

# THE ROLE OF NGO'S ON FOOD SECURITY.

## (THE CASE OF URBAN DIRE DAWA ADMINISTRATION COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL DONATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT)

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**Abstract:** The overall purpose of this study was to examine the role of NGO's in alleviating food insecurity in Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donate Child Development Project.

The research incorporated both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected from beneficiaries through self administered questionnaire where as secondary data were reviewed mainly from published journal articles and books.

Descriptive research design and quantitative research method were utilized to identify the role of NGO's in alleviating food insecurity in Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donate Child Development Project.

The collected data were processed and analyzed through descriptive analysis, and to see the relationship between variables correlation analysis methods were employed. To process the collected data analysis SPSS version 20 was used.

This study found that the beneficiaries general life was changed after the beneficiaries are joined the project.

**Keywords:** Food in/security, Urban Dire Dawa Administration Compassion International Donated Child Development Project.

### Introduction

Food insecurity occurs when people do not have enough food to satisfy hunger, have an insufficient and limited diet, are anxious about having enough food or need to resort to make shift coping strategies such as begging, scavenging, or relying on emergency assistance programmes (Cook and Frank, 2008).

The new global and African food security agenda is overwhelmingly productionist and rural in its orientation, and is based on the premise that food insecurity is primarily a rural problem requiring a massive increase in smallholder production. This agenda is proceeding despite overwhelming evidence of rapid urbanization and the growing likelihood of an urban future for the majority of Africans. Urban food insecurity can therefore no longer be ignored. Achieving urban food security is the emerging development challenge for the 21st century and that the complexities of urban food systems urgently need to be addressed by researchers, policy makers, and international donors and multilateral agencies. (Jonathan S Crush & G Bruce Frayne, 2011)

Ethiopia, a country that has a lengthy history of challenges linked to rural food security, is currently facing relatively new challenges related to urban food insecurity (Tsfay Birhane, 2014).

The food security challenges facing the urban poor, and the factors that affect urban food systems, can no longer be wished away or marginalized. Urban food insecurity is not reducible to the 'grow more' solutions currently on offer in the world of international development. There needs to be greater recognition by international organisations, regional bodies and national and sub national governments that urban food security is a critical issue requiring urgent attention. The food security strategies of the urban poor, and how these are thwarted or enabled, are critical to the future stability of African cities and the residents' quality of life (Jonathan S Crush & G Bruce Frayne, 2011)

International child sponsorship is one of the leading forms of direct aid from households in wealthy countries to needy children in developing countries, where we estimate that 9.14 million children are currently supported through formal international sponsorship organizations. The world's third largest child sponsorship program is Compassion International, a large, faith-based,

nonprofit organization whose stated goal is to “release children from spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty.” The benefits sponsored children receive vary somewhat by country, and even within countries, and Compassion’s approach has evolved over time (Bruce W, et al., 2013).

Different authors in the area of food in different period and in different countries did research but there is limited research on role of NGOs in our country especially in urban areas and the problem also still exists. In addition to what had been done in other countries and in our country the study need to assess the role of Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donated Child Development Project on food security. Accordingly, the researchers were addressed the following basic research questions.

### **Research questions**

Under this study the following basic research questions was raised and properly addressed.

- ✓ To what extent Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donated Child Development Project intervene to alleviate food insecurity?
- ✓ To what extent the pro poor section of the society life was changed due to the intervention of Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donated Child Development?

### **Specific Objectives**

- ✓ To see the extent of Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donated Child Development Project intervention to alleviate food insecurity.
- ✓ To examine the extent of the pro poor section of the society life changed due to the intervention of Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donated Child Development Project.

## **RELATED LITRETURE REVIEW**

### **Definition food security/insecurity**

Poverty and food insecurity are the most crucial and persistent problems facing humanity. As the scale of human activities expands, the capacity of eco-systems to regenerate the natural resource base becomes an increasing constraint to growth and development (*Abebaw Shimelis and Ayalneh Bogale, 2007*). Regardless of the many efforts made, deepening food crises in several developing countries specially those in sub-Saharan Africa is still the concern of many researchers, planners, donors and international development agencies, who have given high priority to the study of food systems and the problem of food security (*Gezahegn K, 1995*). Even though the availability of resources and the efforts made by governments in most of these countries, food insecurity and declining food production per capita remained among the most crucial issues(*Bogale and Shimelis, 2009*).

