

Strong winds of change

Part II

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It has almost been two weeks since the first part of this article was posted on our website. The article set out to analyze the execution of the GTP in the fiscal years of 2010/11 and 2011/12. In doing so, the first four of what are called “the seven pillars of the GTP” are used as parameters to gauge the execution of the plan. Accordingly, the first part of the article dealt with issues relating to: sustaining rapid and equitable economic growth, maintaining agriculture as major source of economic growth, creating conditions for the industry to play key role in the economy and enhancing expansion and quality of infrastructure development.

In this second and last part of the article the analysis is on the implementation of the rest three pillars of the GTP; namely: enhancing expansion and quality of social development, building capacity and deepening good governance, and promoting gender and youth empowerment and equity.

5. Enhancing expansion and quality of social development

5.1 Education and Training

The education sector is one of the key focus areas of the GTP and the MDGs. Accordingly, the GTP has the goal of producing democratic, efficient, and effective, knowledge based, inspired and innovative citizens who can contribute to the realization of the long term vision of making Ethiopia a Middle Income Economy. The sector focuses on educating and/or training the work force that is demanded by the industry, particularly the growing manufacturing industry, at all levels. During the first year of the GTP period (2010/11), the performance of the sector has been encouraging not only in

ensuring universal access to primary education, but also in increasing the quality of education.

5.1.1 Equity and access to general education

Pre-school enrolment rate:- the plan was to increase the gross enrolment rate from 4.8% in 2009/10 to 9.5% in 2010/11; the achievement in this regard, however, was 5.2%. The achievement does not include child to child and zero class data. The number of kindergartens increased from 3,318 in 2009/10 to 3,418 in 2010/11. Accordingly, the number of children enrolled in kindergartens increased from 341,315 in 2009/10 to 382,749 in 2010/11. However, enrolment rate achievement for both male and female categories fell below the plan for the first year of the GTP.

Primary education, including alternative basic education (1-8):- primary education participation rate has increased at an accelerated rate over the past few years. This is mainly due to the substantial increase in the enrolment rate of children in grade one. Enrolment rate for grade one surpassed the envisaged rate of 128% to reach 159.1%.

The number of elementary students increased from 15.8 million in 2009/10 to 16.7 million in 2010/11. Similarly, the number of teachers increased from 292,130 in 2009/10 to 308,286 in 2010/11. Of the 308, 286 elementary school teachers, 47.2% are diploma holders.

With regard to school expansion in both rural and urban areas, the achievement was encouraging. For instance, the number of schools in rural areas increased from 26,951 in 2009/10 to 28,349 at the end of 2010/11, showing an increase of 8.2%. Active participation of the community both in rural and urban areas has been observed in the construction and expansion of schools, ensuring equity in the distribution of schools at the national level.

Similarly, gross enrolment rate in primary education including alternative basic education increased from 93.4% in 2009/10 to 96.4% in 2010/11. Region wise, very

encouraging results were recorded in improving school enrolment in 2010/11 in almost all regions. However, in Afar and Somali regions, though encouraging, the achievement was behind its target.

Secondary education (Grade 9-12):- building of new schools equipped with the necessary inputs both in urban and rural areas with the aim of increasing access to secondary schools was among the major activities of the fiscal year under review. Accordingly, the number of secondary schools increased from 1335 in 2009/10 to 1517 in 2010/11. The annual growth rate was 12.4% and the gap between urban and rural areas narrowed consistently. The number of secondary school students increased from 1.69 million in 2009/10 to 1.75 million in 2010/11. Similarly, the number of teachers increased from 46060 in 2009/10 to 52731 in 2010/11.

In addition, a strategy has been designed to make secondary school education more accessible. Based on the strategy, a target is set to meet the secondary school (9-10) access/coverage by 2012 for all eligible citizens in that age category. To realize this objective, the target for 2010/11 was to attain a 41% gross enrolment rate; the achievement was 38.4%. Regarding secondary level preparatory education (11-12), the plan was to register 209,000 pupils; the achievement at the end of the fiscal year was 288,216 pupils.

