

PROJECT BRIEF



ETHIOPIANS FIGHTING AGAINST CHILD EXPLOITATION (E-FACE)

Ethiopians Fighting against Child Exploitation (E-FACE) approach to making work safe for youth in textile weaving

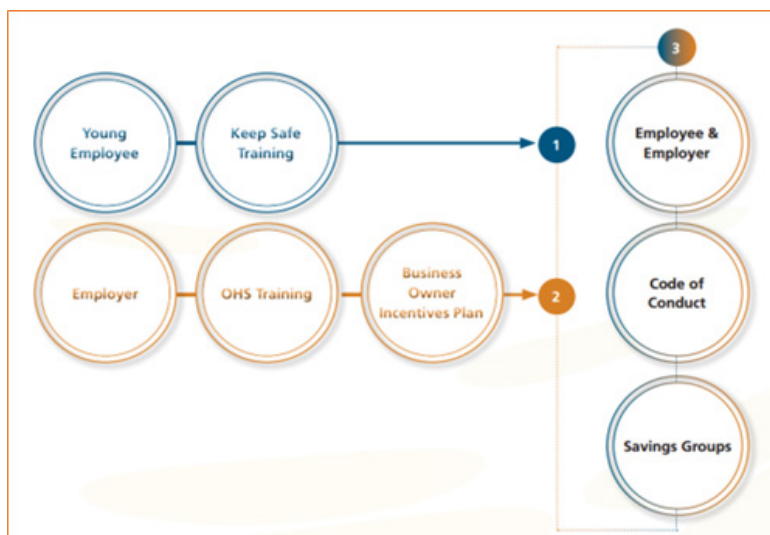
The US-Department of Labor-funded E-FACE project (2011-2015) was implemented by World Vision with subgrantees, Mennonite Economic Development Associates and Mission for Community Development Program.

The project had four objectives:

- Increase the incomes of families engaged in spinning and weaving in Addis Ababa
- Reduce the incidence of children and youth engaged in exploitative labor conditions in high-end textile shops, exporters, key traders, and input suppliers
- Strengthen household resiliency for families that are vulnerable to relying on child labor by diversifying family income through financial services and additional value chain development in other sectors
- Contribute to establishing a “child safe” seal of product certification standard in the Ethiopian weaving sector

The project’s strategy to eliminate hazardous conditions for young workers took mutually-reinforcing tracks—for the young employee of legal working age, and for the employer. The project supported an enabling environment for both target groups to sustainably make work safe for youth.

The diagram to the right illustrates the program’s approach.



Project Results:

- 2,000 working youth participated in the project's 'Keep Safe' training, which focused on life skills and workplace hazards
- Youth gained financial skills including budgeting, costing, and saving through specialized saving groups
- 1,523 employers participated in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) training to mitigate workplace hazards, including specific hazards for young workers
- Textile workshop business owners who employed youth participated in a 'graduated incentive system'. As business owners participated in awareness workshops, adopted the Code of Conduct, and began to improve the working conditions and environments for youth, they qualified for different levels of support or incentives that helped them increase their productivity and market integration. These incentives included financial services, access to inputs, and marketing services for their products.
- 80 business owner saving groups formed with the aim of improving business owners' financial literacy, saving habits, and access to financial services.



Impact of program approach to making work safe for youth

In total, 1,523 trained business owners were assessed for their Code of Conduct compliance. These assessments were undertaken with the support of government offices, such as the Bureau of Women, Youth and Children Affairs office, as well as the Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs offices of the intervention woredas. The assessments revealed that 70 percent of assessed businesses had complied with a minimum of two workplace standards such as covering the floors, painting the walls, or improving the wages of the youth. The business owners were diligent in ensuring that the employed youth are attending school and that youth had access to the school supplies from the project.

The project collaborated with public and private sector actors to establish a “child safe” seal of product certification standards in the weaving sector. A label was designed and used to identify and distinguish products that were produced free of child labor.

EAP supported the review and updating of Children’s Codes and other relevant policies that cater to children’s welfare.

The policies are true testaments to participatory and multi-sector collaborations at work to ensure child labor-free communities.

