

PASTORALIST FORUM ETHIOPIA (PFE)

Narrative Activity and Performance Report January through December 2005

February 2006
Addis Ababa

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I. Introduction

This narrative report highlights the efforts and steps moved by Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) from January through December 2005. The report briefly cover institutional development matters, performance made in strategic program areas that include pastoral policy advocacy and lobby, networking and coordination, partnership and coalition, and capacity building. The newly initiated projects and challenges encountered are also part of this report.

II. Institutional developments

Institutional independency and legal status: since January 2005, PFE has become independent institutionally and physically from its founding and mother organization, Panos Ethiopia. The Forum has got new office premises and address. The Secretariat was running a multitude of activities having only 9 staffs, which were three technical staffs, a Director, an Assistant Program Officer, and a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (hired end 2005), and six support staffs that included a finance officer (seconded staff from Panos), an office manager, two guards, an office attendant, and a driver. A full-time finance officer has taken over the finance department since 1st January 2006. The Forum has a separate bank accounts and financial records. Most of necessary office equipment and material/furniture are being fulfilled for the office. **The financial and accounting manual is also in place.**

Governance: The second General Assembly Meeting (GAM) was held on 15th August 2005. Twenty-one out of twenty-four (88%) member NGOs were participated in the meeting. The main agenda of the meeting were to discuss and approve annual activity and financial reports; audit reports (consolidated report 2001-03, and 2004); board members amendment; and approval of new membership application.

The decisions made by the GAM were:

- a. All the reports got approval
- b. The existing board members to finish theirs terms, two-year is remaining out of the three.
- c. Dr. Tafesse Mesfin was elected in place of the late board member, Ato Abdulkadier Ahmed
- d. Following long discussion made regarding the membership of individuals, those distinguished researchers, academics, and individuals working directly on issues of pastoralism can be a member of the Forum. Thus, this provision should be included in the PFE's Memorandum of Association; and,
- e. Finally five additional members got approval to be a member of PFE.

Various publication and reports were distributed for the participants. A minute of the assembly was submitted to MoJ and DPPC.

The Board of Directors have met five times and passed decisions on various issues of organizational policy directions, management matters, and other relevant issues. Various staff meetings have been conducted in order to keep the organization and the project wheels moving on.

III. Overview of activities implemented and achievements

In compliance with the Forum's intervention areas depicted in the strategic and advocacy plans, the section below highlights the activities implemented and the achievements obtained in the year.

3.1 Pastoral Policy research, advocacy and lobby

3.1.1 Study on the MDGs vis-à-vis Pastoral Development in Ethiopia

A team composed of two researchers is undertaking a study on the status of the pastoral development in comparison with the MDGs-a global policy framework to end poverty. The general objective of the study is *to highlight the status of Ethiopian pastoralists with respect to the MDGs and promote shared vision among partners in leveraging development benchmarks for pastoral development, especially in the upcoming Ethiopian Millennium*. The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Conceptualize the MDGs with respect to the pastoralist situation in Ethiopia
2. Review current development status in pastoralist areas
3. Review the on-going public poverty oriented programs and assess their implementation in pastoral areas
4. Make a realistic assessment of progress towards achieving the MDGs in pastoralists areas
5. Identify gaps and challenges
6. Make recommendations on the way forward

The intention was to present the study report during the 8th EPD celebration but PFE was not successful due to the change made in the theme of the Day. The final report will be ready soon for circulation. FARM Africa extended the financial support for the research.

3.1.2 Study on Establishment of Oromiya Pastoralist Council (OPC)

The idea of Pastoral Council has come out during subsequent Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD). In response to demand of the pastoralists for establishment of Pastoral Council, the Forum in partnership with the Oromiya Pastoral Area Development Council (OPADC), Action For Development (NGO), and Pastoral Risk Management (GL-CRSP PARMA) has taken a lead role in establishing the Oromiya Pastoral Council (OPC). The Council representing directly the pastoralist and promoting their rights, it aims at improvement of the knowledge gap that exists at policy makers' level particularly in understanding pastoralism as a way of life and as a development agenda, and to allow the pastoralists to get engaged in advocacy and lobby roles to influence policy making process, and to take position of a key-player in development endeavors that affect their well-being and livelihoods