Food insecurity incorporates low food intake, variable access to food, and vulnerability livelihood strategy that generates adequate food in good times but is not resilient against shocks. These outcomes correspond broadly to chronic, cyclical and transitory food insecurity, and all are endemic in Ethiopia (*Stephen Devereux and IDS Sussex, 2000*).

Nowadays, food security/insecurity has gained great attention by policy makers, researchers, governmental and non-governmental organizations and development workers. In line with this, ensuring food security remains a key issue for the government of Ethiopia. In order to combat threats of famine and pervasive poverty by ensuring food security for its population, the government strategy has rested on increasing the availability of food grains through significant investments in agricultural technologies (high yielding varieties of seeds and fertilizer), services (extension, credit, input delivery), and rural infrastructure (roads, markets). However, the impacts of these policies have been shadowed as there are still millions of people who experience extreme hunger in the country. According to the report of food and agricultural organizations of united nation, 41 % of the Ethiopian population lives below the poverty line and more than 31 million people are undernourished (*Bogale and Shimelis, 2009; FAO, 2010*).

### **Empirical evidence**

In the late 1990s, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) found high levels of urban food insecurity in developing countries around the globe (*Ruel et al., 1999*). The IFPRI examined data from household surveys in 10 African countries and found that ‘contrary to expectations, the percentage of the population found to be energy deficient is higher in urban areas in six of the ten countries studied. In all countries except Kenya and Uganda, at least 40% of the urban population is energy deficient; with percentages reaching 90% in urban Ethiopia and 76% and 72% in urban Malawi and Zambia, respectively’. Additionally, *Birara Endalew (2015)* said that Ethiopia has experienced long periods of food insecurity. Among Sub-Saharan countries, Ethiopia is the worst of all regions in prevalence of undernourishment and food insecurity. Nearly 33 million people are suffering from chronic undernourishment and food insecurity. This indicates that Ethiopia has one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world, in which more than 35% of its total population is chronically undernourished. Ethiopia is characterized by extreme poverty, high population growth rate, severe environmental degradation and recurrent drought. Ethiopia is currently facing challenging problems to achieve food security.

If improved food security is to be achieved in poor, food insecure countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, close donor and government coordination and collaboration is essential (*Barry M. Riley, 2000*). According to UNICEF (2009) the food security and vulnerability study for urban Ethiopia has largely been necessitated by the new increased food insecurity stemming largely from the global economic food price, which has been translated to the country partly through high inflation rates.

### **The role of donors/NGOs in alleviating food insecurity**

International child sponsorship is one of the leading forms of direct aid from households in wealthy countries to needy children in developing countries, where we estimate that 9.14 million children are currently supported through formal international sponsorship

organizations. International child sponsorship programs arose due to their usefulness as a marketing tool for mobilizing resources in rich countries to reduce poverty in poor countries. As the marketers of these programs have recognized for decades, contact with an individual child creates a commitment device to help donors contribute a fraction of their monthly income to alleviating child poverty in developing countries via a relationship with a *particular child* living in poverty. The world’s third largest child sponsorship program is Compassion International, a large, faith-based, nonprofit organization whose stated goal is to “release children from spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty.” Compassion staffs its projects locally, and foreign employees are rare. The projects rely on volunteers from local churches and other organizations to carry out its programming. The benefits sponsored children receive vary somewhat by country, and even within countries, and Compassion’s approach has evolved over time (Bruce W, et al., 2013).

According to data received from Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donated Child Development project from the year 2005-until now, there are eight Child Development project which consists around 250 beneficiaries in each project. For the sake of this study the researchers take three Child Development project as a target population.

**Material and method**  
**Research Design**

Mixed research methodology was applied because the researchers used both qualitative and quantitative research method for collecting and analyzing the data. To assess food insecurity and identify the roles played by the Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donated Child Development Project in alleviating food insecurity of pro poor section of the society. To describe the beneficiaries’ life change after they joined the project, descriptive type of study were employed.