Functional adult education:- with active involvement of implementing partners from government sector offices (agriculture, health, labor and social affairs, women and children affairs), the Ministry of Education has prepared a guideline on functional education implementation modalities. The program has already been kicked off at national level and regions have adopted the guideline to their contexts. The number of participants in functional adult education has reached 1.2 million though the target was 9.1 million for the fiscal year 2010/11, indicating an achievement of 12% of the target. This initiative requires the participation of the community, government offices as well as other stakeholders with well-coordinated efforts among them.

5.1.2 Quality of education and competence

To realize the important priority given to improving and ensuring the quality and efficiency of education at all levels, the strategic direction adopted is the implementation of the General Education Quality Improvement Package (GEQIP). The package encompasses six programs. Namely, Teacher Development Program (TDP), Curriculum Aligned to Student Assessment and Examination, Ethics Program, Management and Administration Program (MAP), Information Communication Technology, Program Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation. Accordingly, various activities have been carried out to prepare and implement this package.

According to national standards, the primary education (1-8) requires teachers with minimum qualification from College of Teacher Education (CTE). There has been a rapid growth in qualified teachers for the upper primary (5-8), but a decline in lower primary (1-4) because teachers graduated at certificate levels have not been considered qualified for the first cycle (1-4) since 2009/10. Compared to the base year, qualified teachers for the first cycle primary schools increased from 15.5% in 2009/10 to 20.9% in 2010/11 and for the first cycle from 77.8% in 2009/10 to 84.5% in 2010/11. To build the capacity of elementary school teachers, summer and continuous trainings are given. In secondary schools, the target was to increase qualified teachers to 83.6% while the achievement was 86.8% indicating 3.2% performance above the target.

The pupil-teacher ratio (PSR) in elementary school first cycle (1-4) has been targeted to be 55:1 but the performance was 51:1. Similarly, pupil-teacher target for secondary school first cycle (9-10) was 39:1 and the achievement reached 35:1. The pupil section ratio for elementary education (1-8) in 2010/11 remained at 57, which is similar to the previous fiscal year but it is higher than the target set in the GTP by 1.4. To bring this ration to the target, more schools need to be built or more sections should be created. Regarding pupil books ratio, regional disparities are obvious. Delay in printing and

distribution of new books has adversely affected the achievement of the 1:1 target. However, effort has been made to achieve 1.2:1 at all levels.

5.1.3 Technical and Vocational training/ TVET

TVET plays a vital role in producing and meeting the demand for middle level skilled manpower for industries in the country. In 2010/11, the plan was to increase the number of trainees attending TVET programs from 353,420 in 2009/10 to 799,548 in 2010/11. The achievement was 371,347, which is 45.8% of the target. The trainings were given both in government and private owned TVET institutions. Of the total trainees in TVET, 214, 897 were trained in government institutions while the rest were by NGOs.

5.1.4 Higher Education

To increase access to higher education, one of the major implementation strategies stated in the GTP is increasing the intake capacity of all universities. Accordingly, total undergraduate participation in higher education increased from 420,387 in 2009/10 to 447,693 in 2010/11. The plan was to increase undergraduate regular participation from 185,788 in 2009/10 to 196,893 in 2010/11, while the achievement was 211, 197. During the fiscal year, a total number of 75,348 undergraduate students graduated at national level. Regarding the post graduate program, the intake in 2010/11 was 13,881 and the share of female students was 13.5%; it is a bit short of the target but still encouraging meeting the 14.04% target. During the fiscal year 6,250 students graduated at post graduate level. Furthermore, with the view to increasing the intake capacity of undergraduate and graduate programs, the number of public universities has increased to 32. The new universities have started admitting students.