Before going into establishing the council directly, it was agreed to conduct a study on the need to the council and define conceptual and practical frameworks of the council, and based on the study findings preparing the by-laws. RUPA Consultant Firm undertook the study for 30 days in carefully sampled representative pastoral communities of the Oromiya region. The draft report was circulated to partners and commented while a two-day validation workshop was organized to enrich the study findings and discuss on the frameworks of the council. The total participants of the workshop were 70, which included 60 pastoral representatives drawn from all Oromiya pastoral areas, 10 partner organizations, and two representatives from the House of Peoples' Representatives Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee (PASC). The founding conference of the Council was held in Adama/Nazereth Town from Jan. 22-23 preceding a historic event of the 8th Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD). The OPC project was supported by CORDAID, Oxfam Canada, and SC USA.

3.1.3 Synthesis report on Pastoralist Conflict Transformation in Afar and Kereyou

As it is mentioned in several fora and depicted in the advocacy strategy of PFE, conflicts in pastoral areas need a paramount attention. Just to start studying conflict in a local context, PFE commissioned a researcher to study conflict situations in Afar and Kereyou pastoral areas in Sep.2005. The main purpose of the study was to support the advocacy works of the Forum. The specific objectives were to review and synthesis the conflict situations in Afar and Kereyou communities; propose intervention areas to transform conflict and build peace; and to recommend a roadmap towards sustaining peace in the area. The final report of the study was circulated.

3.1.4 Familiarization session organized on PFE activities for the incumbent pastoral MPs in the Federal Parliament

The Forum's advocacy work is mainly targeting Members of Parliament (MPs) as they are policy-makers. In order to keep the momentum of partnership established with the outgoing pastoral parliamentarians, board members of the Forum held a half-day briefing session on the 30th of Nov. 2005 for the incoming pastoral parliamentarians, especially for the members of Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC). The purpose of the briefing was to familiarize the MPs with vision and mission of the Forum, the intervention focus, operational activities, and to share experience and discuss how the already established partnership could be strengthened and maintained.

The following were the topics of the familiarization session.

1. General background to why the pastoralists need special attention
2. Introduction to PFE's profile
3. PASC and PFE partnership in brief (summary of three years relationships)
4. Key pastoral issues
5. Opportunities to advance pastoral issues (institutional and legal frameworks)

The PASC assured that it would continue working with the PFE to address plights of the pastoralists. The potential areas of collaboration mentioned for the two institutions to get involved were:

1. Promotion of **networking and information sharing** at country and regional levels
2. Organizing **public debates and dialogues** on selected pastoral development issues
3. **Pastoral Institutional Development**: formation of elders councils, revitalizing the Inter-parliamentary pastoral group in Eastern Africa
4. **Capacity building/enhancement**: organizing EPD, trainings and experience sharing visit

However, in order to advance the existing partnership into a new chapter, the need to develop a clear memorandum of understanding is emphasized. All members of the PASC attended the briefing session and the visit of PFE Board members was successful. The next session is scheduled for Feb./Mar.2006.

3.1.5 Election 97's contesting political parties debate organized and report prepared

Ethiopia was preparing for a third term national and regional election, which was marked on 15th, May 2005. To show its commitment for free and fair democratic election the EPRDF led government opened up political spaces for all contesting political parties to contest in the May97 election. The Forum organized a half-day debate on pastoral development policy issues for contesting political parties. The overall objective of the is to influence parties to mainstream pastoral issues in their political and development agenda, and raise public awareness on pastoralism and pastoralists livelihood. The topics of the debate were *pastoral land tenure system, good governance, and livestock marketing*.

Three umbrella contesting political parties (EPRDF, CUD and EDFU) and two regional based parties Afar People Democratic Party (APDP) and Somali People Democratic Party (SPDP) were invited to participate in the debate. However, only EPRDF, CUD and APDP have participated in the debate. All electronic media were invited to cover the event live, while printing media to report the debate. The print media gave the event good coverage while ETV televised the event the other day.

The debate was held in Sheraton Addis on 5th May 2005 and was attended by 65 peoples drawn from CSOs/NGOs, prominent personality, focal government units, and university students.

3.1.6 The Ethiopian Pastoralist Day

PFE formed a steering committee to organize and oversee the 6th EPD. Following great advocacy and lobby work, PASC endorsed and dispatched the resolutions passed in the 6th EPD officially to the Houses of Representatives and Federation, Offices of the Speaker of the Houses, all Standing Committees in the Federal Parliament, concerned ministries and higher government organizations, pastoral regional governments, and PFE members.

