



Green Launch, Entebbe, 2021

Strategic Partnership

Interim Report

Project N° 1980-00/2019

Project title: Socio-economic Empowerment of Children, Youth and their Families with Special Focus on Green Economy (**GREEN+ Project**)

Contract partner in Austria
Name: SOS Kinderdorf Österreich

Local project partner(s) in Ethiopia
Name: SOS Children’s Villages Ethiopia
Local project partner(s) in Uganda
Name: SOS Children’s Villages Uganda
Local project partner(s) in Ethiopia, International Office Eastern & Southern Africa
Name: SOS Children’s Villages International, International Office Eastern & Southern Africa

Country/countries: Ethiopia & Uganda Ethiopia (Hawassa, Mekelle) Uganda (Wakiso District (Katabi Town Council), Kabarole District, Kamwenge District (Rwamwanja)	Region/locality: East Africa
Duration: from: January 1, 2019	to: December 31, 2023
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Table of Content

Strategic Partnership	1
<i>Interim Report</i>	1
List of Abbreviations.....	5
Brief description of <i>project</i> progress	6
Detailed description of <i>project</i> progress	8
1. Project outcome achieved / discernible impact	8
a) Target groups reached	9
b) Activities implemented.....	9
c) Results achieved with regard to	10
2. Lessons learned / outlook.....	18
3. Challenges encountered and modifications	20
4. Risk Management.....	21
5. Sustainability / capacity development	22
6. Monitoring / learning exercise.....	23
7. Evaluation	24
8. Visibility and public awareness raising locally and in Austria.....	25
9. Other points	26
Annexes:.....	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.

List of Abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADC	Austrian Development Cooperation
CBHI	Community Based Health Insurance
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CCC	Community Care Coalition
CCAs	Community Counselling Aides
CDOs	Community Development Officers
CP	Child Protection
CRs	Child Rights
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ESAF	Eastern and Southern Africa Region
FDP	Family Development Process
FSP	Family Strengthening Programme
GAP	Good Agronomic Practices
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
KIPs	Key Implementing Partners
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NA	National Association
SACCO	Saving and Credit Co-operative
SOS AT	SOS-Kinderdorf, SOS Children's Villages Austria
SOS CV	SOS Children's Villages
SOS CVI	SOS Children's Villages International
SOS ET	SOS Children's Villages Ethiopia
SOS UG	SOS Children's Villages Uganda
TOCI	Twerwaneho Orphans Community Initiative
VSLA	Village Saving and Loans Association

Brief description of *project progress*

Das Projekt GREEN+ läuft von 2019 bis 2023 und hat das Ziel die sozioökonomische Situation von Kindern und Jugendlichen sowie deren Familien zu stärken, mit einem besonderen Schwerpunkt auf Green Economy, durch eine Reihe von sich ergänzenden Maßnahmen auf individueller, Haushalts-, Gemeinde- und nationaler Ebene in Uganda und Äthiopien.

Insgesamt erreichte das GREEN+ Projekt seit Projektbeginn 2019 2.952 (1515F) Kinder und Jugendliche sowie 709 Familien in Uganda sowie 1.311 (706F) Kinder und Jugendliche und 615 Familien in Äthiopien. Das Projekt hat insgesamt 50 % des Fünfjahresbudgets bis 2021 in Anspruch genommen.

Das Jahr 2021 stellte das GREEN+ Projekt erneut vor große Herausforderungen und verlangte dem lokalen Team außerordentliche Anstrengungen ab, vor allem durch die COVID-19-Pandemie und den Krieg in Tigray, Äthiopien.¹

Das Projekt Outcome ist die sozioökonomische Stärkung von 2800 Kindern und 400 Jugendlichen sowie ihrer Familien zu unterstützen, wobei der Schwerpunkt auf der grünen Wirtschaft liegt. Durch verschiedene Maßnahmen kam es nach und nach zu Veränderungen bei den vier Indikatoren auf der Outcome-Ebene. So besuchen beispielsweise 2824 Kinder und Jugendliche regelmäßig Schulen sowie formelle und informelle Einrichtungen. Andererseits haben die Betreuungspersonen ein positives Verhalten bei der Gesundheitssuche entwickelt. In Äthiopien haben sich 271 Familien bei der von der Regierung eingerichteten gemeinschaftlichen Krankenversicherung angemeldet. Dies ermöglichte es den Familien nicht nur, ihre gesundheitlichen Bedürfnisse zu befriedigen, sondern dient auch als eine nachhaltige Maßnahme für die Zukunft. Was die Gemeindestrukturen anbelangt, so verfügen die meisten über formelle Kinderschutzsysteme, die auf Fälle von Kindesmisshandlung reagieren. Allerdings gibt es immer noch vereinzelt Fälle, in denen die Berichterstattung und die Reaktion darauf beeinträchtigt sind oder der Abschluss eines Falles länger dauert als erwartet.

R1: IGA und grüne Initiativen: Insgesamt haben 517 Betreuungspersonen in Uganda ein stabiles und ausreichendes Einkommen erzielt, um die Grundbedürfnisse ihrer Kinder wie Nahrung, Bildung und Kleidung zu decken. Darüber hinaus haben 552 Familien mindestens eine grüne Tätigkeit eingeführt. In Äthiopien konnten 169 Betreuungspersonen in Hawassa die Grundbedürfnisse ihrer Familien decken, und 111 Betreuungspersonen setzen grüne wirtschaftliche Tätigkeiten um, die ihr Haushaltseinkommen unterstützen.

R2: Kritisch gefährdete Familien: 102 besonders gefährdete Familien in Uganda und 271 in Äthiopien wurden dabei unterstützt, Zugang zu staatlicher Sozialhilfe, einschließlich städtischer Sicherheitsnetzprogramme und gemeindebasierter Krankenversicherungen zu erhalten. Außerdem wurden sie mit Nothilfepaketen mit Lebensmitteln und anderen Hilfsgütern wie Lern- und Schulmaterial und Hygieneartikeln für die Kinder versorgt. Um einen einfachen und nachhaltigen Zugang zu Hygieneartikeln zu ermöglichen und gleichzeitig einen Beitrag zum Umweltschutz zu leisten, erwarben in Uganda 108 (100 F) Betreuungspersonen Kenntnisse und Fähigkeiten in der Herstellung und Verwendung von wiederverwendbaren Damenbinden.

R3: Jugendliche mit marktrelevanten Fähigkeiten: Jugendliche absolvierten Berufsausbildungen in folgenden Bereichen: Metallverarbeitung, Schneiderei, Kfz-Mechanik und Friseurhandwerk, Telefonreparatur, Solarinstallation und -reparatur, Anlegen von Beeten und Anpflanzen von Bäumen. In Uganda nutzen 68,9 % der ausgebildeten Jugendlichen ihre

¹ The conflict in Northern Ethiopia continued to hamper the planned implementation of the GREEN+ project in Mekelle in 2021. Besides the emergency situation at the location, communicating with the colleagues in the region was an additional challenge. Whenever this narrative report mentions Ethiopia, the information mainly refers to the project location Hawassa. The few activities that could be implemented in Mekele, are mentioning the location explicitly. Those include the Emergency Response Activities for Tigray and a handful project activities.

erworbenen Fähigkeiten, um ein unabhängiges Leben zu führen. 45 (24 F) junge Menschen wurden dabei unterstützt, einen Praktikumsplatz zu bekommen und erhielten anschließend Startpakete. In Äthiopien nahmen 58 (36 F) Jugendliche an einem Grundlagen Business- und Unternehmertraining teil und 10 (3F) wurden mit Material zur Aufnahme einer Geschäftstätigkeit unterstützt.

