

Activity report of Bright Africa

Youth Association

For the year from January 1, 2007

up to December 31, 2007

I-Introduction

Bright Africa Youth Association (BAYA) is established in January 1, 2006 in the northern part of Ethiopia. It works on youth integrated development which include working on the issues of Development, Democracy, reduction of socio-economic problems of young men and women in the region. The association has got legal personality from Tigray Region Bureau of Justice in the registration number 179. The organization has more than 10,000 members, 10 youth clubs and one Young disability and one woman's units. The association has an office and information centre in Mekelle city Kebelle 19 in front of Kasate Birhan School. The association at the current time has 10 employee and around 20 volunteers. The association accomplishes its activities depend on member contribution, local sponsorship and Donors' fund for different projects.

II – Activities done in the last one year

1. Skill training

One of the objectives of the association is provision of skill training and job creation. The association has given different skill trainings more than 600 youth and most of them have engaged in fast income generating jobs. 12 of the trainee have got the food preparation and food catering training for six months. The fund was from UNICEF through the Mekelle special zone workers and social affairs office. 500 of the trainee have got the stone moulding and pavement working. This special training was arranged in collaboration with Mekelle municipality office and Mekelle special zone youth and sport office. Most of them are engaged in the pavement works in Mekelle city in the in mean time. Two of the women trainees have got the skill of the Hair dressing. And five young members are being trained by metal work and wood work. They are finishing their training at this time. 6 young men and women have got the skill training of Modern waving. Two young people have been helped by the association to get the scholarship opportunity (one for Degree and one for Diploma) in different Colleges. The rest 78

young men and women has got different short term Art trainings in collaboration with Mekelle special Zone office of Culture and by Volunteer member Teachers who work on the educational Bureau of Tigray Region. The training includes Fine art, Drama, Music, Modelling and designing etc.

2. CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

The capacity building training is giving to many clubs' leadership members in Mekelle city and its neighbouring towns. The capacity building program mainly focuses on developing leadership capacity of the young people that leads him to be true change agent in the society. The training includes "Self Development Skills", Leadership skills and Behavioural changing trainings. About 160 young clubs' leadership members of different clubs have been the main target group. The trainings have been given to more than 35 clubs in Mekelle city including leadership committee members of the ten clubs of Bright Africa Youth Association.

3. Awareness creation programs

The special program was named by "**The Ethiopian Millennium celebration Youth pre-instigation special program**". The awareness creation program includes two sub-activities.

A. Awareness creation on youth solidarity against poverty.

This program is arranged depending on the special Ethiopian Millennium occasion four months before to Ethiopian Millennium celebration day. The theme of the special program is creation of youth unity and solidarity to lead the country to better place in the Ethiopian Millennium. The program has covered more than 20 stages. Most of the stages are arranged in the schools and higher institutions in Mekelle city and its surrounding and targeted the change agent, the young generation.

Some of the programs were held in:

- Mekelle University Adihaki campus
- Mekelle university Arid campus
- Mekelle Institute Technology(MIT)
- Mekelle Teachers' College
- Mekelle Nursing college
- Atse Yohannes preparatory school
- Mekelle Technique School
- Aider school
- Mekelle Municipality Hall
- Milano Hotel Hall
- Etc

The program has been very wonderful and it has hit its target more than planned. By using those occasions more than 80,000 youth has got awareness about youth role against the poverty and at these occasions the participant young generation has got the same standing to build the Nation with full National engagement.

The awareness creation program is arranged in the way the young generation prefers. It is full of entertainment which holds Band show with different languages, circus show, Domestic and international modern and traditional Modelling and fashion show, Dramas, Poetries, Awareness creation short programs, short questioning and answering, Martial art show, painting exhibition etc.

B. Awareness creation on HIV/AIDS prevention and other traditional harmful exercises

This program is not more different from the other awareness creation program. It has similar component to the other one and has different content and way of education. Side by side to mass education in different schools, meeting halls, community centres, the education has been giving in the youth information centre in the youth peer education program which is held every week end. The awareness creation program includes the distribution of pamphlets to youth in the heart of cities and towns near Mekelle city.

The pamphlets are distributed on:

- By focusing on the young generation in schools especially at the break time of the students in school time. This is done by nominating volunteer members in those specific target schools by letting them handle the program. The program is done with full knowledge of Bureau of Education and schools. About 15 schools were target area. This pamphlet distribution program is done once every two months. The main supporter of the program has been Nile College. The college has been helping in facilitating the photo copy and stationary materials supplies assistance.

The other target area is using the famous competition “cycling”. In Tigray region Cycling is very famous that at a day of competition more than 30,000 people observes the competition every week end. Most of the viewers are young people. Bright Africa youth Association sends its willing young members and councillors to the competition place. The young councillors of BAYA wearing uniform traditional cloths to attract the spectators’ attention distribute pamphlets that state about the pandemic diseases and its way of prevention to the spectators. This has been continued all the year. More than 40,000 pamphlets have been distributed to young people using this special event. Totally More than 65,000 young people have got awareness creation education on HIV/AIDS and on related traditional exercises.