Pastoral Video Production: Despite the popularity of EPD both at national and regional levels and validity of the resolutions coming out every year, there were limited tactics/tools of advocacy to convey the resolutions and overall issues reflected in the day to the decision-makers and the public. As a result, a pastoral video production was initiated to reflect main concerns of the Ethiopian pastoralists. A 17 minutes video conveys two important messages in addition to the socio-cultural profiles of the diversified pastoral groups. These are 1) establishment of pastoral concern institution and 2) formation of pastoral council of elders at Federal level raised by pastoral representatives during the six EPD. The video has been distributed to key decision-makers and stakeholders in and outside the country. The distribution modality included both in VCD and VHS formats.

Impact Assessment on EPD: The overall objective of impact assessment was to assess the impact PFE has made using EPD and subsequent advocacy roles in raising the profile of pastoralists at community, region and federal levels. The specific objectives were to assess the achievements of the EPD in the following four areas: the extent to which it has provided a common platform for pastoral communities to share experiences, both among themselves and with partners; the extent to which it has raised the profile of pastoralism and increased awareness and recognition at all levels of the viability of pastoral production systems; the extent to which it has promoted the concerns of pastoralists through advocacy work at the national level; the extent to which it has created a conducive and enabling environment for pastoral development work among pastoral community members, civil society organizations, government, and donors.

The project had the following additional objectives: to identify ways in which the impact of EPD could be strengthened in future, and to make recommendations on the future direction of the EPD and the role of the PFE within that; and the extent and document best practice of relevance to other pastoral communities and organizations outside Ethiopia, who may be interested in adopting a similar approach. Findings of the assessment include EPD is being taken as a dependable day and the only forum for the pastoral communities to speak for themselves; a growing and multifaceted platform used for pastoral advocacy to influence various level decision-makers; and endorsement of the resolutions of the 6th EPD by the House of Representatives, and reached top officials of the government and non-government sectors.

The final report was officially launched with the pastoral video on 06 Jan. 2005 in the presence of more than 50 participants drawn from various non-governmental, governmental, donor, academia, researchers, and media. The study document is being distributed to various stakeholders both as hard copy and electronic (soft copy). The objectives of the project have been achieved and the outcomes of the study have definitely helped PFE to fine-tune its advocacy roles. Oxfam GB covered costs of the video and impact assessment projects.

The Seventh Ethiopian Pastoralist Day: the 7th EPD was organized in partnership with MoFA and celebrated in Dire Dawa under the theme *Good Governance for Sustainable Pastoral Development*. The Day was preceded by a panel discussion that was held on 11th Jan. 2005 in presence of many partners and stakeholders. The discussion topics were land use and food security in pastoral areas of Ethiopian, traditional pastoral institutions and modern state function in pastoral areas, and good governance in pastoral areas and pastoralists' participation. In addition, The Pastoralists' Panel Discussion, Joint GO-NGO reflection, and PFE and donors meeting were parts of the event. PFE has conveyed the advocacy messages using various media (table below).

Summary of PFE's media usage

Media type	Mode	Occasion	Key message(s)	Target group
1. ETV	NEWS, Special program, press conference	7 th EPD	Celebration ceremony, resolution of the day, EPD is a pastoral platform	public, decision-makers
2. Ethiopia Radio	NEWS	7 th EPD		
3. Government press	NEWS	7 th EPD		
4. Private press	Interview, Special report, NEWS	7 th EPD	pastoralist issues like land and conflict matters are not properly addressed; media should properly treat pastoralism	public, media
5. FM Radio	Radio discussion	7 th EPD	Resolution of the 6 th EPD should be implemented	
6. Radio FANA	Radio conference		Pastoral land use and tenure should be separately treated from the highlands	
7. Private press	Interview	land proclamation	the draft land use and administration proclamation is against pastoral mode of life	decision-makers