R4: KIPs: Der kontinuierliche Kapazitätsaufbau der verschiedenen KIPs und der gemeinschaftlichen Unterstützungsstrukturen im Bereich der Programmentwicklung hat die Fähigkeit zur Unterstützung von Familien verbessert. Gemeinschaftsstrukturen wie Role-Models und Kinderschutzausschüsse fungieren weiterhin als Motor für die Gemeinden, um auf die Bedürfnisse der gefährdeten Familien und ihrer Kinder einzugehen.

Insgesamt haben 3 KIPs (2 in Uganda und 1 in Äthiopien) die Stufe 2 der finanziellen und organisatorischen Nachhaltigkeit erreicht. In Uganda führen 8/10 Projektgemeinschaften gemeinsame grüne Aktivitäten durch. In Äthiopien führen 2 KIPs grüne Initiativen mit SOS in Hawassa durch.

R5: Menschen mit Behinderungen: In Uganda konnten 323 (215F) Kinder, Jugendliche und Erwachsene mit besonderen Bedürfnissen Unterstützung erhalten. In beiden Ländern wurde das Bewusstsein für die Bedürfnisse und Rechte von Kindern/Jugendlichen/Erwachsenen mit Behinderungen durch den Einsatz lokaler Medien sowie von KIPs und Regierungsstellen geschärft.

R6: Lernen und Wissensmanagement: Das GREEN+ Projekt unterstützte insbesondere die Entwicklung der Innovation Incubator Initiative als Teil der Strategie zur Förderung grüner Tätigkeiten in Uganda und Äthiopien. Durch die Kombination bestehenden Wissens und die Erforschung neuer Ansätze hat das Projekt außerdem Familien und Gemeinschaftsstrukturen ermutigt, sich für einkommensschaffende Aktivitäten zu entscheiden, die umweltfreundlicher und gleichzeitig rentabel sind. Die best practices des GREEN+-Projekts wurden als Input für die Innovation Club Initiative verwendet, die die ESAF-Länder kürzlich ins Leben gerufen haben. Inzwischen haben viele nationale SOS-Kinderdorf Vereine in der Region Vorschläge für grüne Tätigkeiten eingereicht. Durch die Anwendung dieses Ansatzes auf eine Reihe von Mitgliedsverbänden in der Region ist das GREEN+ Projekt zu einem Vorzeigeprojekt geworden, das bewährte Praktiken bietet, die nachgeahmt werden können.

Advocacy: Sowohl in Äthiopien als auch in Uganda hat das Projekt immer wieder Gelegenheiten geschaffen, in denen sich lokale Partner und andere relevante Interessengruppen an wichtigen und kritischen Diskussionen und Entscheidungsprozessen der öffentlichen Hand beteiligen konnten. In Uganda beeinflusste das Projekt die Abfallentsorgung, die Verwendung geeigneter Fischernetze und die Durchführung von Reinigungskampagnen in den Projektgemeinden. In Äthiopien konnte sich das Projektteam bei der zuständigen Regierung für die Bereitstellung hochwertiger Dienstleistungen für die Zielfamilien und die Gemeinden insgesamt einsetzen.

Herausforderungen und Risiken: Die COVID-19 Pandemie stellt auch afrikanische Länder wie Äthiopien und Uganda vor große Herausforderungen. Die damit verbundenen sozialen, wirtschaftlichen und psychosozialen Folgen stellten ein wesentliches Risiko für das Projekt dar. So kam es während des Lockdowns zum Stillstand, bis das weiterarbeitende Projektteam von den örtlichen Behörden die Genehmigung erhielt, das Projekt weiterzuführen.

Die Auswirkungen des Corona-Virus und die steigende Inflation wirkten sich auch auf das Kernprojekt aus, so dass viele Familien und Jugendliche arbeitslos wurden. Gleichzeitig stiegen die Kosten für die Projektaktivitäten drastisch an. Das Risiko für die verbleibende Projektlaufzeit besteht darin, dass die Pandemie die Durchführung der Projektaktivitäten weiterhin behindert. Daher müssen die Familien weiter unterstützt und vorbereitet werden, damit sie die kommenden schwierigen Zeiten überstehen können.

Die erwähnte bewaffnete Konfliktsituation in Tigray und damit verbundene äußerst schwierige Kommunikation mit dem Team in Mekelle führen zu großen Herausforderungen im Monitoring der Projektfortschritte der Fortschritte in Mekelle, daher gibt es zusätzliche Erläuterungen in diesem Jahresbericht. Unter den gegebenen Umständen ist es unwahrscheinlich, dass die Gesamtziele der Aktivitäten, Outputs und Ergebnisse am Projektstandort Mekelle bis zum Ende des GREEN+ Projekts, Ende 2023, erreicht werden können.

Detailed description of *project* progress

1. Project outcome achieved / discernible impact

The project aims to support the social-economic empowerment of 2800 children and 400 youth as well as their families with a special focus on green economy. Progressively through the various interventions made to achieve the outputs, there were changes realised in the four measures at the outcome level.

In Uganda, despite COVID-19 pandemic during the last two years of 2020 and 2021, the percentage of children of school going age who are attending school has been growing. 1,121 girls and 1082 boys out of 2520 children are regularly attending school. Percentage in enrolment and attendance is at 66.29%. This is partly, attributed to the regular back to school, stay, and complete school campaigns conducted in the last year, as well as progressive stability of incomes in project participating families. In Ethiopia, Hawassa² based on the assessment result, it is found that 95% of project participants are children attending school. Out of the total number of 621 school age children, 590 (95%) of them are attending school regularly.

From the assessment conducted at the end of year at family level, it showed that in Uganda project participants/ caregivers, parents have increased their health seeking behaviour by 22.4 % since the inception of the project. The overall progress is at 80% comparing to baseline of 76%. Some of the services are accessible at the government facilities, but others have been extended to their reach through home-based care, community health outreaches and continuous awareness creation on health promotion and preventive measures. (*Source: Household vulnerability Review assessment report*) So far, 271 project participant caregivers have got access to community-based health insurance in Hawassa, Ethiopia, and can get the service any time. The insurance scheme helped the project participants children and their caregivers to get treatment when they get sick. In addition, the health-seeking behavior of the caregivers increased due to the insurance scheme as well as the awareness raising efforts.

Seven Community structures out of ten in Uganda follow a systematic child protection case management to closure. This project is standing at 36% progress to achieve the 5 years target. There has been an improvement of case identification, reporting and management. These community structures have mastered the role of each stakeholder in responding to child protection issues and network with each other as well to deliver the quality service to the persons of concerns. In Fort Portal, for example the case closure for 2021 was at 84 % by the community structures. (*Source; Child Protection case books*) Two child protection committees have already been established at project implementation communities in Hawassa, Ethiopia. The committee is actively functioning in the community in terms of creating awareness, managing reporting and responding mechanism in the community. As a result, a number of cases have been reported to the child protection committee; some of them have got response with the close follow up the team

About income stability, by December 2021 74% of the exited 59 families were self-reliant in Uganda. In general, families have improved their household income by 29.8% comparing to the baseline. The continuous capacity building training of the caregivers in utilizing the little resource they have to establish viable income generating activities has contributed to this.

