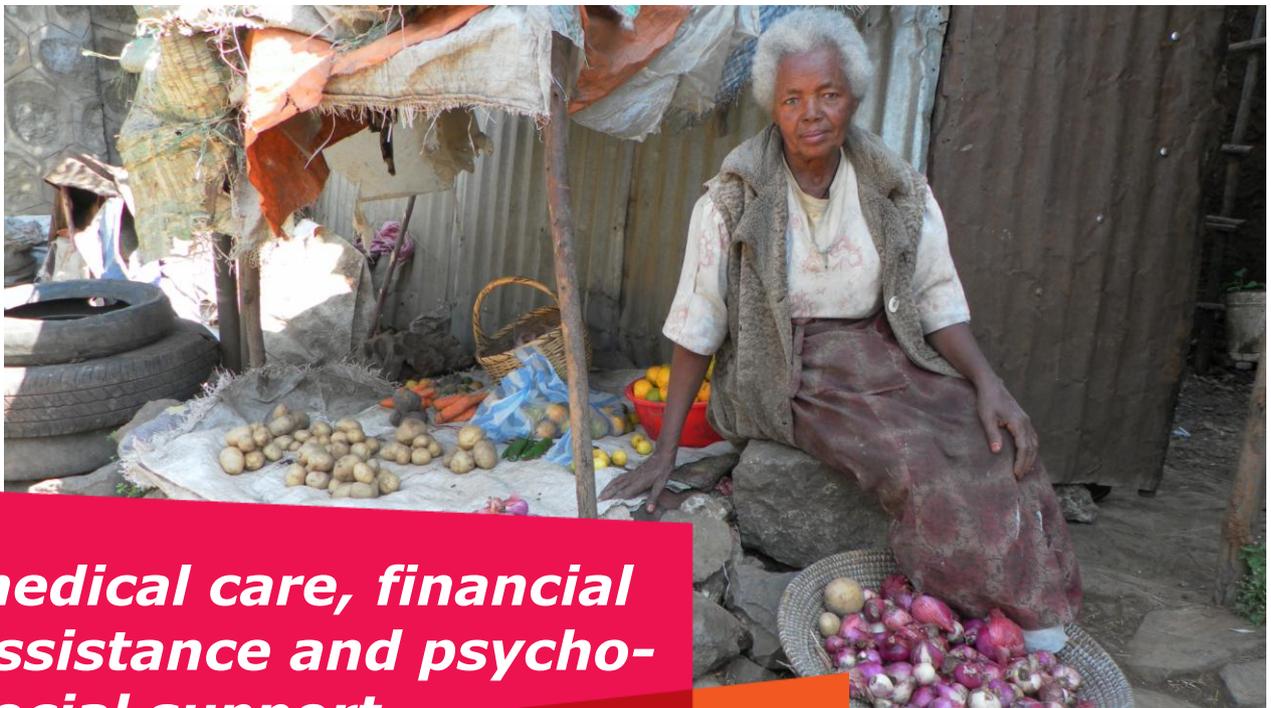


Livelihood support for older people through creating various income generating activities, in Ethiopia



medical care, financial assistance and psycho-social support

has brought a lot of change in my life

Project report (mid-term)

This project supports marginalized older men and women who receive support from the care centre of the Voluntas Dei Institute. The centre provides the older people with basic needs, such as healthcare, cash transfers and income generating activities. The goal is to enable older people to live a decent life. This document reports on the activities in the period March to August 2011.

Objectives

The project has the following objectives:

1. To improve the quality of life of marginalized older men and women through consistent social support that will prevent further destitution, and support their access to basic services.
2. To engage the local administration to raise issues of poor older people to ensure gradual inclusion of older people's needs in their planning.
3. To provide older people with a safe space and venue to attend to their personal needs (showers, laundry service, food, and socializing with/and developing contact with other destitute older people).
4. To provide a forum for older people to discuss their issues of concern and work out ways to address these with the support of VDI.
5. To educate and assist older people in starting small scale businesses to generate their own income in a sustainable way.

Beneficiaries

Integrated support has been given to older women and men, based on their specific needs and their circumstances. A total of 95 older people (61 men and 34 women) are being supported by the project with full respect, dignity and care.

Activities in the past 6 months

Cash transfers. During the past months, a total of 80 (61 male and 19 female) older people received monthly cash transfers amounting 120 Birr (~5.10 euro). This support enables the beneficiaries to fulfil their basic needs like house rent and payment of electricity bills. Also, older people use the cash transfers to supplement their food expenses, which improves their nutritional status and thus leads to better health.