**Target population**

Urban Dire Dawa Administration Compassion International Donated Child Development Project beneficiaries were the target population.

**Sample size**

The sample size was taken from the total population of 750 beneficiaries, which are 260. If the population size is known, the Yamane formula for determining the sample size is given by:

$$n = N / (1 + Ne^2)$$

Where, n= corrected sample size, N = population size, and e = Margin of error (MoE), e = 0.05 based on the research condition. The sample size would be:

$$n = 750 / (1 + 750(.05^2)) = 285.71 \sim 260$$

**Sampling technique**

Since the researchers have got only one NGO involving on food security of urban Dire Dawa Administration the researchers take as it is. Accordingly, the management body of Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donated Child Development Project and direct/indirect beneficiaries’ were our potential source of primary data. To select sample from three Urban Dire Dawa Administration Compassion International Donated Child Development Projects simple random sampling were used.

**Source of data and method of data collection**

Both primary and secondary data were used. Formal questionnaires were prepared and administered to collect primary data, key informants were interviewed to supplement and verify the information collected through formal questionnaires.

**Method of data analysis**

The data was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. Qualitative method of analysis is used to analyze data obtained from the interviewee of Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donated Child Development Project staff. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data obtained by questionnaire from the beneficiary.

**Result and discussion**

The data analysis of this research was both descriptive and qualitative. The descriptive statistics includes frequency, percentage. Primary data was collected through self administered close-ended questionnaires that were prepared by referring different literature in the study area and distributed to beneficiaries of Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donated Child Development Project to meet the objectives of the study. The researchers designed 12 questionnaires based on the previous livelihood life change after beneficiaries joined the project.

The samples were 260 respondents and 249 of the questions were return back and the analyses were done on those response.

**Table 1: socio demographic back ground of the respondents**

Item	Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Age	12-15	77	30.9
	16-19	153	61.4
	20-22	19	7.6
	Total	249	100.00
Sex	Male	126	50.6
	Female	123	49.4

	Total	249	100.00
family size	3-4	134	53.8
	5-6	89	35.7
	7-9	26	10.4
	Total	249	100.00
Education	5-8 grade	101	40.6
	9-10 grade	52	20.9
	11-12 preparatory	51	20.5
	College	45	18.1
	Total	249	100.00
No. of family in the project	1	216	86.7
	2	19	7.6
	3	14	5.6
	Total	249	100.00

As it is indicated on table 1, the majority of the respondents 153 (61.4%) are between the ages of 16-19, on average 92.3% of the respondents age fall between 12-19. Most of the respondent were joined the project when it was start function in 2005 GC hence they are using the service for the past 9 and above years. Regarding the sex distribution of the respondents it is proportionally divided between male and female. Half of the children joined the project are most vulnerable section of the society (female). Majority of the families of the respondents 134 (53.8%) have between 3-4 family members and the rest 115 (46.1%) are between 5-9 family size. Size of the family has direct impact on level of food security therefore, this project contribute a lot to reduce food insecurity in urban Dire Dawa Administration. The educational status of the respondents fall between 5-8 grade are 101 (40.6%) and 96(38.6%) of the respondent are preparatory and college student. Education is very important for alleviating food insecurity since the children in the project have promising future to be able to work and benefit themselves and their family. Most of the house hold included in our study have one child (86.7%) joined the project and few of the respondent have two and three family member in the project 34 (13.2%).

Table 2: House hold food security status before they joined the project

Item	Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Do you worry about food consumption before you join the project	No worry	106	42.6
	Sometimes	57	22.9
	Always	86	34.5
	Total	249	100
How many times you worry about food consumption before you join the project	No worry	105	42.2
	Sometimes	56	22.5
	Always	88	35.5
	Total	249	100
For how many times you eat balanced meal before you join the project	No worry	64	25.7
	Sometimes	61	24.5
	Always	124	49.8
	Total	249	100
For how many times you lack food in your home before you join the project	No worry	73	29.3
	Sometimes	101	40.6
	Always	75	30.1
	Total	249	100
For how many times you lack food in your home because of lack of money before you join the project?	No worry	73	29.3
	Sometimes	78	31.3
	Always	98	39.4
	Total	249	100
For how many times did you eat per day before you join the project	One time a day	53	21.3
	Two times a day	114	45.8
	Three times a day	82	32.9
	Total	249	100