² For Ethiopia the calculation of the progress at outcome level only the available data from Hawassa has been used. (No Data available from Mekelle at this stage)

More so, the project has supported families with start-up seed funds and inputs for their manageable projects at their level. (Source: Household economic assessment report). In Ha-wassa GREEN+ project exited 68-project participant caregiver as a self-reliant. The exit was made after the required assessment and discussion with the project participant caregivers using the three keys.

a) Target groups reached

During the course of implementation for the year 2021, the GREEN+ project was able to reach both direct and indirect beneficiaries. The direct beneficiaries are summarised in the table below.

SOS Location	Number of catch-ment's communities	Number of families		Number of child beneficiaries				Number of child beneficiaries exited				Number of new Child beneficiar-ies				Number of Adult beneficiaries		Number of fami-lies exited	
		To-tal	New fami-lies	(0-17)		18+		(0-17)		18+		(0-17)		18+		F	M		
				F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M						
Entebbe	3	240	0	379	356	94	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	237	78	0
Fort Portal	8	469	134	881	860	161	141	98	73	24	24	244	265	12	11	306	##	59	
Ha-wassa	2	310	91	297	287	90	0	91	62	72	36	40	86	97	12	386	##	83	
Mekelle	5	305	0	238	224	81	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	362	##	0	
Total	18	1324	225	1795	1727	426	315	189	135	96	60	284	351	109	23	1291	##	142	

Table 1: Enrolled direct beneficiaries (Children, young people, and adults)

The project reached other direct indirect beneficiaries through the different interventions such as community dialogues, community massive sensitisation using the media, economic strengthening interventions, parenting sessions, innovation incubator projects, and radio jin-gles, to mention just a few. As a result 227,901 people were reached. (47,901 from Uganda and 180,000 from Ethiopia)

b) Activities implemented

During the year 2021, the major focus of the GREEN+ project in both Ethiopia and Uganda was to accelerate implementation across the 6 result areas to cover the lost time incurred during the COVID-19 second lockdown. The project implemented activities geared toward building the social-economic capacity of both the caregivers, young people, and community structures. In addition, appropriate responses were developed and implemented to the emer-gency situations incurred in Uganda and Ethiopia respectively. Among the key activities implemented were the following listed below:

- ✓ Reviewed the family development plans, to track the progress made to set family goals and respond to deviations where need be.
- ✓ Facilitated the capacity building of the families in business and entrepreneurship.
- ✓ Provision of the marketable skills to parents which are linked to the green economy
- ✓ Supported and linked caregiver to VSLAs and SACCOS respectively
- ✓ Conducting parenting and psychosocial training for caregivers in Uganda

- ✓ Facilitated and link critically vulnerable children and caregivers to access social protection services provided by the government and other private service providers.
- ✓ Facilitate critically vulnerable children to access basic needs support and services.
- ✓ Facilitate life-skills training for critically vulnerable children.
- ✓ Built the capacity of the community-based partners and other community-based structures to enable them to respond to the development need of the children and families
- ✓ Supported the structures to develop social protection interventions
- ✓ Supported caregivers who could hardly be able to pay for rent in the urban communities of Hawassa and Mekelle
- ✓ Responded to the emergency needs of 150 families caused by COVID-19 in Hawassa
- ✓ Responded to the emergency situation in the Tigray region in Ethiopia, through the provision of educational support, rent for the families that could not afford it and psychosocial support, Nutrition support for 59 under 5 age children, 31 pregnant and 19 lactating mothers. Food Support for project 283 caregivers and their 639 children
- ✓ Provided nutritional support to 160 malnourished HIV/AIDS positive children and caregivers, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), and Children with Disabilities (CWDs) that have been affected by COVID-19 in Fort-Portal
- ✓ Build the capacity of young people in technical skills through placing the local artisans and vocational training institutions as per the needs of each young person. Linked them to saving and credit institutions as well enabling those who completed their training to secure placements for internships.
- ✓ Built the capacity of the community-based partners and other community-based structures to enable them to respond to the development need of the children and families
- ✓ Engage people with the most marginalized groups to enable the communities families to respond to their needs as well as enable them to participate in decision making in different community forums
- ✓ Facilitate the learning needs of the SOS staff coworkers and key implementing partners to improve their effectiveness in service delivery.

The divergences in the planned schedules arose as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown that affected the school-based activities and rescheduling of activities. Similarly, the conflict situation in Mekelle and the land eviction of close to 46 families in Entebbe lead to emergency responses.

c) Results achieved with regard to

Capacity Development

Building capacities of the targeted groups and communities is one of the mandates of the GREEN+ project across the two implementing countries, Ethiopia and Uganda. This has been done at different levels ranging from individual, group and community levels.

Capacity building of caregivers

Capacity building of the caregivers has been at the forefront of GREEN+ project implementation to increase their ability to take care of their children and young people. As a result in Uganda, there has been an increase in families' average monthly income from 40 Euros in 2020 to 42 Euros in 2021. This was attributed to different capacity building activities including, the provision of seed funds to 26 families, provision of seeds and farm inputs to 345 families (253F, 92M), conducting training in; business and entrepreneur management skills, Good Agronomic Practices (GAP), apiary, poultry, piggery, and banana management as well as

supporting the functionality of 79 VSLA groups (33 Entebbe, 46Fort-Portal). 517 families benefited hence the increased household income among the targeted families. Additionally, during the reporting period 2021, the team in Fort Portal facilitated the establishment of four groups of caregivers and one child support group in Art & Craft (shoemaking, shopping basket, and mat making, some have picked it and ready selling. In addition, 81% of the total program families are engaged in VSLAs and this eased access to soft loans for their investments.



Concerning the environmental protection, the project has increased the level of knowledge on green growth activities both at the household and community level with a focus on environmental conservation. To date the targeted communities have embraced environmental protection and practicing methods geared at protecting the environment. These include use of solar, briquette making, cooking fuel saving stoves, garbage sorting, backyard gardening, water harvesting, and environmentally

friendly agricultural practices. During the reporting period, 471 out of 736 families were implementing one or two activities to conserve the environment. The different interventions carried out to achieve this included the following: Conducting an exchange learning visit for SOS staff, KIPs and members of community structures to Kibaale Science Centre for learning briquette making with community involvement in Fort-Portal while in Entebbe the SOS staff, KIPs and caregivers visited Gudie farm that is experienced in GREEN enterprise.

Awareness creation on environmental protection was conducted reaching out to 373 (F-309, M-140) caregivers and community members from both locations. As a result of the sessions, the community have a changed perception on the environment and more members are embracing tree planting and proper waste management practices such as garbage sorting and engaged during community cleaning days. They have refrained from illegal farming in wetlands and are now ambassadors of change. The project team also conducted a training in tree planting and maintenance for care givers and this contributed to increase tree coverage because tree and fruit seedlings (Avocado and oranges) were later distributed to 147 trained caregivers and have since planted them.