3.1.7 Continuing pressure on addressing pastoral land issues

Land is the main advocacy issue for the PFE. The Federal Government tabled a draft **Proclamation on Rural Land Administration and Use in December 2004**. After three months, the draft document has reached PFE for comment. The Forum commissioned two experts to review the draft bill from the legal and technical perspectives and presented their findings in the roundtable. It was found that the bill doesn't incorporate the basics of pastoral land rights that even stated in the Constitution, and its preparation. In a roundtable organized for key partners and stakeholders, it was commented that the bill had lacked participatory nature and did not represent the pastoralist interests. Following the roundtable, the Forum represented by seven members attended the public hearing on the bill organized by the Federal parliament. The representatives of the Forum have forwarded strong comments during the hearing. The key comments made were the bill has not recognized a communal land holdings and it has followed a top down approaches. The Forum has prepared an *'alternative bill'* and submitted to the PASC. Lately, it was learned that the bill endorsed by the parliament without major changes from its previous content.

3.1.8 Follow up works on PRSP and MDGs

Minority Rights Group International (MRGI) has published a book entitled *PRSP, Minorities and Indigenous Peoples (An Issue Paper)* in August 2005. The case study from Ethiopia on pastoralism and PRSP was contributed by PFE.

The Federal Government of Ethiopia invited stakeholders for a Federal Level Consultative meeting on *SDPRP Assessment Framework and the Way Forward*. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the achievements made in SDPRP I and prepare the SDPRP II. The meeting was held from Sep. 6-8, 2005 and it was part of a regional consultation that was held in July 2005.

PFE was one of the few NGOs participated in the meeting in a short notice. The report was distributed on same day of the meeting and was very short time to comment on it. The draft document tabled for consultation did not address pastoralism in the way it deserves. PFE followed two approaches to reflect on the document and protect the interest of the pastoralists. Firstly, PFE contributed its comment through Poverty Action Network (PANE), and secondly, directly circulating a brief note reflecting concerns of the pastoralists. Although it was a rush time for PFE to discuss in detail on the issues with all partners, a brief report entitled "**Should We Neglect Pastoralists in SDPRP II**"? was prepared and circulated during the consultative meeting. This document had triggered discussion among partners and stakeholders to why pastoralism was not properly addressed in the report although no one was able to answer such questions. Recently, PFE prepared a **chapter on pastoralism** and submitted to the MoFED to be included in the PASDEP/SDPRP II.

Participating in Citizen Report Card (CRC) Survey: PFE works with PANE in matters of SDPRP and MDGS. Within the strategic framework of Civil Society engagement in Monitoring and Evaluation of the SDPRP, PANE intended to conduct a comprehensive review of progress towards achieving the objectives set out in the SDPRP at the local level in selected regions. It was a participatory process that would not only provide required data but helped to raise awareness among citizens and, especially the poor, of the SDPRP and initiate an empowerment process for sustained participation in the implementation and monitoring of the SDPRP. It was in this context that the UNDP, on behalf of PANE had approached the Public Affairs Foundation (Indian Social Consultancy Company) to provide a proposal on building capacity to conduct a **Pilot Service Delivery Monitoring Exercise in Ethiopia using the Citizen Report Card approach**.

PFE conducted the survey in Afar regional state by selecting two representative Woredas (Aba'ala and Ayisaita Woredas). Three hundred householders were interviewed for the purpose. In the survey, twelve trained enumerators collected the data for twenty days between December and January, 2004/05. Following the release of the first draft report of the CRC, PFE noticed that the survey had some flaws emanated from sampling error and decided on the need to add some information to complete the report. The final CRC report is under publication without the result from Afar. A separate CRC will be conducted in Afar in future.

3.2 Networking and Coordination

3.2.1 Preparation of Pastoral Directory and Website

In order to boost information flow and enhance networking among pastoral NGOs and partners, PFE is developing a Pastoral Directory and a Website. The final draft on the Directory was submitted and it is ready for publication. There is a delay in finalizing the directory due to slow process encountered while some organizations filling in the questionnaires and time taken in provision of the required information.

Regarding the website, there was a change in the previous plan to develop a high-range capacity Website. Due to the fact that high capacity network is costlier and needs special knowledge base on information updating, it was decided to develop a website with medium range. The website will be completed in March 2006. Both activities are part of a two-year advocacy project supported by CAFOD-TROCAIRE *on Pastoral Policies and Strategies in Ethiopia*.