As it is depicted on above table 106 (42.6%) did not worry about their food consumption. 57(22.9%) of the respondent sometimes worry about their food consumption while the rest 86(34.5%) of the respondent were always worry about their food consumption. Around 105(42.2%) of the respondents did not worry about food where as 56(22.5%) worry sometimes about food, and the rest 88(35.5%) were always worry for their food intake. Regarding the balanced diet 64(25.7%) ate the balanced food and 61(24.5%) sometime gain balance diet whereas 124(49.8%) always did not get balanced diet. Respondents were asked about number

of times they lack food and replied as 73(29.3%) of them did not lack food, 101(40.6%) sometimes lack foods the rest 75(30.1%) always lack food to eat in their home. About 73(29.3%) of the respondents be able to fulfill their food consumption, 78(31.3%) of the respondent sometimes lack food because of unavailability of money additionally, 98(39.4%) always lack food because of lack of money. About 53(21.3%) of the respondents were able to ate food once a day, 114 (45.8%) of them ate twice a day whereas only 82(32.9%) of the respondent were able to eat three times a day.

Table 3: House hold food security status after they joined the project

Item	Alternatives	Frequency	Percent
Do you worry about food consumption after you join the project	No worry	180	72.3
	Sometimes	53	21.3
	Always	16	6.4
	Total	249	100
How many times you worry about food consumption after you join the project	No worry	175	70.3
	Sometimes	60	24.1
	Always	14	5.6
	Total	249	100
For how many times you eat balanced meal after you join the project	No worry	121	48.6
	Sometimes	58	23.3
	Always	70	28.1
	Total	249	100
For how many times you lack food in your home after you join the project	No worry	196	78.7
	Sometimes	46	18.5
	Always	7	2.8
	Total	249	100
For how many times you lack food in your home because of lack of money after you join the project?	No worry	150	60.2
	Sometimes	48	19.3
	Always	51	20.5
	Total	249	100
For how many times did you eat per day after you joined the project	One time a day	6	2.4
	Two times a day	18	7.2
	Three times a day	225	90.4
	Total	249	100

As it is depicted on above table 180 (72.3%) did not worry about their food consumption. 53(21.3%) of the respondent sometimes worry about their food consumption while the rest 16(6.4%) of the respondent were always worry about their food consumption. Around 175(70.3%) of the respondents did not worry about food where as 60(24.1%) worry sometimes about food, the rest 14(5.6%) were always worry for their food intake. Regarding the balanced diet 121(48.6%) ate the balanced food and 58(23.3%) sometime gain balance diet whereas 70(28.1%) always did not get balanced diet. Most of the time the beneficiaries' gained balanced meal after they joined the project. Respondents were asked about number of times they lack food and replied as 196(78.7%) of them did not lack food, 46(18.5%) sometimes lack foods the rest 7(2.8%) always lack food to eat in their home. As it is compared from the previous food status now there is very much change takes place in beneficiaries' life in relation to food consumption. About 150(60.2%) of the respondents be able to fulfill their food consumption, 48(19.3%) of the respondent sometimes lack food because of unavailability of money additionally, 51(20.5%) lack food. Even if the beneficiaries have good change in their life they are not free totally from food related problem. About 6(2.4%) of the respondents were able to ate food once a day, 18 (7.2%) of them ate twice a day whereas 225(90.4%) of the respondent were able to eat three times a day. In general there Urban Dire Dawa Compassion International Donated Child Development Project played a great role in maintaining food security for those pro poor sections of the society.

### INTERVIEW RESULT

The social worker and the activity facilitator of Compassion International Donated child development project were asked about the different service provided to the beneficiaries. The researchers presented the response by categorizing into four services.