In Hawassa, Ethiopia, further efforts were made to build the capacity of the 106(102F) caregivers. The focus was put on environmental protection, green activities as means of livelihood, recycling and urban agriculture. Following the training, 42 of them engaged in various green IGA like vegetable retailing, injera making using energy saving stoves, and other IGAs like urban based poultry farming, dairy farming and fast food preparation. As a result engaging in viable IGAS, 46(2M) families were able to joint saving and credit association and started to save some amount of their income each month. Out of the 42 families, 35 of them accessed loan services and boosted their income generating activities as per their business plans. In Mekelle a basic business skills training could be realised with 105 (103 F) caregivers at the beginning when the interim government joined Mekelle.

The parenting agenda was part of the focus for the year 2021 in both in Ethiopia and Uganda. 47 (46F) of the caregivers in Hawassa Ethiopia testified having aquired knowledge and skills in parenting. Also in Mekelle 29 female caregivers and 30 female volunteers received a training on child protection and psychosocial support. On the other hand using the Parenting for respectability model in project targeted communities in Uganda, 329 (213F, 116M) caregivers capacity to take care of their children has been enhanced. Parents reported improved child

to parent, and husband to wife relationships due to the sessions they have gone through in parenting.

Additionally, in Mekelle the project supported 113 (109 F) highly vulnerable target caregivers to access the basic needs and support services. Also, small steps in the progress of the construction of the community day care centre could be made.

Awareness of project participant caregivers enhanced and augmented with supplement knowledge on green economy and environmental protection. Training provided to 50 female project participant caregivers on green economy approaches, and green livelihood at household level. Relevant points discussed in this particular training such as environmental protection, green activities as means of livelihood, recycling and urban agriculture.

As result of technical and material support and close follow up, 23 female caregivers capacitated in attaining daily livelihoods accompanied by fresh and nutritious vegetables. Of these, 11 caregivers are those residing around Lake Hawassa have been producing various vegetables and getting profit out of it. The rest 12 are those who produce vegetables in the SOSCV Hawassa compound. This group are doing well and two of them exited the project as self-reliant. The earlier currently formed green group which create a platform to exchange experience and learnings and share resources for common good.

Capacity building of the young people

Owing to the low level of employment of young people globally and Africa in particular, the project put focus on building the capacity of young people to enable them acquire employable skills with a focus to green activities. Among the trades included the environmentally friendly vocational skills in the areas such as: metal fabrication, tailoring, motor vehicle mechanics and hairdressing, phone repair, solar installation and repair, nursery bed making, tree planting. In Uganda, the year 2021 saw 45 (F-24) young people supported to get placement and thereafter supported with startup kits. To date 68.9% of the youth trained youth are utilizing the skills they attained to generate income. This has increased their income base and have started to support their families. They are able to use the proceeds from the IGAs to save in their VSLAs, support the families with basic needs and improve their standards of living. 112 (77F &35M) youth from Entebbe and Fort-Portal have gained life skills, decision making, creativity, self-control, problem solving, self-esteem and assertiveness as a result of life skills sessions and will be able to make positive choices and adopt positive behavior that will improve their lives and communities.

To provide easy and sustainable access to sanitary kits whilst contributing to environmental conservation, 108 (100 F) caregivers acquired knowledge and skills in making and using of reusable sanitary pads. During a follow up exercise, 52 caregivers testified that they were using



Solar training for young people, November 2021



Training on making reusable sanitray pads, July 2021

the pads they made during the training and that the pads were soft, comfortable and environmental friendly. Youths like Nalukoya Immaculate and Namiro Fauza, shared that the skills attained will help her address the problem they have been going through of not having dignity kits forcing them at times to miss school. They are currently training their peers in making re-usable sanitary kits.

In Ethiopia, 22(F13) young people acquired skills in entrepreneurship. As a result, 10(3F) youth were supported with income generation materials which included among others; boat, chicken house, coffee and tea utensils and cash transfers to procure the necessary materials. Eight (8F) youths engaged in range of feasible IGAs, with the ultimate aim of attaining self-reliance.

In a bid to boost the economic status of the young people, 30(F13) youth were linked with Enat SACCO for saving and loan services. An awakening training facilitated for the youth in the Addis Ketema Youth centre. Basic concepts of saving and loan presented by a professional from Hawassa Job Creation and entrepreneurial office. Members of executive committee of Enat SACCO also introduced themselves, oriented on the how to become a member and change life. As a result, all of the youth became member of the saving and credit association by filling the membership sheet at the end of the meeting. In addition, other 28 (20F) were guided to select short term skills trainings based on their interest and market availability. The short apprenticeship trainings included food preparation, hair beauty, Bajaj(three wheel car) driving, and photo and videography making. Twenty two (M8) of them completed and received certificates of whom 13 started an internship program at different business centres and renowned Haile resort Hawassa.



Male youth doing a Bajaj business

Awareness and knowledge of 59(33F) youth improved on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), through a two days training in Hawassa. Such a training could also be realised for 69 (49 F) youth in Mekelle and a life skills training for 30 (13F) children.

Capacity building of the key implementing partners and SOS staff

In bid to enhance the project sustainability as well as increase the knowledge and skills of the KIPs to implement the different interventions of GREEN+ project, the project team at different levels build the technical capacity of the KIPs and Staff.

The seven KIPs in Ethiopia and Uganda have demonstrated progress in their governance system, policy development, accountability and financial management as well as programme implementation. This has been attributed to capacity building sessions in financial literacy, child safeguarding, regularly backstopping and mentorship during project implementation and psychosocial support training and follow up on implementation of their capacity development plans. This progress has been demonstrated through approval of KIP registration renewal by the local authorities, improved KIP coordination and collaboration with other CSOs in the communities of operation, improved quality of programme implementation, accountability and functionality of board in the 5 KIPs.

Focus during the next period will be on KIPs having individual plans and realistic implementation schedules, timely submission of accountabilities, procurement, result based reporting and fundraising to enhance their financial sustainability.

On the other hand, there was continuous capacity building of SOS staff and KIPs, through trainings in Result based monitoring, child safeguarding, LRRD as well as refresher in refocusing FS strategy. This has widened experience of the implementing team thus the achievement of the objectives of 2021

Innovation Incubator



Green group items displayed during launch - Entebbe 2021

In order to unleash the innovative ideas from young people and caregivers across the two countries, the innovation incubator group-based businesses kicked off in the second half of year 2021. The innovative ideas focused on green initiatives. These ranged from briquettes making for home use and sale, organic vegetable growing, fish cage farming, apary farming, and crafts basket-making. To date, there are seven groups in Uganda that are operational.

In Ethiopia, green groups were established, trained, and provided with seed capital to commence business. Owing to the improved agronomic practices applied, the two groups sell vegetables throughout the year, and the proceeds have been used to cushion the individual family incomes as well enhancing a saving culture. To facilitate the process of proposing, selecting, and eventually implementing the ideas of the innovation incubator, the project teams in both Uganda and Ethiopia prepared concept notes, as a general guideline and working document for the initiative. The proposal describes the process, providing the procedure and tools which may be applied to any given topic area.



Green group vegetable garden in Hawassa - september 2021

Below two examples of projects from the Innovation Incubator from Uganda and Ethiopia attached.



