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Parker, Christine D

From: Parker, Christine D **RELEASED IN PART B6**
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2010 5:27 PM
To: Fekybelu, Elias B
Cc: Messelt, Natalie A; Asfawe, Merid G; Ladenson, Jeffrey L; Fitzpatrick, Agata D
Subject: RE: Report of Sidam zone Adoption

Elias and Natalie,

this is a good recap with strong details. Per our earlier discussion, I agree that there appears to be something improper about the relationship between the kebele official and orphanage, and possibly agency, but without proof we've no choice but to move forward on these cases and keep our eye on this particular orphanage/woreda in future cases.

Jeff do you agree? Any further action you'd like FPU to take on these particular cases?

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From: Fekybelu, Elias B
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2010 4:45 PM
To: Parker, Christine D
Cc: Messelt, Natalie A; Asfawe, Merid G
Subject: Report of Sidam zone Adoption

Summary regarding the witnesses: The parents we met confirmed knowing the witnesses recorded for each of the adoptions. The witness connections are as follows:

- ▼ [] is the father of []
- ▼ [] is the father of []
- ▼ [] witnessed for all four cases and we met him in person and he gave his child for the Shalom orphanage.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer

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➤ [redacted] witnessed for 3 children we met him and he gave his child [redacted] for this Selenat orphanage almost at the same time with these cases.

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The witnesses all live within a five minute walk from each other. All of the witnesses between these cases were in the Woreda to appear in court at the same time as they were giving children up for adoption, too. It is difficult for residents for this area to gather enough funds to cover travel to the Woreda. Therefore, since the court dates for these children were so close together and the parents had to appear, it was planned that they would serve as witnesses for the others' cases.

11/8/10

We reached Hawassa and contacted the Selenat Orphanage in Addis Ababa. The Hawassa representative Ato Tefery was in Addis Ababa and agreed to meet the next morning in Hawassa.

11/09/2010

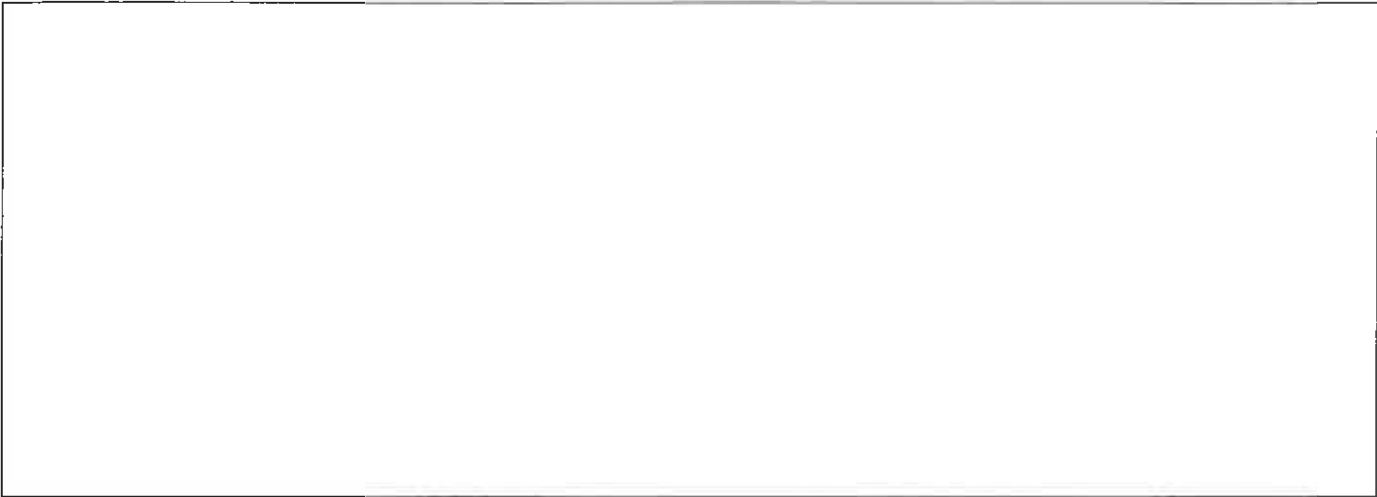
We met Ato Tefery asked him to show us the Hawassa orphanage. He resisted, but finally complied with our request. The orphanage is a 5 room house, but we did not see any evidence one would expect of accommodating children there: no beds, no toys, no nanny or other attendant, no clothes, no food stores. When questioned for what the house is used, he told us it is a temporary place for the children; that they stay for just for few hours 1 day until they are transferred to A/Ababa.

With Ato Tefery, we went to Dale Woreda, Yergalem City, to meet with the Woreda Social Cases Official Ato Melkato Kasedu and Ato Desaleng. The Woreda representatives explained their process for investigating families and receiving children relinquished for adoption. The relinquishment process is as follows:

1. The relinquishing parent/guardian goes to the Kebele Chairman to request assistance.
2. The Kebele Chairman reviews the relinquishing parent/guardian's situation and send a referral letter to the Woreda Social Cases Office (Women's Affairs desk).
3. The Woreda desk reviews the case and refers it to the Woreda Court.
4. The parent/guardian applies for adoption and provides the Kebele and Woreda documents to the Court.
5. After the Court hears the case and witnesses, it provides a decision as to whether or not the parent/guardian can relinquish the child for adoption.
6. The orphanage accepts the children along with the Kebele, Woreda and Court documents.

We continue to Sheffina Kebele with the social worker Ato Desalng and Ato Tefery. At 20Km along the road to Sheffina, we collected the Woreda Chairman Ato Berhanu Basha. For the entire Kebele visit, we were accompanied by this group.

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Regarding Sheffina: The population is very dense and many men have multiple wives. There is no school for the children to attend.

The area is very hilly and difficult for farming. The staple food is false banana root. The area is very green for grazing animals, but I did not see many and there is not free land for grazing. The plots of land that were divided varied in size. There is a river that serves as a water source, but since 2005, it has been compromised by coffee mills. The placement of the mills on the river has caused the water to become stagnant in parts. Due to the stagnant water, the government officials suspect malaria is behind the deaths of at least two of the mothers, which were confirmed by malaria tests that came back positive.

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