3.2.2 Mission Trips and Various Communications

PFE's mission with two members (the Vice Board chairman and the Director) participated in the 4th UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) that was held from 16th to 27th May 2005 in New York. The delegates were also given with additional mission of reaching potential donors, and creating new network with the pastoralists and their friends in Diaspora. The mission accomplished its assignments by traveling up to Southern California. The delegates performed various activities- attended the Forum, presented a photo mosaic depicting the resolutions of the 6th EPD to the Permanent Forum, distributed PFE's documents, held discussion with influential groups, contributed to the establishment of a Pastoral Diaspora Network, etc.

In addition, there were three mission trips in Kenya and Uganda, and a trip in Afar region. In each trip, the participants from PFE had immense contribution in popularizing the Forum and advancing the pastoralists profile from the Ethiopian perspectives. The report of the missions is summarized below:

- i. **The PFE Board chairperson attended the Development Fund (DF's), Norwegian Donor, Africa Partner Network meeting held from 4-7 October 2005.** The Africa meeting has the following objectives: Share experience from other networks where DF has experience (Triangular project, Asian and Latin America networks), and investigate the interests and potentials of DF Africa partners to develop inter-African networks; Design the main components and the structure for follow-up (task force etc.) of a DF Africa

network program; and, DF consultation with partners on developing a new DF strategy. This meeting was attended by

- ii. **The PFE Board member participated in the Kenyan Pastoralist Week** that was held mid December 06. The main purpose of the Pastoralist Week is to advocate for the rights of pastoralists and create a platform for experience sharing on pastoralism. The board member reportedly contributed the experience of the Ethiopian Pastoralist Day.
- iii. **Ass. Program Officer of PFE attended a regional workshop on Land privatization matters** in September in Uganda that was organized by Reconcile. The purpose of the workshop is mainly to share experience on pastoral land privatization.
- iv. **In early October 2005, two PFE board members and the finance officer visited volcano victim areas of Afar Region.** The mission spoke to the affected communities and local officials and reported the situation. The mission on behalf of PFE has shown its strong solidarity for the pastoralists.
- v. **The PFE Executive Director awarded by the World Bank/MoFA a two weeks training on *Project Team Building* in Montreal, Canada, in Oct.2005.** In addition to the training, he had a chance to discuss on partnership issues with the Federal and Regional Government Officials attending that training. He presented a paper on the current pastoral issues at the Head Office of Oxfam Canada in Ottawa, Canada. Furthermore, the Director attended an International Conference held in Amsterdam in mid Nov. 2006.

PFE has continuously provided information and documents regarding pastoralism and related issues to various institutions and individuals. Guests from USAID, EU, Norwegian Development Fund, EARO, MRGI, SNV, A Chairwomen of the Pastoralist League, Director of Oxfam Canada, representatives from EU, EARO, Biodiversity, and many of PFE's member NGOs are among a few of those who visited PFE.

3.2.3 JSDF Grant Management and Administration

The JSDF is basically a tripartite project and the implementation speed is determined by the effectiveness and efficiency of three parties, namely, PFE, Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), and the World Bank. The work performance in JSDF has moved significantly in the reporting period. The following activities/sub-activities were performed

- i. Generic Frameworks for Grant Implementation and Management prepared and agreed with the Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), and the World Bank as a guiding framework
- ii. Call for Grant Application advertised and application were submitted from 25 NGOs with 29 project proposals
- iii. Screening of the application made and eligible NGOs and projects notified. The Approval committee decided the eligibility of 12 NGOs with 13 projects found in four pastoral regions to access the Grant
- iv. The final endorsement of the grant was made by the World Bank

Recently, a team of three delegates from the World Bank evaluated the progress of the Fund and approved the extension of the project period by one year. The closing of the fund is therefore Oct. 2008.

3.3 Partnership and Coalition Building

The Forum has actively worked to strengthen partnership with both Government and Non-Government bodies. PFE's active partnership with PASC (pastoralism in general), PANE (PRSP and MDGs), Cotonou Task Force (CSOs in Cotonou Agreement), Kereyou Interest Group (KIG),

PROFIEET, Norwegian Peoples Aid and Development Fund/DF (land matters), MRGI (issues of minority rights), IWGIA (indigenous peoples rights), etc need to be mentioned.

Poverty Action Network (PANE): PANE is a main coalition force working on PRSP and MDGs in Ethiopia. As it is mentioned above, PFE discussed, commented, and shared information on the newly developed national strategy, PASDEP. PFE is attending regular meetings of the PANE.