UG_Innovations for GREEN GROWTH.pdf



ET_Green group Best Practice Hawassa.pdf

Advocacy

Advocacy has been part of GREEN+ since initiation across all intervention though Gender and child protection outweighs the rest. In Uganda, the team joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 16 days of activism against Gender based violence, different activities were conducted to observe the days and these included a virtual launching of the 16 days of activism, community dialogues, and local parliament sessions on issues of domestic violence.

Awareness on issues of domestic violence was created during these activities, under the theme **“Orange the world – end violence against girls and women now”** and communities were empowered with knowledge to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. The men were encouraged to support the women and girls instead of causing violence against them. In addition, there is increased information sharing on the rights of children and environmental protection. To date, more individuals from community anonymously contact relevant stakeholders and report cases of abuse/violation against children and women.

This is partly due to the awareness creation on child protection and the effects of domestic violence on children’s growth and development through radio Jingles and DJ mentions. During the reporting period, also a radio program in Karabole district / Fort Portal on the effects of child marriages was conducted to create more awareness to the community together with the social welfare officer, Community development officer, legal officer and the Police Officer in charge of Children and Family People called in during the session seeking more information on the prevention and response on child and women’s rights violations hence increased information sharing to fight human rights violation.

Similarly, 99 youth (23M, 76F) from the community were facilitated to join the rest of the world to commemorate the International Youth day, under the theme **“Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health**. Youth representatives at different levels, councilors, Agriculture Officer, Environmental Officer alongside other guests, equally attended the event. The Agriculture Officer highlighted the food systems is a bigger component with different parts that contribute to food production, and encouraged youth to be part of the system and more so support their caregivers that are already part of the system with interventions such as farming, poultry, fish farming piggery etc. Two girls from Entebbe project communities and 2 others from Kakiri Children’s Villages were supported to participate in a symposium to commemorate the International Day of the Girl (IDG) Child at Hotel Africana. The theme for the year 2021 IDG celebration was **“Digital Generation, My Generation”** The advocacy event saw girls advocating for space in equally participate in the digital generation and benefit from the services it offers such as access to information on their sexual and reproductive rights, online lessons, sharing experiences with peers and marketing.

In Ethiopia, the project advocated for inclusion of people living with disabilities so that the whole community understand the problems faced by this marginalized group and support them to actively participate in the community decision making roles. The consultative meetings and dialogues were made in partnership with community-based based organizations, concerned government sectors and person with disability and their families. In relation to green economy, the project took prime responsibility in forging dialogues on green economy



Women lobby for land

among the governmental, non-governmental and their concerned groups to discuss and share knowledge among each other. As a result of the advocacy efforts from the inception of the project to date, *City level green economy network* was established. The network is creating a mutual learning and experience sharing platform. For instance, NGOs that have long expertise in urban agriculture provided theoretical and practical training for green groups. Moreover, all members of the green network planted trees in Hawassa city to protect environmental degradation. In addition, the project focused on advocating for the vulnerable families to access social protection schemes such as community-based health insurance and productive urban safety net. The project team engaged in several dialogues with all the concerned sectors from the government to ensure project participant caregivers become part of the schemes beneficiaries. The project team further engaged with the media to advocate for quality service delivery.

In regard to enhance child safeguarding and protection in community, two child protection committees were established in the local community with the support of the concerned government sectors. Currently, there is effective community compliance handling mechanisms in the project targeted areas. This is a reporting and responding mechanism established by the community to get report and respond child abuse cases in the community. The committee basically work in association with the government office that are mandated to manage child protection issues.

Cooperation with local partner(s)

In cognisant of the value of partnership, both SOS Uganda and SOS Ethiopia work through implementing partners and community structures as well like minded organisations which include government and non-governmental organisations. The cooperation with local partners is meant for operational, technical backstopping and strategic purposes. Key actions from the deliberations included; Review of CSO network constitution, Review of the partners' implementation progress, improvement of child protection case management, review of 2021 consortium work plans and sharing updates from the District and Municipal community development department

The relationship with partners comes along with strengths and weaknesses as shown in the table below;

Strengths	Weaknesses
Rooting the GREEN+ project into the community and enhancing ownership	✓ Dependency syndrome of some KIPS and community structures which compromises on their growth and future continuity. Some local leaders have not been cooperative and rights abuses and this affects program progress in the communities.
The working relationship between SOS and KIPs is getting stronger	Founder syndrome that may limit the growth of the CBO. However, the project team has laid focus governance Limited commitment from some KIPs / CBOs which compromises on the growth
Government department are very supportive	Some local leaders give high priority to political related issues which may lender the project to be partisan

Cooperation with other organisations: synergies, information exchange, etc.

Creating synergies with other government departments and non-government development agencies is one key strategy used by the project team to realise the planned results. For

example in Uganda, the project works with technical organisations like Friends of Children with Disability that provides technical back stopping in the areas of disability. In doing so, SOS Uganda has developed relevant interventions to address issues to do with disability inclusion at the family and community levels. Further cooperation was developed with local artisans and service providers not only for provision of technical trainings but also internship placements / programmes for young people training

Similarly in Ethiopia, the project works smoothly with the sub office gender, children and women of the sub city in mainstreaming gender in the target communities via jointly established gender network. Further, the partnership developed with the office of economic department of semen sub city in creating green business and youth employability is progressing well. The existed partnership with all the KIPs has continued, the later also refers to Mekelle In 2021 trainings on resource mobilization to 20 (7 F) CCC leaders and sub-city heads have been implemented.

Networking and co-operation with relevant stakeholders

In both Ethiopia and Uganda, the project had very descent relationship with the respective local government, key implementation partner CBOs and other mandated government sectors at ministry, district and lower level structures. The networking and cooperation with local authorities has enable the project to be accepted and be rooted in the targeted communities of operation. Similarly, in Ethiopia the relationship with mandated ministries such Ministries of Gender and Child and welfare has not only created a platform for technical backstopping but also cementing the relationship between SOS and the Government. As a result SOS has been able to lobby the relevant government for provision of quality services to the targeted families and the communities at large. In both Ethiopia and Uganda, the project often created opportunities where local partners and other relevant stakeholders take part in important and critical project issues. Through cooperating with the relevant government department at the lower level structures and country level ,in Uganda the project influence byelaws to do with waste disposal, usage of proper fishing nets and establishing cleaning campaigns among the targeted project communities.

Systematic knowledge management

SOS CV globally is committed to support to build a knowledge and skills base that can be shared within and outside the federation. For this reason, the share point for GREEN+ project created has nurtured collaboration and knowledge sharing amongst project teams. This is through project related materials shared on the share point and accessible by all. Further sharing has also been conducted through teams meetings, a case in point was a sharing on innovation incubator an experience of Uganda with the Ethiopia and IOR team. This enhanced understanding and new ideas to benefit implementation of the innovation incubator was shared.

Further still, skills of project staff and KIPs were developed in different computer applications such as excel, power point, zoom and MS teams to facilitate working in the new normal.

In addition, to enhance knowledge management, in Uganda, 28 KIP staff (15F&13M) and 12 SOS CV project staff were trained in Child Safeguarding, FS Refocusing, and rolling out of the HIGGS handbooks. The training facilitated by the National FSP Coordinator, National Child Safe Guarding Focal Person & National Coordinator (ADA Funded projects) enhanced knowledge on FS Refocusing and is ensuring standardization of FS work and identifying opportunities for synergies. Location realistic action plans to roll out FS refocusing and implementation of HIGGS action plans were developed and will complement ongoing actions in implementing the HIGGS handbook such as environmental management and garbage sorting already being done.