#### Health screening

Heath service is provided to the beneficiaries through annual checkup for all the beneficiaries, Every six month checkup for beneficiaries below 12 year from 2005-2016, Stating 2017 all beneficiaries are examined by doctor once a year, medical service are given as the beneficiary face any kind of health problem, Sanitary materials provided to the female beneficiaries. For Direct beneficiaries who are living with HIV 700 birr worth food commodities plus 75 worth detergent material is provided every month,

Indirect beneficiary who are living with HIV 75 worth detergent material also provided every month, Indirect beneficiary who are bed rear are entitled for 500 birr worth food commodity every month. Highly vulnerable children (HVC) are provided 350 birr worth food commodity, and TB patient beneficiaries are given 500 worth food commodities until they are cared per month. As per the interview with officials health education is provided by dividing the beneficiaries in to different age group by the nurse of the project and other health related training are given by inviting health professionals.

## **2. Social component of Urban Dire Dawa compassion international Donated Child Development Project**

As the interview on Social worker of the project Campaign is prepared for Beneficiaries above 14 years for five consecutive days in one place by making group of four once a year. Under those days the following major activities were carried out. Different training and social activities are given such as experience sharing by practicing, life skill training, ethical service, recreational service. At the evening of last day there are canfire ceremonies. It will end by giving certificate of participation. Additionally, there is sporting activities on every Sunday. There is sport training of male beneficiaries. They are trained under club by having a professional and paid coach; the members of the club have food service after training. Visiting the home of beneficiaries and discussion takes place with their family about their children education, behaviour and other issues.

There is Gift presentation program to the beneficiary as the sponsor send. With consultation of the beneficiary the gift is given in kind. Creating conducive relationship with the sponsor, like writing letter, sending photo graph, Consultation are given to beneficiaries as required. Full cloths to beneficiaries twice a year are provided. All the beneficiaries obtain 3-4 peace of soap, 14-20 kg teff is provided and one cosmetics oil per 3-4 months.

According to the response of the interviewee the social service of the project is extended up to the provision of legal service if there is any court case of the beneficiary there will be lawyer who represents those beneficiaries.

## **3. Cognitive service of Urban Dire Dawa compassion international Donated Child Development Project**

The beneficiaries are entitled for full materials of education, uniform, tutor class from KG-12 grade. The library is built up with sufficient required books to increase the student performance. In addition to this counseling service is provided for them to control the performance of the beneficiaries in education and beneficiaries prepare their plan for future in all the component of the project and evaluate it every quarterly by cross checking the plan to the actual performance and taking the necessary measures if any deviation are found. There are monthly meeting with the beneficiaries' family.

## **4. Ethics service of Urban Dire Dawa compassion international Donated Child Development Project**

As the interviewee responded ethical education is provided for beneficiary every Saturday for those who are above age 10 and every Sunday for those beneficiaries below 10 years old.

### **Major finding, Conclusion and recommendation**

#### **Major Finding**

The number of respondent who are always worrying about their food consumption before joining the project was reduced from 34.5% to 6.4% after joining the project, the number of times the respondent always worrying about their food consumption was reduced from 35.5% to 5.6%, the respondent who did not get balanced meal were reduced from 49.8% to 28.1%, those who lacks any food at their home was reduced from 30.1% to 2.8%, those who had not any food because of lack of money were reduced from 39.4% to 20.5%, the number of meal per day that the respondent was taken increased from 32.9% to 90.4%. In general, the majority of the beneficiaries are able to eat three times per day after joining the project.

#### **Conclusion**

Urban Dire Dawa compassion international Donated Child Development Project is being contributing a lot for the reduction of food insecurity by providing different services to the pro poor section of the society. As the data showed the beneficiaries' life was changed greatly after the project provide them the necessary food support.

#### **Policy Implication and Recommendation**

- ✓ **Urban Dire Dawa compassion international Donated Child Development Project** have to work to improve the pro poor section of a society through creating sustainable income generating activities by providing training on entrepreneurship, business plan development, etc, in order to make the beneficiary self sustained in food and finance.
- ✓ Since food insecurity is widely spread problem in Ethiopia, government has to design policy framework which attract food NGO's to address the problem from grass root level through;
  - Consideration of the existence of urban pro poor section of the society and identifying those pro poor.
  - Supporting those interested international and local food NGO's in urban areas through provision of different facilities such as land, office, soft infrastructure, etc..
- ✓ It is better for the government to effectively work in collaboration with indigenious and international food NGO's and the government has to take initiative to coordinate food NGO's effort who are working on urban areas of Ethiopia in order to jointly work towards alleviating food problems.

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