Project Launching Event Report

Project Title: Scaling an Inclusive Self-Employment Model for Rehabilitated Mentally Ill Youth
Organization: Save Generation Development Association (SGDA)
Donor: DOT

Date of Event: August 31st, 2026
Venue: Gold Mark International Hotel, Bishoftu City

1. Background

The Save Generation Development Association (SGDA) is a registered Ethiopian civil society organization established in 2008. SGDA is committed to empowering vulnerable and marginalized youths, enabling them to become self-reliant and productive citizens. The organization primarily operates in the Oromia Region and other emerging areas of Ethiopia, focusing on addressing the root causes of unemployment, social exclusion, and poverty among young people.

2. Goal

The primary goal of the project is to create and foster a sustainable and inclusive self-employment model that empowers rehabilitated mentally ill youth, promoting their economic independence, social inclusion, and improved mental well-being.

3. Specific Objectives

The project aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

• To share the vision regarding the potential and capabilities of rehabilitated mentally ill youth.
• To engage with stakeholders and present a well-defined framework for ensuring the sustainability of the self-employment model.
• To collaborate with all concerned parties to position rehabilitated mentally ill youth as agents of change within their communities.
• To highlight the ongoing need for socialization opportunities for rehabilitated youth.

Consequently, the above program objectives have been resulted as follows.

• The project vision was successfully shared regarding the potential and capabilities of rehabilitated mentally ill youth.

• The stalk holders were Engaged and the framework of model was well presented a well-defined for ensuring the sustainability of the self-employment model.

• Collaboration was held with all concerned parties to position rehabilitated mentally ill youth as agents of change within their communities.

• Socialization opportunities for rehabilitated youth were highlighted.

4. Participants. The event was held by a diverse group of stakeholders, including:

• Higher officials from the Oromia Regional Government.
• Representatives from Lammi Kura Sub City (Finance, Health, and Youth Offices) of Addis Ababa City Administration.
• Officials from Modjo City (Finance, Health, Labor, and Social Affairs Offices)
• Officials from Bishoftu City (Finance, Health, Labor, and Social Affairs Offices)
• The entire SGDA staff.

Total Participants: 31 (8 Female, 23 Male).

5. Venue

The event took place at the Gold Mark International Hotel in Bishoftu City, providing an accessible and comfortable environment for discussions and presentations.

6. Agenda: The agenda for the project launching program included:

- Welcoming of gusts by the organization's Board chair person.
- Opening remarks: By the blessing of Abba Gada, Hadha siinqee and religious elders.
- Some explanation about SGDA & what it has been doing in the community were given.
- Presentation of the project objectives, goals and details of the project overall activities through its life was taken place.
- Stakeholder engagement discussions.
- Closing remarks and next.

7. Methodology.

The session employed a mixed methodology comprising presentations and interactive discussions focused on the practical life experiences of rehabilitated youth. This approach facilitated meaningful engagement among participants and encouraged sharing insights and best

practices.

8. Expected Outputs.

The following outputs were anticipated as a result of the event:

1. Enhanced Employment Opportunities: The event effectively created avenues for rehabilitated youth with mental health challenges to secure jobs through self-employment initiatives, as shared by participants who provided their insights and experiences. As mentioned during the presentations by SGDA team, the targeted youth will be benefitted as per the project plan according to the participants.

2. Better Mental Health Outcomes: Feedback from attendees suggested that the event played a role in improving the mental well-being of targeted youths through supportive community involvement and the promotion of job opportunities.

3. Community Engagement and Awareness: Participants expressed gratitude for the initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the difficulties faced by rehabilitated mentally ill youth, emphasizing the need for community support.

4. Sustainability and Scalability: The discussions held during the event resulted in the creation of a framework designed to ensure the long-term sustainability and scalability of the self-employment model, which received positive feedback from all attendees.

All participants valued, appreciated and acknowledged the event and recognized its importance in planning to meet the needs of rehabilitated mentally ill youth.

Questions from the attendants:

1) How do you select these issues (topics) because no one of the NGOs selected it before?

   Answers from SGDA side, "We prioritize issues based on experiences from the previous project, community feedback, and the specific needs of rehabilitated mentally ill youth. Our goal is to address the most pressing challenges they face in their journey towards reintegration."

2) How do you think you effectively implement the project because working with those YOUTH can be difficult?
   Answers from SGDA side, "We utilize a collaborative approach, involving mental health professionals, community organizations, and the youth themselves. This ensures that our strategies are tailored to their unique needs and fosters a supportive environment for their growth."

3) How much the SGDA team is devoted to perform the project activities? etc. were raised.

Answers from SGDA side, "The SGDA team is deeply committed to this project. Our members bring diverse expertise and a shared passion for empowering youth, ensuring that we dedicate the necessary time and resources to achieve our goals."

Conclusion

At the conclusion of the project launching meeting, high-ranking officials from the Health Bureau, Finance Bureau, and Social Affairs Bureau of the Oromia Regional State, in collaboration with the Lammi Kura Sub City Administration of Addis Ababa City, delivered crucial messages and directives to the offices of targeted cities. They emphasized the importance of becoming active partners in the Save Generation Development Association (SGDA) to ensure the effective implementation of the project. The officials highlighted that this initiative aims not only to empower youth mentally and economically but also to foster their social integration within communities. By pooling resources and expertise, these partnerships are expected to create a supportive environment where rehabilitated youth can thrive and contribute positively to society.

Furthermore, the officials collectively underscored that collaboration is essential at every stage of the project. They called for a coordinated effort among various stakeholders, including local government offices, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders, to maximize the impact of the initiative. By working together, they believe that they can address the multifaceted challenges faced by mentally ill youth, facilitating their journey toward recovery and self-sufficiency. The commitment expressed by these high-ranking officials reflects a shared vision for a more inclusive society, where every young individual has the opportunity to achieve their full potential and lead fulfilling lives.

The event marked a significant step towards empowering rehabilitated mentally ill youth through sustainable self-employment opportunities. The participation of various stakeholders underscored the collective commitment to fostering an inclusive environment for these individuals. SGDA is optimistic about the project's potential impact and looks forward to continued collaboration with donors, government offices, and community members to achieve its goals.

Thank you to all participants for their valuable contributions and commitment to this important cause!

FROM HEALING TO HARMONY!!!





Discussion for better!!



Direction given on an agreement!!

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Bishoftu, Ethiopia.