Data collection through Family Development Plan (FDP) review process, family re-assessment, home visits, and household economic assessment has been continuous throughout Jan-Dec 2021 which has informed progress for program participants. This has been possible

as the team developed more tools to assess each indicator per result area which eased track of progress and managing the PM sheet thus improving documentation

Added value of programme approach

Using the programme approach, the two NAs (SOS Uganda and SOS Ethiopia) with the technical support and guidance from Region Office cross functional teams and SOS Austria have benefited from the synergies of knowledge, skills and approaches transfer. These range from the joint project Design and Planning, holding joint virtual learning forums on Green Economy, holding weekly catch up calls to share updates holding joint kick off meetings and other knowledge and skills sharing platforms. This has been evidenced by the registered project management improvement registered in both National Associations and among the co-workers.

2. Lessons learned / outlook

Experience from implementation of project

As a result of implementing the series of the project interventions, lessons have been picked along the way arising from the good practices, observations and challenges. The key include the following captured in the table below;

Type	Topic	Lesson learned	Task	Person responsible	Status of task	Comments
Good practice	Male engagement	Male caregivers engagement reproductive increased, reduced domestic violence and collaborative child-care boosted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Delebarate targeting of men ✓ Conduct training on parenting skill for male caregivers 	Project Officer	Ongoing	Men can engage in child care when provided an opportunity
Good practice	Community based health insurance (CBHI)	Linkage to government programmes is beneficial to vulnerable families	Connecting caregivers with government social protection schemes	Project Officer	Ongoing	Linking targeted families to government programme is a sustainable venture
Good practice	Establishment of Green groups in SOS compound	Synergies of SOS programmes are productive	support caregivers to practice urban agriculture	Project Officer	Ongoing	Nutritious food, saving culture and vegetable backyard cascaded to other projects
Good practice	Network with organizations working on Green Economy	Experience, resource, expertise shared, and ownership increased.	Network of organizations working on green economy established.	Project Coordinators	Ongoing	Net working with other mandated stakeholders increases ooeffective of the project

Good practice	Urban safety net (ET)	Strong collaboration with local kebele administrations	Connecting caregivers with government social protection schemes	Project Officers	Ongoing	Monthly allowance, saving habit, health insurance, ...
Good practice	Parenting skills by SOS mothers	SOS mothers being professional caregivers are good role models and can effectively coach others parents	Link SOS mothers with caregivers in the community for possible mentoring and coaching	Project Officers	Ongoing	Creating synergies within SOS projects is a commendable practice
Good practice	Mobilizing resources from local sources	More than one million Birr was mobilized and reach out to more vulnerable families	Strengthen the partnership with local government and stakeholder	Project Coordinators	Ongoing	
Challenge	Caregivers changing places of residence	Strengthening regular follow up to each individual family	Replace them with new families	Project Officers	Ongoing	Making comprehensive, context analysis at designing phase

Outlook

GREEN+ across the two countries will continue to focus on strengthening the KIPs, community structures such as role model men, child protection committees who are mandated to interface directly with the families. Enhancing collaboration with mandated stakeholders is a vital resource for ensuring the continuation of operations. Emphasis will be put on the scaling up of the innovation incubator intervention so that more groups and individuals benefit.

Since the project is in fourth year of implementation, the focus in the remaining period will be to tie the loose ends, accelerate implementation across the six result areas and ensure that the intended results are realized. Providing targeted support to families that were earmarked for exiting the project will be one of the priorities. Similarly extra attention will be given to KIPs and community structures majorly focusing on the functional existing gaps and enhancing the financial sustainability.

Environmental conservation should be a concern and priority in all communities where the project has operated that is the community members should be champions of change through practising different environmentally friendly methods in their day-to-day lives.

Regarding the targeted families and communities, the project envisage 75% families exiting the project when they are self-reliant which implies they will be able to access the basic services on their own, the caregivers will have the ability to provide quality care to the children and young people. The families will have increased their resources as well having operational income-generating activities. Similarly at the community level we envisage the operational communities to have functional child protection systems.

Gender being a crosscutting issue and mainstreaming it in programming requires building the capacity of SOS co-workers and KIPs. Given this background, there has been the plan to conduct a gender analysis training for SOS CV co-workers and key implementing partners

for a while now. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 it had to be postponed. The training now will be held in the month of June 2022 for around 30 participants from Ethiopia, Uganda, and Austria from different levels.

3. Challenges encountered and modifications

The year 2021 along with the preceding year 2020 came with challenges that obviously affected the project implementation. These challenges included among others the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Northern Ethiopia. The section below explores the major challenges faced during the course of executing the project interventions in the year 2021 and the coping mechanisms sought.

The global pandemic of COVID-19: The effects of COVID-19 traversed every country and community and the effects were diverse and varied from one country to another. In Uganda, during the reporting period, COVID-19 Standard operating procedures aimed at curbing the infection were a challenge to the implementing team in regard to reaching out to the targeted beneficiaries and communities with the required services. The SOPs mandated meeting a maximum of 20 people for any gathering such as a training or community dialogue. Therefore, any activity with a number that would surpass 20 meant the duration of such an activity would take longer than planned. However, the project team continuously involved other technical persons from the district and sub-county to ensure that the project objectives are fully achieved to a great extent. The project team further sought approval to allow some activities to continue whilst not compromising the SOPs. On the other hand, at the beginning of June 2021 for 42 days, the country went back to a total local down that closed down all business. An acceleration plan/strategy was developed that led to the successful implementation of the project to 90%.

Similarly, the year 2021 was also characterised by **poor responsiveness of mandated structures in case management** actions as a COVID-19 lockdown effect. This affected the case closure and management process. The project team deliberately facilitated the process at all levels working with other child protection private players as well to ensure that much as there is a delay, cases are somehow concluded though costly. Also, the continued awareness and reminders during stakeholders' dialogue meetings about their role in the case management process was key. All this increased pressure and demands of beneficiaries especially for psycho-social and other basic needs services. Nevertheless after two weeks in lockdown, the location leadership in Entebbe, and Fort Portal sought permission from the COVID-19 task force and SOS CV Fort-Portal was clear clearance was provided to continue with implementation while observing the SOPs. However, the project implementation resumed slowing following the set COVID-19 SOPs by the government.

In Ethiopia, the situation was not different. The spread of the corona (COVID-19) pandemic posed a big challenge to the implementation of activities as per the operational plan. It has been a great threat to staff, caregivers, children, youth, KIP CBOs, government sectors, and everyone in the project implementation areas. The project team joined the government efforts to create massive awareness in the communities to undertake preventive measures as well as adhere to the SOPs.

