

# Action Professionals' Association for the People /APAP/

Operational Plan and Program Document

2008 - 2010

August 2007

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document outlines the operational plan and programs of APAP for the coming five years (2008-2010) based on the new strategic plan to be implemented from 2008-2010 by the Board of Directors of APAP.

During APAP's establishment in 1993 the operational areas and activities were limited. At the initial stage the operational area was centered in Addis Ababa with the aim of providing legal aid and public education activities. Gradually, APAP furthered its activities in terms of geography and interventions using law and human rights as basic instruments.

The period from 1997-1999 can be taken as the second phase in APAP's intervention. APAP adopted a two-year operational plan which lasted from January 1998 to December 1999. During this period more focused programs were designed and its operational areas were expanded to other regional states which enable APAP to learn relevant experiences for the purpose of formulating its strategic plan centered on two target groups. The first group of targets comprised the poor, women and children, while the second group or immediate targets that would ultimately benefit the first group of targets included law enforcement bodies, the judiciary and civil society institutions. Raising awareness about human rights and the initiation of legal professionals to engage in human rights work had been the major preoccupation of APAP which generated substantial achievement at the time.

Following the completion of the second phase program, APAP endorsed a five year strategic plan (2000-2004) that could be taken as the third stage. This plan was peculiar in many respects. First of all, it demonstrated APAP's organizational development in terms of expertise and experience. Accordingly, APAP had attempted to reach its targets (the poor, women and children) effectively and concretely by addressing a single and common problem severely affecting them. In view of that, it identified corruption as an overriding socio-economic and politico-legal problem affecting, more seriously, the realization of rule of law and the human rights of the poor, women and children in Ethiopia. Accordingly, programs and strategies aimed to push the corruption agenda both as an economic and moral problem and as a key human rights concern were designed and implemented.

The last stage in the organizational development of APAP is the period from 2005-2007. During this period APAP's thematic focus of intervention has been shifted from corruption to Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) rights by taking the principles of human rights-based development approach. The strategic plan for the period was the outcome of past experiences as well as new global developments in the area of human rights. Hence, during this period, APAP has been working towards having a concrete and meaningful impact on the lives of the poor, women, and children by addressing specific economic and social rights. The specific human rights issues identified to be addressed

were the rights to housing, food, education and health. This approach presupposes that such economic and social problems could be effectively and concretely addressed by human rights and the law as indispensable tools due to the fact that the right to housing, food, education and health are guaranteed in international human rights instruments Ethiopia has ratified.

Therefore, with the main objective of realizing these specific rights, the three-year operational plan (2005-2007) consisted of three integrated programs. The programs were:

the Education and Mobilization Program, the Research and Publication Program and the Policy Work, Legislative Advocacy and Litigation Program.

The Education and Mobilization Program was aimed at raising awareness about economic, social and cultural rights in general and the right to housing, health, education and food among the target groups and relevant government agencies at different levels including judges, advocates and parliamentarians and facilitating the involvement of community institutions in the promotion and protection of the right to housing, education, health and food. A number of training workshops, campaigns, as well as educational activities targeting primary and secondary targets have been carried out through out.

The Research and Publication Program has the main objective of producing research documents that identify gaps and barriers in laws, policies and practices affecting the rights to housing, health, education and food at local, regional and national levels. It also has the objective of producing and making available publications that explain and elaborate on these specific rights. The outcome of the research and publication activities is also indispensable input for the other two programs as well. As a result action researches were conducted on each specific right identified. Manuals, leaflets, magazines were also produced throughout the period.

The Policy Work, Legislative Advocacy and Litigation Program is aimed at increasing interest and commitment of stakeholders towards the realization of the right to housing, health, education and housing including persuading the government. Therefore, different advocacy activities have been undertaken with the objective of improving the status and enforceability of the stated rights.

For the coming five years (2008-2012), APAP has developed a strategic plan that highlights the rights-based nature of the intervention logic focusing on building the capacity of the government to discharge its human rights obligations; influencing the legal and policy framework affecting the realization of human rights; empowering rights holders to claim their rights and initiating the engagement of civil society organizations in the promotion and protection of human rights and RBA. During this period APAP would be working based on the rights-based development perspective which is reaffirmed as a defining aspect of its organizational profile in the strategic plan.

This program document contains three interrelated programs based on the strategic issues and the intervention logic adopted. The programs involve multi-level interventions in addressing causes and obstacles for non-realization of rights. It strategically focuses on empowerment of right holders, accountability of duty bearers and creation of conducive environment suitable for the realization of rights.

The Empowerment program aims at sensitizing, mobilizing, and strengthening capacities of the poor and other disadvantaged groups, and grassroots CBOs, with the ultimate objective of ensuring their participation in the promotion and protection of the human rights at the levels of their operation as well as in decision making processes affecting them.

The Accountability and capacity Development Program on the other hand is designed with the objective of building the capacity and accountability of both legal and moral duty bearers so that they would be in a better position to discharge their human rights obligations.

Finally the Focused advocacy Program involves focused advocacy work which aims to bring about concrete and measurable changes in behaviors, policies, positions, or programs affecting rights of the poor and other disadvantaged social groups, by targeting the primary duty bearer and other major actors, at national as well as local levels.

Based on these three programs APAP would be addressing the issue of Poverty as a multifaceted problem that needs to be addressed from different angles and requiring a multi level intervention with the active involvement of those affected by it.

