIES BY GENDER (December 2017)			
	OVC	COVC	TOTAL
Male	55	42	97
Female	60	48	108
TOTAL	115	90 (2 beneficiaries pending to be admitted in the program)	205

HOME VISITING

Increasing the quality of the home visits has been also one of the objectives of this year. We are aware of the importance of home visiting to collect updated information from the families and detect any kind of problems or needs.

Unfortunately, we are only able to visit each family twice during the school course and sometimes the families do not inform the social workers about the problems they encounter or any news that have a significant change in their lives and, consequently in the program. Some families already started to come to the office to share their problems/needs or inform about anything new in their daily life, but they are a very small part comparing to the total of beneficiaries.

Home visiting			
	NUMBER OF VISITS		
MONTH	OVC	COVC	TOTAL
January	22	NO DATA	22
February	11	NO DATA	11
March	8	NO DATA	8
April	16	45	61
May	2	2	4
June	6	16	22
July	13	0	13
August	15	0	15
September	1	0	1
October	8	2	10
November	9	1	10
December	10	7	17
TOTAL			194

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

BENEFICIARIES ATTENDING SCHOOL		
	JANUARY 2017	DECEMBER 2017
OVC	97	101

COVC	62	87
TOTAL N° BENEFICIARIES	159	188

BENEFICIARIES BY EDUCATIONAL STAGE (December 2017)			
	OVC	COVC	TOTAL
Kindergarten	6	2	8
Primary school	77	79	156
Secondary school	18	6	24
TOTAL	101	87	188

NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT

MONTH	OVC		COVC	
	N° BENEFICIARIES	COST (ETB)	N° BENEFICIARIES	COST (ETB)
MARCH	75	45115		
APRIL			10	6040
JUNE	74	48606		
JULY			11	6940
SEPTEMBER	74	58800		
OCTOBER			10	8120
DECEMBER	62	61480	22	22450
TOTAL		214001 ETB		43550 ETB
		257551 ETB		

HEALTH SUPPORT

	OVC				COVC			
	Nº BENEFICIARIES	NORMAL	MAM	SAM	Nº BENEFICIAIRES	NORMAL	MAM	SAM
Medical Check-Up (APRIL-MAY 2017)	95	89	6	0	60	55	5	0
Medical Check-Up (NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2017)	52	51	1	0	54	46	4	4
TOTAL	147				114			

There is still a significant number of beneficiaries who do not attend to the medical check-ups. Also, in the last medical check-up some of the beneficiaries came without any adult accompanying them. The program staff, after discussing the possible reasons and solutions to the problems, decided to follow-up the beneficiaries who did not come in the last two medical check-ups and send a letter to their families to create awareness about the importance of attending the medical check-ups and accompanied with an adult. The letter also informs them they would be dropped out of the program in case they do not fulfil their responsibilities as beneficiaries of the program.

CLOTHING SUPPORT

MONTH	OVC	COVC
	Nº BENEFICIARIES	Nº BENEFICIARIES
JANUARY	89	45
APRIL	126	60
TOTAL	215	105

HYGIENE SUPPORT

MONTH	OVC		COVC	
	Nº BENEFICIARIES	COST	Nº BENEFICIARIES	COST
MAY	31	279 ETB	60	540 ETB
JUNE	27	270 ETB		
SEPTEMBER	147	2352 ETB	65	1140 ETB

TOTAL	205	2901 ETB	125	1680 ETB
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ACTIVITIES

Human trafficking talks

The social workers organised talks about human trafficking to create awareness to the beneficiaries, specially the teenagers who are the most vulnerable ones, and their families. The talks consisted on presenting the concept, explaining the dangers they may encounter and how to avoid them. These talks were given in a very specific and reality-based approach, giving examples of teenagers who had that experience.

Hygiene talks

In each hygiene distribution and medical check-ups, the social workers created awareness of the importance of hygiene habits to the beneficiaries and their families. In the medical check-ups, a nurse or health officer also participated in the talks giving a more medical-sanitary approach.

Outstanding students' celebration

In July, the social workers organised an academic celebration, taking place in the compound, to congratulate those students from OVC and COVC who had outstanding results and give them a present to appreciate their effort. Even though the main part of the celebration was focused on the outstanding-students, all the beneficiaries and their families were invited, as one of the main aims of the event was to encourage the students to improve their academic results and/or put more effort on their studies.

Some of the beneficiaries prepared, with the help of the social workers, a play and some dances to entertain the crowd and make the celebration more festive.

Summer together

During the months of July and August the orphans, the ones living in the compound, took part in a summer activity called "Summer together" which consisted in helping the families of the beneficiaries supported by the OVC-COVC Program. This activity had two objectives: creating awareness of the reality of the families living in Meki to the orphans from the compound and establish relations between the compound orphans and the beneficiaries of the OVC-COVC so they could share experiences and feelings.

IMPROVING THE PROGRAM

- **Improving the quality of the follow-up and support provided**

This year, the OVC-COVC Program has incremented its beneficiaries substantially. The staff is fully aware this increment of beneficiaries should not damage the quality of the follow-up and support provided and moreover, the quality should be incremented to conduct a good follow-up and provide the support needed. Improving the quality of the beneficiaries' follow-up and support requires better organisation, planning and efficiency from the social workers.

During this year, a volunteer has been working along with the social workers to monitor their daily tasks, identify the weaknesses and help them improve.

The improvements done are:

- Updating and modifying templates to collect useful information, analyse it and give an effective response.
- Improving the home visits follow-up, designing a guideline that can help the social workers collect more useful information.
- Improving the educational follow-up, establishing a close relation between the program and the schools to collect the beneficiaries' marks and check their academic progress, as well as detecting the absenteeism cases and family problems.
- Setting and following a weekly plan. The social workers plan the following week setting the objectives they want to achieve.
- Writing down useful information on a calendar. The social workers write down the meetings, home visits, distributions, events and other useful information on their calendar to keep them in mind and facilitate the reports writing.

▪ **Improving the sustainability of the program**

The OVC-COVC is still a short-term-focused program as some of the supports provided (nutritional, hygiene and clothes distribution) are not having a direct effect to the root of the main community problems such as lack of job opportunities and, consequently, lack of income.

Therefore, the project staff has decided to start implementing some Income Generating Activities (IGA) to improve its sustainability, starting with two SILC groups: one in OVC and the other in COVC.

During the first months of 2018, the social workers will select the families who are going to take part in the SILC groups, according to their abilities and capacities, and they will organise some training sessions to make sure they understand what is a SILC group and how does it work.

Once the SILC groups have started, the social workers will also be present to assess them and solve the problems they might encounter, until the group is ready to gather alone.