The awareness creation activity was also one part of the special program prepared based on Ethiopian Millennium occasion. Side by side to the attempt to build the youth solidarity and unity against poverty, the art works have focused on HIV/AIDS awareness creation activities. It was very much successful that the youth have brought the behavioural change in every steps of their going. The feed back has shown us that the young students have got new experiences and the program has broadened their knowledge as the program has been very easy and comfortable for the young generation to learn more.

The association have made more than 1,680 young members and non-member young people to make blood test in Mekelle city and surrounding towns. OSSA, Mums for Mums, Mekelle Hospital etc have been the host place for the blood test.

4. Activities assure Independency of Civic Society

BAYA is a leading organization for partnership forum which has been formed by progressive independent civic society organizations that holds about 10 local NGOs (updated information). BAYA has been fighting for having safe environment for independent Civic society organization in the region representing the partner organizations and other small organizations in the region. It is obvious that the democratization process is very poor in Tigray region. The going to democratization is not such easy at the condition only one party leads for decades. BAYA has great participation and contribution in assuring the independence and freedom of civic society and their well being.

Civic Society Organizations (CSO) play crucial role in respecting individual and group right and in having collective empowerment. Majority of the civic society organizations in the region are small and very weak. Few Giant CSOs are dominant in the region. Most of these giant called ‘affiliated’ CSO are highly beneficiaries from the Fund that is distributed through the government channel. These CSOs who take majority place are excluded from. At this time those giant organizations are showing willingness to assist the small organization through the Umbrella organization (ACSOT). BAYA is doing a very wonderful job in strengthening and assisting the small civic society organizations by finding donor and preparing independent project proposal. As a result at this time BAYA has planned to raise about **1.3 Million Birr** for five partner local organizations. It is now about quarter a Million Birr is raised for **‘Human to Human Aid and Development Association’ (HADA)** and the rest projects that are sent on behalf of the partner organizations are at good step. Following the final approval of the project by the donor (NED), then it will be distributed to these five small civic society organizations according to the proposal which is prepared by BAYA on behalf of them. BAYA will not be part of the fund. It is only assisting the partner organizations based from the belief that civic society organizations to be strong and to play their role in the life of the society. BAYA is trying its best another more organizations to be assisted and becomes beneficiaries from the BAYA’s plan.

5-Activity in human right and democracy

A. Establishment of middle level information centre

BAYA has established youth information centre in Mekelle city Kebele 19 near Cassate Birhan School. The information centre has the following human resource, equipments and office supply.

1. Equipments and office supply

No	Type	Measurement	Quantity
1	Office Tables	Unit	6
2	Chairs	Unit	49
3	Bench	Unit	20
4	Desk top Computer	Unit	1
5	Colour printer	Unit	1
6	Printer 2015	Unit	1
7	Video camera	Unit	1
8	Photograph camera	Unit	1
9	TV screen With Deck	Unit	1
10	Satellite dish	Unit	1
11	Scanner	Unit	1
12	Internet line	Unit	1
13	Laptop computer	Unit	1
14	Plastic (synthetic) chair	Unit	6

2. Human resource

No	Name	Gender	Position	Qualification
1	Eden Gebretsadik	F	Cashier + store	Diploma +3 in accounting
2	Desta Gebre-eyesus	M	Project manager	Degree in Management
3	Kaleb Hiluf	M	Clubs manager + PR	Diploma
4	Selome kiros	F	Guidance officer + administration and finance	Diploma+3 in economics

5	Meressa Tsehaye	M	Info. Desk manager	Degree in political science and Int'l relations (instructor in Mekelle university and part time employee in BAYA)
6	Gebreabzgi Berhe	M	Guard	8 grade
7	G/meskel G/eyesus	M	Guard	6 grade
8	Firtuna Birhane	F	Secretary	Diploma in Secretarial Science
9	Yirgalem Kahsay	F	Janitor	8 Grade
10	Beimnet Tsegay	M	Accountant	Diploma +2
11	Rahel Jemaneh	F	Liaison officer	BA in Management

B. Achievement report

I- Activities done in the information centre

At average around 200 young men and women are participating in education that is giving twice a week in the centre and more than 500 young men and women get access of information in the information centre each week. More than 500 young men and women are members of the ten Clubs BAYA and more than 600 people are members of disabilities and women's units. The girls club in the information centre works closely with the women's unit. These clubs are Girls club, Civic club, Anti-AIDS club, Circus group, Music and dance club, fine art club, Modelling and fashion show club, Anti-drug club, Drama club, etc. in these clubs. The clubs are helping for the young men and majority women as an exercising place for the participation for their future empowerment. In all committees of these clubs representation of women is high. Young women are leading those clubs by having full representation in those clubs.

II-Activities and education out of the information centre

Education has been giving to young women and men in **30 Schools** in Mekelle special zone and its surrounding. The education has been giving by full willingness and support of the Tigray region Bureau of Education. The Bureau has distributed circular that all schools to be cooperative to BAYA for having successful education and change on the women empowerment starting from schools.