Health Care and Support. As a result of the medical care that is provided to the beneficiaries, the number of illness cases continues to reduce every month. The condition of the older people has improved much through the purchase of medicaments amounting to Birr 2000 in the quarter. In addition, the mental health of the older people has dramatically improved and they become more interactive, communicative and proactive in their social lives.

Support for Income Generating Activities. The project conducted a participatory beneficiaries' identification process for financial support for income generating activities that will improve the livelihood income of the beneficiaries and enable them to be self-sufficient at the end of the day. Accordingly, 15 older women who are struggling to sustain their petty trade were identified and provided with the total amount of 1500 Birr each to augment their effort to self reliance.

Challenges

The continuous inflation and high food price have been challenges for the older people and the community at large. The cold weather during the just finished winter season also created some discomfort for the older persons as it hinders their movement and reduces their social interaction also affects their health status as well. Consultation sessions were held with the beneficiaries on the coping mechanisms and psycho-social services were given for those in need.

Spokespersons

Beliyu Nedit is a 67 year old lady who came from North Shoa Zone, Merahebeta of Amhara Region of Ethiopia. She came to Addis Ababa ten years ago to visit her aunt, who later on died leaving behind three children who needed care. Two years back, one of her older friends advised her to approach VDI to request assistance for herself and the children that she is taking care of. Accordingly, the organization assessed her situation and provided her with a financial assistance of Birr 120 per month for house rent and other expenses. Speaking of her past ordeal, Beliyu said. *"I have been getting support from this project; I am able to support myself and the children under my care. I did not face any health problem as the project cares for me. Even if the price of goods and services has been escalated, I am doing fine thanks to the support of the project"*. Beliyu was treated for her eye disease too.



Preparing *injera* to sell at the market.



Betew Molla is also a beneficiary of age 60. Speaking of the change that he has seen in his own life, Betew said, *"The support I am receiving from the project in terms of medical care, financial assistance and psycho-social support has brought a lot of change in my life. Had it not been for the support that this project gives to me I could have suffered a lot."* Due to the support he has continued to receive from the project, Betew says that he has developed good relations with his neighbours as he was receiving counselling from the project staff and becomes more interactive and self-confident.

"We colourfully celebrated the Ethiopian New Year on September 12, where we gathered together had a holiday lunch, sang and danced as well as thanked God for his gifts. We had also another big event Easter where we got an opportunity to get together and enjoyed as well. The support I am receiving from the project in terms of medical care, financial assistance, and food support as well as sanitation materials has brought a lot of change in my life. Had it not been for the support that this project gives to me and my family, we could have all perished long time ago. As the result of the psychosocial support I am getting from the project, I developed my self-confidence that enables me to bring behavioural change towards my neighbours and to develop good relationship with them. I also managed to send all four of my children two of which are twins to school." **Gebreselassie Gizaw**



Grannies are generating income through weaving.



Amare Abayhu, 83 years old and male is one of the senior beneficiaries of our project who came to Addis Ababa from Western Godjam in Amhara Region of Northern Ethiopia about 450 kms northwards. He came to Addis Ababa in 1984 as the result of the devastating famine that struck the area. He lost all his livestock and his other holdings due to the drought. Frustrated and agonized about his ordeal he left his family and headed for Addis Ababa seeking better life. He ended up living under the walls of the Coptic churches in Addis Ababa enduring the cold nights and the scorching sun by day and rain depending on the season. Speaking of how he joined the project: *"A friend of mine came to me one morning and told me that there is an organization that is taking care of older persons. I tried hard to get the address and joined the residential care centre of the organization the same day. For the first time in years, I was provided with decent food, bedding and clean water for washing. Ever since I joined the centre three years ago, I have always been provided with blankets, comfortable bed, bed sheets, night clothing, soap and monthly stipend of Birr 60 now it becomes 120 Birr."*

Speaking of the changes he had noticed in his life ever since he has joined the centre and more particularly in the last six months, Amare said that he was abuse alcohol before he came to the centre but has quitted drinking since he joined the center as the result of the counselling service he received from the project staff.

He also noted that his health has improved a lot and is feeling healthier than ever now because of the medical care he is receiving from the centre. He added that the counselling sessions given to the elderly in the centre focus on basic health and hygiene, social life and spiritual development. He said that *"the staff and people at the centre are all members of my family and I long to live much longer in this community."* Amare is optimistic about his life and hopes for better future. He is very grateful for the support his getting.

Financial report March to August 2011

A financial report of the first half year is available on request, but will definitely be provided with the annual report.

WorldGranny

Vossiusstraat 20-II
1071 AD Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Tel +31 (0)20 67 22 851
info@worldgranny.nl

www.worldgranny.nl
www.pensiondevelopment.org