**Brief overview of The Hunger Project-Ethiopia**

1. **Introduction:**

The hunger Project Ethiopia (THPE) is the country office of the Global Hunger Project, which operates in twenty-three countries all over the world including eight countries in Africa. THPE is committed to empower rural communities to create lasting society-wide progress in order to achieve a sustainable end of hunger where:

* Every day, every person has enough of the right food to be healthy and productive;
* Babies are born healthy and strong, and girl babies are prized as much as baby boy babies;
* Women and girls are full partners in society;
* People have control over their own lives and destinies, and all individuals have a chance to contribute; and
* The values of honoring human beings and nature flourish

**2. The Goal of THP**

The principal goal of the project is achievement of sustainable ending of hunger from the intervention kebeles (villages) in five to seven years. This principal goal is realized in the intervention kebeles through accomplishment of the following objectives which complement each other.

**3. Objectives**

**3.1.** Sustainable food security is ensured for intervention areas (which usually comprise of 10,000 to 15,000 people through increased production of food crops, improved productivity of livestock, and expanded share of household income from off-farm/non-farm activities, through intensification, diversification and specialization as well as creation of effective agricultural inputs and output marketing networks.

**3.2.** Access to basic education through the non-formal stream is attained by all the legible children, youth and adults of the intervention kebeles through building, staffing furnishing and equipping alternative education (literacy) centers, and mobilizing the resources of the communities.

**3.3.** Access to basic health services is provided to all of the communities through, building, equipping and staffing health posts in line with the policy of the Government, acceptors of family planning and households using excreta disposal are increased by 50%.

**3.4.** Access to safe and adequate drinking water is attained by 100% of the households of the kebeles through developing springs and boring water wells.

**3.5.** Empowerment of women, which is fundamental for achieving gender equality is attained

though awareness raising campaigns, training, access to credit schemes, participation in local affairs, eradication of harmful traditional practices, and introduction of appropriate technology that minimize the work load of women.

**3.6.** Natural resource base conservation and improvement hectares is achieved in the kebeles through construction of check dams, planting trees, enclosure of forest and bush lands and introduction of wood substitutes for construction and household consumption.

**4. Project Activities**

Various activities are performed in order to achieve the proposed objectives in five to seven years. The types of activities and the targets to be achieved in each major activity are presented in the following sections.

**4.1. Epicenter facilities**

The Epicenter is the focal point where the communities of the intervention kebeles mobilize their resources for achieving the objectives stated above. It is managed by an Epicenter Committee of 20 members, with equal representation of males and females, elected by the general assembly of the population of the five intervention kebeles. There are a number of sub-committees and animators who perform different kinds of tasks under the leadership of the epicenter committee in order to realize the Epicenter responsibilities of ending hunger in the localities.

The Epicenter has a building consisting of a meeting hall, nursery classroom, health post and a rural bank. The meeting hall is used for conducting committee, sub-committee and animator meetings. The meeting hall is also used for organizing various workshops, skill training, discussion forums, youth and adult literacy classes and general assemblies of the residents. The nursery classroom is planned to serve as a model school for the intervention kebeles and the neighborhood localities. It is furnished and equipped with basic child teaching aids. It accommodates about 50 children. Day feeding is provided to complement the nutritional requirements of the children.

The Epicenter also includes one health center fully furnished with residential rooms for health workers and nurses, including guest rooms for visiting doctors.

A grain bank (grain store) is also built at the Epicenter site just for the convenience of management by the epicenter Committee. The grain bank is built separately from the Epicenter block. It is used to store staple cereal crop produced by the kebeles at the Epicenter community farm and use for eventual emergencies which could take place in the kebles.

**Empowerment of women is a highest priority of THP-E. One mechanism of empowering women is enhancing their economic status through a saving and credit scheme, whereby they generate income, which ensure their economic independence. THP-E allocates a considerable amount of revolving fund to be used by the women of the kebeles. The saving and credit scheme which would eventually transforms into a rural bank, owned and managed by a corporate of the saving and credit women groups, is operated from the Epicenter. Therefore, the necessary room facilities of the operation of the scheme are provided in the Epicenter building.**

**5. Management of the project**

The project is managed by the Epicenter Committee and several sub-committees chaired by the members of the Epicenter Committee members. Male and female animators selected by the Epicenter Committee form every village carry out the operational activities like literacy classes, promotion of preventive health, nutrition, family planning, gender equity, HIV/AIDS, environmental protection, water management, etc., in their respective village. The animators are adequately trained in teaching and awareness raising methodology, provided with appropriate information including I.E.C. materials so that they perform their tasks effectively.

However, until the committee, sub-committees and animators acquire the leadership skill necessary to manage the responsibilities of the Epicenter independently, THP-E’s staff work closely with them. Therefore, THP-E assigns four professional staff and an Epicenter Coordinator and a part time building engineer to manage the project activities in partnership with the Epicenter committee, sub-committees and animators.

Close partnership is also maintained with the different departments of the district to make use of their expertise for the performance of the project. Development agents assigned in the kebeles are expected to work closely with the Epicenter Committees. Provision is made to enhance the capacity of the development agents through participation in workshops, training and discussion forums which THP-E organizes.

The project requires THP-E’s staff to make frequent travels between the head office (Addis Abeba) and the project kebeles. Public transport services in the area are not convenient for the nature of the project’s work. The gravel road that connects the project area to the main highway is another inconvenience. Thus, the situation makes it necessary for THP-E to purchase to 4WD vehicles in order to facilitate effective implementation of the project.

**6. Duration of the Project**

Considering the tremendous awareness raising, household asset development, and infrastructure development activities involved, the project is planned to last for five years beginning the first quarter of 2005, and phases out at the end of 2009.

**7. Project Budget**

Implementation of the project requires several types of inputs such as agricultural inputs, material inputs, skilled labor inputs, revolving fund and others. Agricultural inputs include improved grain seeds, vegetable and fruit/tree seeds & seedlings, and farm implements. Material inputs consist of Epicenter, health post, school and water construction materials: field vehicles and water pumps: equipment and furniture. Labor inputs are cost of skilled labor utilized in the implementation of the project. Other inputs include costs involving training & workshop, professional services study tour and travel expenses.

Epicenter inputs consist of building and furniture of the Epicenter facility, and implements such as soil brick mould and cement pipe moulds that are commonly used for production bricks for the Epicenter and other constructions, and for water wells to be developed for the villages.

Cost of any unskilled labor provided by the communities for the project activities is not included in the budget as this is provided freely. The budget is computed on the basis of 80% of THP-E’s contribution and 20% of Community; contribution without considering unskilled labor. Therefore, the partner kebeles cover 20% of the budget for the Epicenter facilities, non-formal basic education, health posts, animal health posts and safe water supply. With regard to grain mills, the partner villages are expected to provide shelters or house for the mills in addition to the 20% cost sharing contribution, in order to be eligible for the revolving fund allocated for the mills and managed by the Epicenter. The budget of the project is summarized in table 7.