

Ministry appreciates foundation 's effort to meet youth multifaceted needs

BY BERHANU GEMECHU

BISHOFTU - The Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs has appreciated the German Foundation for World Population (DSW) Ethiopia's effort to evidently address the multifaceted socioeconomic needs of young people through improving their sexual and reproductive health, self-esteem and social participation.

In his key note address on awarding best performing youth clubs organized by DSW, Ethiopia at the Bishoftu Bonita Training Centre last Tuesday, Ministry Youth Centres Standardization and Followup Senior Expert Haile-Mariam Kebede said DSW is among strong and conformable development partners supporting the proper realization of the Government's youth development packages.

"DSW is promoting sustainable youth friendly sexual and reproductive health issues. It is also working in close collaboration with governmental bodies at various levels in a very transparent manner. For instance, awarding outstanding youth clubs would inspire members to expand the

service to the out of reach youth," he remarked.

Haile-Mariam particularly commended the crucial role of the Bonita Youth Development and Training Centre as valuable common asset for both the government and other organizations work on youth to train and build youth capacity which is the prerequisite for ensuring sustainable initiatives in the long run.

According Haile-Mariam, the Government has built over 455 youth centres nationwide with varying standards to comprehensively address the youth societal problems. "The Government would also remain concerned with the overall youth development through encouraging development partners' participation both in rural and urban areas," he added.

DSW Ethiopia Country Director Tirsit Grishaw on her part said the organization has improved the level of awareness of vulnerable young women and men of both rural and urban even in remote areas of the country. "With a clear development agenda and in close collaboration with our local partners, following our tried and

tested youth-to-youth (Y2Y) model, DSW Ethiopia has established a nationwide network of youth clubs and created access to adolescent sexual reproductive health information and services through more than 123 youth clubs," she added.

According to youth clubs representative drawn from different parts of the country, the Y2Y programme, which encompass a broad range of activities aimed at improving the young people's sexual and reproductive health, has benefited the young people a lot. The programme is unique in that it is youth friendly approach to bring about desired behavioural change upon youth. It is also easily replicable, sustainable, adaptable and active way of taching the youth," Blen Dawit, Fire Hewan Young Women Club from Hawassa said.

Some 21 active young clubs were awarded for their performance. Five youth clubs were particularly awarded seed money for their outstanding performance which would help them expand their clubs through creating income-generating activities.