In all schools 30 Girls and civic clubs are established in thirty schools that help intensifying the empowerment of young women starting from school. In all the education programs young boys are also participated to make them a change agent in supporting the political participation of women.

In the out of campus education program (in junior schools) totally 1,766 young women and 654 young men class leaders and members of the girls and civic clubs have got training and education in schools. The trainee have got the “Training of Trainers” on human right issues and self development skills training helps young leaders to be full of knowledge, confident, productive and active future leadership. The association in collaboration with the target schools’ management makes continuous follow up on these girls and civic clubs in every school. In addition to the close follow up and support to these clubs in the implementation process, the association gives sequential monthly training and education every month to promote and advance their knowledge on human right.

The association has given human right education to 10 partner local organizations in the information centre. Three of them are organizations who work on disabilities issue.

☞ The list of schools and participants in the first round education in schools looks like as follows:

No.	Schools Name	No. of participants		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Aynalem primary school	18	56	75
2	Yordanes junior school	28	67	89
3	Atse yohannes 2 nd ry	23	48	71
4	Tekeze junior school	21	78	99
5	Axum academy	42	60	102
6	Mekelle primry school	12	71	83
7	Kasate Birhan junior school	51	62	113
8	Aba G/micahl junior school	7	49	59
9	Zikry Semaetat junior school	14	80	94
10	Lekatit 23 junior school	72	29	101

11	Fre-Abyet junior school	9	52	61
12	Adihaky 2 nd ry school	9	82	91
13	My Liham junior school	19	51	70
14	Lekatit 11 junior school	36	33	69
15	Atsede junior school	25	64	89
16	Adihaky primary school	18	80	98
17	Fre swat junior school	5	60	65
18	Elala primary school	16	64	80
19	Merha Tibeb junior school	28	26	54
20	Gereb Tsedo junior school	26	80	106
21	Hayelom junior school	30	42	72
22	RaesAlula junior school	21	70	91
23	Kaleb Academy	18	50	68
24	Ayder 2 nd ry junior school	13	48	61
25	My-weiny junior school	20	81	101
26	Kisanet junior school	-	52	52
27	Atse yohanes Junior school	5	35	40
28	Adventist junior school	40	55	95
29	SOS primary school	8	83	91
30	Ayder Junior school	20	58	78

6. Education through Media

BAYA has build good will in the region in considering its age. BAYA has an education program by influencing the young generation to wards positive through media by showing model works.

The association has made education through media:

1. Two TV shows in the Tigrigna language programs. The first was at the holyday special program and the other was at “Senbet Misana” Program. The program has mainly focused on magnifying the positive role of youth to change the country by presenting the model works of the youth association.
2. Three radio programs. The three radio programs have been transmitted through are at the local radio at the “at the special program for youth air time” and

“Tehadso Program”. These programs have stayed for weeks and have enabled the organization to influence the youth positively.

3. VOA Tigrigna program. The association has three radio programs in the VOA radio. The one is at the Program for youth Air time, and the two at the “People with people” special program. The people with people special program deals with the current situation of Ethiopia and Eritrea. BAYA has participated in formulation of good relation ship and neighbour hood between Ethiopia and Eritrea by having free interface radio discussions with Eritrean youth.
4. participation in local News papers and magazines
The association has educated youth through different local news papers and magazines in the last one year stay.

7. partnership and international relations

1. BAYA is a member of the international youth action network that is supported by UN agencies and other Giant donors called “**Global Youth Action Network (GYAN)**”. BAYA’s membership has approved in the last one year. From the membership approval onwards BAYA has been participating in the continuous E-conference that BAYA has been calling for balanced youth development world widely. BAYA has initiated remarkable ideas that help reducing over all problems youth in the poor countries.
2. As it is mentioned on the above BAYA is the initiator organization of the formation of the partner ship of progressive CSOs in Tigray region. The partnership forum named by “**Progressive Non-state Actors’ Partnership Forum for Integrated Development**” (PNAPFID). BAYA is a leading organization for the partnership forum which currently holds 12 member organizations. Three of the organizations are disabilities organizations.
3. BAYA is founder member of the “**Alliance of civic society organizations in Tigray region**” (ACSOT). BAYA is very active organization representing the small and independent organizations.

4. BAYA is also founder member of the **“CSOs’ partnership against HIV/AIDS”**. The partnership is coordinated by regional HAPCO. Even though it is short time since the partnership establishment, BAYA is active in committees of the partnership.
6. BAYA is also an active founder and initiator in the currently establishing coalition of small organizations for integrated development. It is playing ruling role in establishing the coalition and having regal registration in Tigray region Bureau of Justice.
7. BAYA’s membership is on process to international networking called CRIN that works on youth and children right.

Source of fund

BAYA has accomplished its activities in the last year (January 1, 2007-December 31, 2007) based from the member contribution, local sponsorship and NED first quarter fund.