

Linking the Village to the Child

Community members play an expanding role in the support of vulnerable children in Ethiopia. FHI 360's coordination of care activities strengthen their ability to make linkages to service providers that bring shelter, food, education, economic support and health care to those most in need.

The Yekokeb Berhan Program trained nearly 2,500 government trainers, and community and civil society organization staff using the Coordinated Quality Care and Standards training manual developed by FHI 360.



N.Parkinson/FHI360

Strengthening service referral systems at the community level enables neighborhood leaders to identify resources that support vulnerable children and families and empower the entire community to confront child vulnerability on their terms.

COMPREHENSIVE CONTINUUM OF CARE

FHI 360's technical assistance equipped Ethiopian neighborhood care groups—known as **Community Care Coalitions** or CCC—implementing partner staff and government workers to better identify and link highly vulnerable children with critical support services.

FHI 360's training manual, Coordinated Quality Care and Standards, outlines how to make use of service provider maps, negotiate with service providers and create successful linkages for referral.

The training manual encourages participants to foster linkages with local non-profit organizations, schools, health care providers, private businesses, government organizations and neighbors while allowing community members to match service mapping skills with local knowledge to deliver care to vulnerable children. The underlying philosophy of the technical approach to Coordinated Quality Care is that **highly vulnerable children need a wide spectrum of services**, which are locally available and can be provided on a sustainable basis.

About FHI 360: FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research, technology, communication and social marketing — creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 70 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

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LEARNING HOW TO CARE

FHI 360 developed the two-part Coordinated Quality Care and Standards training manuals based on the Ethiopian Government's Standard Service Guidelines for Orphan and Vulnerable Children Care and Support programs. The training manuals, which are printed in three local languages, cover the following four modules:

- Quality Improvement
- Supportive Supervision
- Service Standard
- Coordination of Care/Referral Network

“As a community, we can decrease our dependency syndrome among. We have the resources but we have gaps in our understanding of how to use them. The NGOs are good for short periods of time, but they move on; the CCC will be here forever.”

Legesse Girmay

Chairman of a CCC in Mekele, Ethiopia

COMMUNITY FINDS A SPACE FOR SISTERS

Almaz and Genet lost their mother eight years ago and are now living on their own in a neighborhood in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. In July 2015, Rajiya Muhammed, a member of the local CCC and a community facilitator, approached the sisters. The CCC helped enroll Genet, the younger sister, and mobilize school materials and a uniform. The CCC also began mentoring the older sister, a victim of domestic violence and child abuse.

Every month, the CCC budgets resources to help children like Almaz and Genet as well as people living with HIV. A total of 15 CCC members took part in the FHI 360 designed training.



**THE CCC HAS
CHANGED THE
ATTITUDES
TOWARDS THE
VULNERABLE**