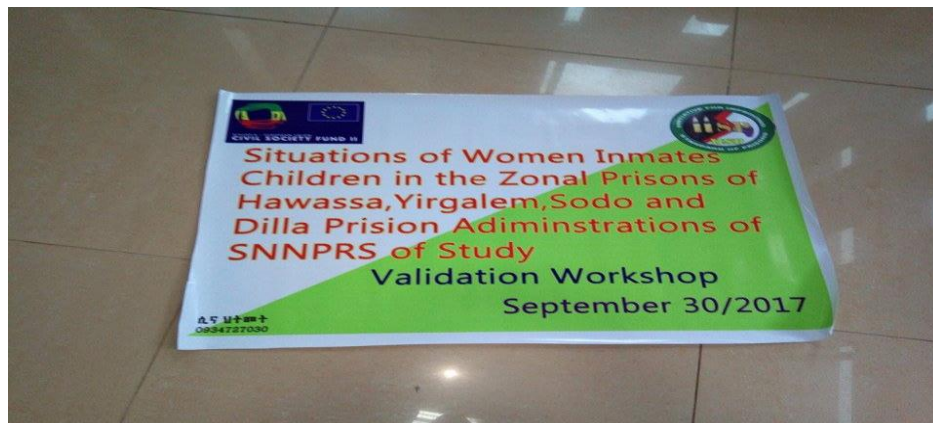


Situations of Women inmates with their children assessed & preschool facility for children residing with their mothers in Hawassa correction Centre inaugurated

On September 30, 2017, Initiative for Improving Standards of Prison (IISP) organized a validation session of an assessment conducted on the situations of women incarcerated with their children in four zonal correction centers of SNNPR and a handover event of a preschool facility constructed and furnished in the compounds of Hawassa correction center. IISP undertook these activities with the small grant received from the European Union Civil Society Fund II Programme in Ethiopia in February 2017. During the validation session 37 participants (12 women) drawn from the regional commissions for administration of Prisons and Human Rights, from administration of target correction centers and representatives of civil society have took part.



The assessment findings from the four correction centers established that the basic service and support standards for women incarcerated with children are inadequate and incompatible with the national standards. The participants of validation session concurred that the findings also apply for all the 23 correction centers in the session. In addition, the participants strongly recommended arranging regional level sensitization and consultative workshop with the involvement of relevant stakeholders to inform them on the findings and create ground for reform actions.



On the same date, a five-room standard preschool facility constructed and fully furnished in Hawassa Prison Center through the project was inaugurated and handed-over to the counterpart government departments. Up to 60 children including those from the vicinity are expected to enroll in the preschool. The Preschool is believed to enhance the socialization of the children residing in prisons with their peers of children from the neighbourhood.



During the inauguration, the inmate mothers expressed their gratitude and appreciation for IISP, the prison administration and Ethiopia-EU CSFII programme for responding to their basic needs. They also appreciated the training and starter supports for income generating activities. The regional deputy commissioner for prisons administration and representative from the regional Human Rights Commission appreciated the initiative and committed themselves to facilitate for expanded work by NGOs in scaling up the pilot project and also provision of legal aid support for persons in the correction centres.



The Technical Assistant Unit (TAU) of EU-Ethiopia CSF II is delighted by the performance and results of the IISP project that targeted the most hard to reach, and vulnerable segments of society. Indeed, it is a model to replicate in other regions where it is not piloted so far.

Congratulations and thank you IISP!