Political instability in Mekelle: The civil strife in Mekelle could not allow the GREEN+ to proceed as planned. Every economic activity such as business banking, communication, and transport to mention just a few was stalled. Conflict sensitivity approach was followed in the case of the Tigray conflict and its spill-over to the neighbouring regions. For long time after the project activities were suspended in Mekelle, finance colleagues from the national office in SOS Ethiopia would send 2 million ETB (35591.93 Euros) every two weeks via the UN humanitarian Air service (UNHAS) to support the project team and keep running the villages in Mekelle operational. This was done with a due understanding the context in which

we operate and show flexibility on the financial aspects with limited risks. The few interventions which were done during the year 2021 were mainly focussing on the approved Emergency Response Activities and a few GREEN+ activities, that have been mentioned in the report already. The program able to save life and address the urgent needs of 288 (275 F) caregivers and 888 children with emergency food support (wheat flour and edible oil). Moreover, project refund Birr 10,203.00 to 4(1F) target children and 4 female target caregivers to cover their medical expenses. Psychosocial support has been provided to beneficiaries as well as support for house rent.

The mentioned emergency situation together with the difficult, but in general hardly existing, communication with the team in Mekelle lead to major challenges for monitoring the progress in Mekelle, hence the additional explanations in this annual report. Under the given situation it is unlikely to achieve the overall targets of the activities, outputs and the outcome at the project location Mekelle until the end of the GREEN+ project, end of 2023.

High Inflation and escalated fuel prices: As a consequence of the COVID-19 steering measures and the conflict in northern Ethiopia, both countries were facing high inflation rates in 2021. In Uganda Transport was high hiked due to COVID -19 measures on the capacity of vehicles and motorcycles. For the KIPs, transport costs tripled on top of seeking for permission to use it. More fuel was used as a single vehicle had to carry only 3 people including the driver thus making many movements to be able implement. At times fuel was too expensive to be purchased at Mekelle location.

Land eviction of programme beneficiaries in Lwanjaba, Uganda, communities and some few families in Gerenge Koko landing site. The project managed to support 13 families from Lwanjaba to resettle in nearby communities however many of these families' livelihoods were greatly affected by this issue. The current situation is that, the evicted families (45) have hired temporary space at Nkumba Bukolwa village at 100,000ugx equivalent to 25 Euros. They are also paying monthly ground rent of 8 Euros. This is a temporary arrangement the community has with the private land owner. Unfortunately due to the economic hardships, some are still defaulting on the payment and this may lead to early eviction by the private landowner. As a way forward, women in the community whose livelihoods are currently dependent on silverfish business presented their plea to the Town council Mayor present during the International women's Day celebration which was held in the community. They requested the government to relocate them to a more secure place or buy them the land where they can still continue the silverfish business.

There was no immediate response from the Mayor during the event. However the project team in Entebbe will continue following up on this request with Town Council authorities and bring the matter to the Civil Society Network (CSO) in Entebbe and seek to advocate the course of the people affected as a network.

ADA funding restrictions: The funding restrictions imposed on SOS CV and in particular, ADA, funded projects raised many anxieties among the SOS fraternity, KIPs, and other key stakeholders. The timely updates provided by SOS AT, IOR, and SOS CV Management reduced the anxieties among the implementing team. The SOS fraternity would wish to thank ADA for lifting the restrictions before the closure of the year 2021.

4. Risk Management

Tracking of the risks was a mandatory task right from the beginning of Green Project implementation to date. This is done to ensure that all the foreseen risks and unplanned risks are managed effectively. At the one set of the project, the risks were adequate, however, land eviction in Entebbe communities emerged as unplanned risks. Annex 1 table illustrates how the risks were managed. SOS CV has worked with other mandated stakeholders at various

levels to respond to the unplanned risks mentioned above to minimize their impact on the project.

To date all the risks factors have been effectively addressed and the risk table is updated on regular basis and as when need arises. For example in regard to Community stakeholders who are not interested in participating or oppose project activities, SOS CV location teams has continued to maintain close working relationships and continuous communication with relevant community stakeholders to know and understand their attitudes and to adapt the intervention approach accordingly.

In addition, SOS CV locations at different levels have continued to keep a close eye on the political situations in the targeted communities where the GREEN+ project is implemented. SOS CV is non-partisan and this has enabled the organization to respond to the needs of the beneficiaries in unstable political situation as well as seeking support from the relevant authorities.

The project has also responded to the unfavourable economic situations which has led to the fluctuation in prices of basic needs and hence leading into inflation. Where necessary approval for relocation of the budget had been sought. Similarly, working with relevant partners and stakeholders has enable SOS CV both in Ethiopia and Uganda to respond to the technical gaps and needs of the project.

For a detailed and updated risk assessment please see Annex 1.

5. Sustainability / capacity development

Sustainable impact on the local context

The sustainability component was in built within the project from the on se of the project. Sustaining the impact of the project is reflected at different levels, organisational, community, family and individual levels. The resources and capacity building efforts injected into the KIPs/ CBOs is meant to enable them to respond to the needs of the vulnerable families when the project closes out. Similarly, the local structures formed and supported such as the role model men and child protection committees will respond to the child abuse issues and Gender-based violence issues not only among the targeted families but also in other families that may be affected in the future. In addition, the informal groups formed such as Villages Saving and Loan Associations, parenting groups and IGA groups will continue to pursue their mandate even when the project phases out.

At the individual level, the project has imparted skills for life to young people and caregivers alike. Among the trained youth 68.9% in Uganda and 38.5% in Ethiopia were able to translate the knowledge and skills into action not only to their own advantage but also to the benefit of the wider society.

Specific measures to develop local capacities

Various methods and approaches have been applied to develop the local capacities. Among the key ones include; needs identification/gap analysis to identify the existing capacities and gaps, trainings, peer learning, exchange learnings, mentorship, apprenticeship

“Exit strategies” in place

SOS CV team alongside with her stakeholders would like to ensure sustainability of the impacts arising from Green + project across the two countries. Exit strategies were embed-

ded in the entire project cycle right from design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. Three strategies as reflected in the Family strengthening Programme sustainability manual are hence be applied;

Phasing down implementation: Within the period of 5 years of the project duration , SOS gradually deploy few resources in the implementation. Implementation most especially in the second half of the project period focus majorly on sustainable interventions working much closely with partners and other community structures.

Phasing out: For some project interventions, SOS will phase out completely. Neither the KIPs nor other community structures will be in position to take them over.

Phasing over: SOS CV will be able to transfer some of the programme activities to local and formal institutions such as, KIPs, Community structures (Role model men, Child Protection Committees) as well as formal mandated government structures and other community based service departments.

Financial sustainability and management beyond project of newly created structures

SOS CV for the past years has capitalised on building the capacity of her partners such the KIPs/ CBOs, other community structures in mobilising local resources and proper management of the financial resources. Focus has also been made on the strengthening the governance structures to ensure effective delivery of services and accountability of resources now and beyond the project duration.

In Uganda, the newly formed structures such as the role model men, child protection committees and parenting groups, efforts have been made to encourage them to establish viable development ventures that generate income for the groups. Majority of the members in these groups were linked to the villages saving and loans Association to enable them to save as well as access. In addition, six innovation incubator groups with innovative ideas were provided with seed capital to execute their planned projects. These green innovative ideas ranged from fish cage farming, briquette making, vegetable growing, apiary farming and craft making. We envisage that when the businesses take off, the groups will be able reinvest the profits into the businesses as well as scaling up the innovations.

In Ethiopia, the Green groups have been linked to SACCOS to save and access more credit to inject into businesses. Similarly, the child protection committees are closely working with the Women and child affairs department for technical backstopping.