5.2 Health Sector

The main targets of the 2010/11 fiscal year were set with the objective of strengthening the health system to improve mother's health, reduce infant mortality and prevent the

spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and other communicable diseases. The targets focus on these three strategic directions and the following objectives:-

Community initiative/participation and ownership:- as part of the initiative to have two health extension workers (HEW) per rural kebele, a total of 34,382 health extension workers were deployed in rural areas. In addition, 1278 health extension workers were trained and deployed as gap fillers. Furthermore, 1322 prospective health extension workers were undertaking a training program. Initiatives were also taken to set up health extension program in urban areas based on the lesson learned from the rural health extension program. In this regard, the number of urban health extension workers increased to 3916 in 2010/11 from 3401 in 2009/10. This increased the coverage of urban health extension service to 75.2% of the required 5205. Moreover, awareness raising activities were performed for health workers in pastoral areas about the health extension program.

Health infrastructure and access to health services:- in relation to improving health infrastructure, 903 new health posts (HP) were constructed in 2010/11. This increases the total number of HPs available in the country from 14,192 in 2009/10 to 15,095 at the end of the fiscal year. To realize full coverage of basic health service to Ethiopian people, it requires 3,299 health centers. Towards achieving full coverage, 518 new health facilities were constructed in 2010/11. This increased the number of health centers from 2,142 in 2009/10 to 2,660 at the end of 2010/11.

Family planning services:- During 2010/11, contraceptive acceptance rate reached 62%, while the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) of 2011 revealed that the contraceptive prevalence rate has reached 29%. Training was provided to 27,744 health extension workers and 2,336 health extension supervisors to strengthen the family planning services. Ante natal service coverage was planned to increase to 53% and the service was provided to 2,404,279 mothers leading to an achievement of 82.2%. Furthermore, post natal service coverage increased from 36.2% in 2009/10 to 42.1% in 2010/11 by

providing the service to 1,231,099 delivering mothers. The percentage of deliveries attended by skilled health personnel increased from 15.7% in 2009/10 to 16.6% in 2010/11.

Reducing maternal and child mortality:- According to the 2011 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) result, child mortality rate dramatically declined from 123/1000 in 2005 to 88 in 2010/11 while infant mortality rate per 1000 decreased from 77 to 59 in 2010/11 in the same period.

Nutrition Program:- during the fiscal year under review, 12,453,955 children aged 6-59 months received the first dose of Vitamin A supplementation, which increased the coverage to 91.4% at the end of the fiscal year. Similarly, a de-worming service using Albendazole was provided to 8,831,518 children aged 2-5 years. In 2010/11, 266,924 severely malnourished children were provided nutrition services, of which 81.8% were cured. The same fiscal year, 2,500 tons of therapeutic food were procured and distributed to all regions.

Tuberculosis Prevention and Control (TPC):- the main target was to conduct TB test on sputum of 139,235 suspects. Accordingly, the bacteria causing TB was found on 5,238 (36.8%) samples; depicting an attainment below the 70% target in the MDGs.

Malaria Prevention and Control:- based on the target for the fiscal year, 4.2 million Long-Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets (LLINs) were distributed to replace the old ones. With regard to vector control, 67% households living in malaria villages were sprayed with anti-malaria spray. For early detection and treatment of malaria cases, a total of 16 million Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kits and drugs enough to treat 11 million patients were planned and a total amount of 13,168,962 Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kits and 5,058,582 strips of Coartem and Chloroquine were procured and distributed to regions.

Hygiene and environmental health services:- a total of 299 health extension workers and supervisors were trained on WASH in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and

Energy. The number of latrines increased from 12.7 million in 2009/10 to 14.7 million in 2010/11, which increased sanitation coverage from 75% to 86% in the fiscal year.

Improving quality of health service delivery:- 150 ambulances were distributed to districts during 2010/11 in accordance with the plan to avail one ambulance per district in all 801 districts of the country. Training was provided on ambulance services and pre-hospital emergency medical services for 25 professionals and paramedic technicians. In a related development, a total of 47,000 units of blood were collected from blood donors to strengthen the blood service. Regarding Out Patient Department (OPD) service, it is managed to reach 24,997,125 out of the planned 81,911,074 people making the attendance per capita 0.3.