KIG work follow up Activity: The KIG regular meetings were attended. The KIG is a small consortium that advances the interest of Kereyou pastoral community. The baseline survey on the situation of the Kereyou community was finalized and circulated. A coordinator was hired for the KIG and started working.

Common Property Regime Working Group: Following the Norwegian Peoples Aid workshop held in Uganda, *common property regime working group* has been established. The purpose of the group is to share information and conduct research on the domain of communal land issues. The partners are PFE, PCAE, SOS Sahil, and NPA. The working group has prepared its ToR, discussed and approved to be used as a guideline and a working document. Concept note to advance the work of the working group is prepared and submitted to NPA regional adviser for funding. The permanent secretary of the working group designated.

Pastoral Livelihood Initiative (PLI) Consortiums: PFE is a Partner of both the *Enhancing Afar and Borana Livelihoods Efforts* (ENABLE) led by CARE-Ethiopia and Food Security Programs led by Save The Children US respectively. The working group led by both agencies established and conducted regular meeting.

3.4 Capacity Building

3.4.1 In-house capacity building

To beef up the in-house capacity of PFE a Capacity Building Concept note has been prepared and submitted to the Norwegian Development Fund for funding. After the appraisal of the concept note PFE was awarded with about Birr 60,000. However, DF and PFE want to establish a long-term partnership in which the current capacity support is a part of it. Save The Children USA has also supported the capacity of the PFE. The support included covering the salary of A Senior Program Officer, and contribution to the national advocacy works.

3.4.2 Local level capacity building/training workshop

Woreda level Capacity building training: following to CARE Ethiopia's funded community training project on *conflict management and peace building* held in the previous quarter, the second phase of the training was conducted in end Nov. 2006. A total of 60 participants drawn from local government of Awash and Awash Fentale Woreda were trained on similar issues.

Local capacity building training: The Forum signed agreement with CARE Ethiopia to facilitate a capacity building training on conflict management and peace building among Kereyou and Afar communities. The purpose of the project is to enhance capacity of grassroots pastoral communities residing in Fentale Woreda of Oromiya, and Awash Woreda of Afar regions that enables them to manage resource- based conflict and building peace in their localities. The training has two levels, community and Woreda levels, targeting Woreda experts and NGOs. In the community level training, 120 participants drawn from Oromo and Afar elders, youth, women and Government representative from 12kebeles were trained, while the second level was held end of Oct 2005. Qualified resource persons well versed in local level training undertook the training.

Pastoral Elders Training: this was MRGI supported small training project, which was a continuation of pastoral advocacy and capacity building program started in 2004. A total of 40 men and women pastoralist drawn from Somali, and Afar were trained in Dire Dawa from 22-24 Dec. 05 while 20 pastoralists (women and men) coming from Hamer, Aerbore, Tsemay and Bena pastoral ethnic groups trained in Jinka in January 2006.

The training content falls under the following domain:

- The concept of human/indigenous/minority rights
- Civil & political rights and the concept of public participation
- The concept of good governance
- Conflict Management
- Gender inequalities and its impact in the pastoralist society in Ethiopia
- The concept of advocacy and how to plan effective advocacy campaign

Civic and Voters Education for Pastoralists: This training workshop was organized in relation to the Election 97's. As voting is the right of all citizens of the nation, so the pastoral communities should have equal right to voting. However, the pastoralists should understand the process of election and the principles involved in democratic election and are able to participate in the election. Pastoralists are in a position where they do not have good access to information and media coverage. This is for one reason they are in remote areas. Hence, it was important to arrange a training program aimed at reaching them as far as possible through their representatives.

The Civic and Voters Education Training Program had the following main objectives.

- ❑ raise the awareness and understanding of 25 pastoral women and 25 pastoral elders through **training** that enable them to actively participate in the forthcoming National Ethiopian Election;
- ❑ raise the awareness and understanding of thousands of pastoralists across the country through deliberating **key messages in the radio** that enhance participation of the pastoralists in the election in spite of being geographically marginalized;
- ❑ promote the establishment of the pastoral Elders Councils;
- ❑ add incremental values to the process of building an **informed** pastoralists capable of participating in all matters that affect their lives; and,
- ❑ promote **culture of participation** among the marginalized social groups.