6. Monitoring / learning exercise

Monitoring and reporting on the progress is a routine activity integrated with the project plan and is based on the M&E work plan. With the monitoring and coordination support extended, the ESAF IOR was able to coordinate and facilitate project reviews and learning, and knowledge sharing. And the introduction of the programme management tool presented an opportunity to track progress and do a follow-up agreed actions.

In Uganda, monitoring and reporting were done by the project staff (SOS and KIPs) at the location level, National Office (Programme and Finance teams), technical coworkers from Region Office & Promoting supporting Association (PSA), partner CBOs, programme management committee members, community volunteers, VSLAs extension workers, Community Counselling Aides (CCAs) and local leaders. The project team with support from M&E ensured quality assurance in implementation through conducting routine support supervision, providing technical backstopping to the KIPs and community structures as well as involving

beneficiaries in the direct implementation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic that restricted movements, we utilized much of the virtual platform through regular catch-up meetings and steering meetings. This approach in turn enabled timely decision making, planning, and implementation of project activities. Utilization of the Programme Database (PDB) was very critical to ensure that routine data reviews like service quality assessments and data quality assessments are done as a way of ascertaining quality service delivery. From the National level, two-support supervision visits were made to assess the progress of the project against the plan and the level of adherence to the donor requirements. In attendance were the SOS project staff and KIPs. To date, there is an increased understanding of the project needs and donor requirements among SOS staff and KIPs.



Support visit to a family supported with shelter renovation
 (left is the house before the support and right is the support)

In Ethiopia, at Hawassa project location the project made effort to monitor activities every week and month both at the project and location levels. There is a weekly updating system at the beginning of the week to discuss activities progress, challenges, opportunities, and next week's plan. In addition, monthly reports were prepared and submitted at the program level. Such kind of platform has an immense contribution not only to follow up and take immediate action, if there is any deviation but also to replicate best practices. It also provides an opportunity for the project team to clearly understand the project objective and expected results and act towards its achievement. More so, it creates a sense of team spirit, learning, and experience exchange.

The GREEN+ team participated in the FS review meeting arranged by the program manager. The meeting was facilitated by the FCDP manager and conducted in SOS Children's villages program Hawassa office meeting Hall for one day. In the meeting the accomplishments of 2021 were presented, gaps identified and an action plan was developed to fill the identified gaps in the agreed period.

7. Evaluation

to be captured 2023

8. Visibility and public awareness raising locally and in Austria

Public awareness and creating visibility of the impact of the project was a major focus of the project during reporting period 2021.

Building on the previous ADA framework efforts, the team in Uganda continued to enhance the visibility of the SOS UG and ADA through creating partnerships and networks as well as engaging the media. SOS Uganda has a functional department for Public Relations and Communication which is in charge of all communication that goes out of the organization. Through engaging in events at national, district, and sub-county levels, SOS has progressively built her brand as well as that of ADA.



Fort Portal SOS staff putting on branded field jackets,

In addition, we use ADC and SOS logos on every print, t-Shirts, Banners, publications and DJ mentions.



GREEN+ radio
Jingle2021.mp3



Sample T-shirt with ADC logos

At the community level, the project gave the KIPs mandate to use both the SOS Children's Villages Uganda logo and the ADC logo in all project documentation and publications. These partners have been sensitized on the ADA branding guidelines. All KIP documents and items bearing the mentioned logos are approved by the SOS UG by the project team and branding manager at the national level before publication.

In Ethiopia, at beginning of 2021, the project team prepared a visibility plan that would be used as a road map for the remaining project period. This further created an opportunity to give due attention to

visibility issues in the course of project implementation. Action points were made to highlight donor and SOS logos on banners and PowerPoint presentations during training, panel discussion, and consultative meeting with stakeholders such as; CBOs, government sectors, families, and youth. Stickers with ADC and SOS logos were put on office materials, computers, and motorcycles. In addition, cups, mugs, and calendars were prepared in such a way for easy dissemination of information on the green economy.

Similarly, the project team utilized different platforms to inform the community about the long-term commitment SOS Ethiopia has had to Austrian Development Cooperation and SOS Austria in supporting the local communities. In addition, the project works hand in hand with Fana radio broadcasting, South and Sidama television, and Radio agency to broadcast and disseminate workshops on social accountability and public financing, and Social protection. Fana and South TV medias reach out all across the Country and based on the coverage, it is estimated 180,000 individuals listened to the program disseminated by these medias. Based on this, a team of experts involved in the event recorded the ceremony and transmitted the program to all media platforms. This has made SOS Ethiopia and ADA more visible in the communities of Hawassa. The project team utilized the coffee ceremonies as platforms to sensitize the community on topical areas such as the prevention measures of COVID-19, FDP, and Child protection. As a result, a total of 427(15M) were reached through the coffee ceremonies



Sample of visibility materials

9. Other points

Several life changes across the five result areas were registered during the year 2021. A few of them are captured in the section below.

Success story of Makibe

“My future is bright”.

Makibe mekuria, 36, was born in a rural village called Lasho, in Kao Kosho Wereda of Wolaita Zone, SNNPRS on 11/04/1985. She used to live with her family since childhood. She married Mr. Natnael in 2005 and gave birth to Nazret Natnael after one year (2006). However, her married life turned into tragic life because her husband fled to a place called Awash Arba for economic reasons. As she said, he left for a search job in agricultural activity there but she could not get him ever. She was hoping to establish a settled life again and remarried to another man in 2008. Unfortunately, he also left leaving her with 2 years old child and at the time, she was pregnant in the 8th months. In late 2008, she gave birth to her second child being without a husband.

Now life was against her day after day in the village she was born. She came to an understanding that she could live without marrying for the third and up bring her two children without a partner nearby. The determined Makibe said to herself, “I can provide care for my two children, I should not marry anymore”. Now Makibe decided to change residence and go to Hawassa to face life herself. She left Nazret, the elder child with his grandmother, and came to Hawassa along with one child in the same year. She came to Hawassa and rested in her

younger sister's home for only few months. She then rented room, begun daily labor to generate income for survival.

She accessed different capacity building and humanitarian support. She said, "I was supported with scholastic materials for my child/children, attended with parenting and child protection training, basic business and entrepreneurial skill training, and food support during COVID-19 pandemic. I have got an opportunity of Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI) premium by the project. As a result, my children and I are getting treatment when we feel unhealthy". She was also linked to join "ENAT" Saving and Credit Association. As she said, she was able to put aside 1260.00 birr and borrowed birr 3000.00. She is getting ready to start paying back the loan after the end of grace period.



Makibe retailing sugarcane

"Due to the support I got from SOS, I was able to improve my life in many ways", she said. She was able to meet necessities like food and clothing. Her knowledge of parenting and child protection was improved. She also underlined that, she was able to send her children to school. Even she brought her elder son to Hawassa to attend school in 2021 because life was now becoming much better. One of her children Nazret Natnael, attending

grade 9 at Addis Ketema Secondary community school. Her knowledge and skills improved on basic business and entrepreneurial skills and hence working in petty trade. She is planning to expand her business in the future.

As she said, smiling, "My future is bright". She has a plan to change the type of petty trade to vegetable retailing. She said that she is getting ready to start a vegetable retailing business in the old market. For realizing this, she said I am saving.