The project had two parts, **training and radio message**. The training part of the project was held from 2-4 March 2005. The number of women and elders each was 25, which were coming from Pastoral communities of Somali, Afar, and Oromiya. This number did not include translators/coaches, which were supposed to come with the pastoralists. The main topics of the training were:

- Fundamental Democratic Concepts and Principles
- Constitutional Administration
- Structure and Division of Power of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- Election Process

Regarding the radio message, PFE rented prime airtime from radio Ethiopia and airing key election message that helps the pastoralist understand election. The transmission has been started since April 20, 2005 and will stay for twenty days.

3.5 Projects Progress/Terminal Reports, and new projects

- i. Contesting political parties debate report submitted to Action Aid Ethiopia;
- ii. Voters' and Civic education project final report was submitted to the Minority Right Group International (MRGI)
- iii. Terminal report for Oxfam Gb supported projects
- iv. Progress report on Citizen Report Card (CRS) Survey in Afar Region, a project funded by PANE, a part of the National CRS, is submitted. However, the survey result was not included in the final CRS report due to some practical problems. The Afar CRS will be published separately.
- v. PFEs' audit, activity and financial reports for the year 2004 prepared and presented to the general assembly meeting held and approved unanimously. Following the approval of the report, the Forum has submitted the report to Ministry of Justice and distributed to the major donors and partner organizations.
- vi. Based on an operational agreement signed between DPPC and PFE a two years project proposal (2005-2006) has been prepared and submitted to DPPC.
- vii. The terminal report on *the 7th EPD* completed and submitted to respective donors
- viii. Progress report on the *Advocacy on Pastoral Policies and Strategies in Ethiopia project* (CAFOD TROCAIRE funded)
- ix. Progress report on *Capacity building support grant for the PFE* (Save The Children USA funded)
- x. Terminal report on *Conflict management and peace building project* (CARE Ethiopia funded)
- xi. Terminal report on *Pastoral elders capacity building training* (MRGI funded project)

New initiatives

- *PLI-ENABLE Pastoral Community Capacity Building Project*: In response to advertised call for proposal by USAID, Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia organized itself under the CARE Ethiopia and Save the Children USA consortium. The PFE's proposal submitted to CARE Ethiopia got acceptance and fund secured while the other project submitted to the Save The Children USA is underway. A contract agreement was signed between PFE and CARE-Ethiopia based on a detailed budget, activities and schedule prepared. Operational agreement with Oromia, Afar Regional State and Federal DPPC was also signed.
- *Quick Network on pastoralism*: a new concept note is developed aiming at boosting networking among PFE member organization and other partners too. This is under preparation.
- *Broad Based Alliance*: Oxfam GB supported project is underway.
- *Formation of a multi-stakeholders platform at Federal level Initiated*: The initiatives of establishing a policy dialogue platform at federal level dates back to 2002. The recent developments on the platform include preparation of a concept note and

briefing the State Minister of MoFA. The Minister welcomed the concept note and planned to hold discussion with PFE soon. The concept note briefly states the need to have such platform and the envisaged activities.

3.6 Challenges

- i. **The PFE image has surpassed its capacity:** The Forum is working on one of the biggest country issues, pastoralism, which needs high institutional capacity. Just to narrow the capacity gap, the members are contributing their part and PFE is to revise its strategic plan. In addition, PFE's organizational development assessment is going to be held in the beginning of 2006 with support of Oxfam GB.
- ii. **Delay/stranded in JSDF implementation:** the fund full implementation should have been started in 2005 if it had not been for the long bureaucratic process in account opening and institutional arrangement to implement the fund.
- iii. **Transportation:** we don't have a field vehicle so we are forced to rent a car for the purpose, which is costly. However, thanks to PCAE we have a vehicle for the inter-city transportation and Oxfam GB that offered PFE a Toyota Corolla for office works.
- iv. **Shortage of human power:** we are still seeking for a senior program officer who will have a great contribution in policy review and overall organizational management.
- v. **Many networking/meetings:** some times it is a paradox in sense that PFE is engaging in many networks and now it is getting busy in attending several of these meetings.
- vi. **Current drought:** the drought will definitely affect the advocacy work of the Forum as a lot of expectation is coming from partners to the Forum to intervene the situation.