Pharmaceutical supply and services:- the target for procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment with birr 3.62 billion in 2010/11 is fully performed. In addition, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment worth birr 3.6 billion were obtained from aid agencies. Out of the total target of birr 5.5 billion birr worth of pharmaceuticals and medical equipments planned for distribution, 5.1 billion birr worth of the items was distributed throughout the country in 2010/11. Regarding health facility, though the target was to equip 180 health warehouses, warehouses of 271 health facilities have been equipped with modern racks, shelves, ladders and pallets and forklifts at the end of 2010/11. In order to ensure rational drug use, training was given for 800 health professionals drawn from all health facilities in addition to establishing Drug and Therapeutics Committees (DTC) in 474 health facilities, of which 350 have prepared their own list of drugs and medical equipments.

6. Building capacity and deepening good governance

6.1 Public sector capacity building

The three key strategic directions towards public sector capacity building are: establishing government structures with strong implementing capacity, ensuring

transparency and combating corruption from its source, ensuring public participation and incorporate and implement cross cutting issues in the civil service.

Trainings on key government policies and strategies, leadership and zero tolerance to rent-seeking practices were given. The trainings are intended to enhance leadership, mobilization and inspiration which in turn would strengthen democratic governance and improve service delivery in all public sectors.

Since business process reengineering had been implemented by many institutions, assessment studies have been conducted to identify the gaps that have been observed during the implementation and to further improve organizational setups and working system. Following the 2010 national election, the new government has reorganized public bodies to realize the GTP. Accordingly, the former Ministry of Trade and Industry has been restructured into the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Industry. The Ministry of Civil Service was established by merging the Ministry of Capacity Building and the Federal Civil Service Agency. Concerning Balanced Score Card (BSC), federal executing agencies are at different implementation stages of the system although some of them have started evaluation of the BSC implementation.

A proclamation and a Regulation are drafted for the establishment of National Auditors and Accountants Board and a Training Centre that ensure financial reporting based on international standards of accounting and auditing. Training on Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) has been provided to staff of government institutions. To enforce public expenditure administration and control, different finance and property administration guidelines and regulations were prepared and implemented. The Ethiopian Civil Service University (ECSU) and the Ethiopian Management Institute (EMI) have continued the provision of consultancy services to deepen the civil service reform program in the country.

6.2 Information Communication Technology Development

During 2010/11, 13 government offices have benefited from installations of ICT based government information system. Three community information service centers have been established in different government offices. One community radio centre and 15 public information provision centers have been established to increase community and functional public information service centers for enhanced public relation among government and citizens for effective citizen participation. Moreover, in order to provide a unified billing system online, the building of five unified billing systems has been in progress during the fiscal year.

With regard to the use of ICT to support the implementation of the agricultural-led industrialization development and export led trade and industrialization development strategies of the country, information services in selected government offices at UN e-government index standard have been developed and implemented in 2010/11. Hence, about 10 information delivery institutions that provide the community with efficient on line services were established. In addition, based on the UN e-readiness index, the standards of the already constructed government portals are upgraded from the rank of 172 to 111 levels.

The ICT infrastructures and their operations are used to support the education services delivery particularly in announcing the National Secondary School Leaving Examination Results and their university placement. In addition, an information technology development park is under development in Addis Ababa.

6.3 Justice System Reform

The objectives of the justice system are to strengthen the constitutional system and ensure the rule of law, make the justice system more effective, efficient and accessible as well as more independent, transparent and accountable. To realize these objectives, various activities have been performed in the fiscal year.

To enhance the capacity of professionals in the justice system, 1,249 prosecutors and more than 6,000 professionals were trained. Support was also given to 8 law training institutions to build their capacity and improve their curricula. To ensure effectiveness of the justice system, a system was developed to implement integrated crime prevention, improve prosecution rate and protection of witnesses. The congestion rate has been decreased and clearance of courts has improved. The average number of adjournments in first instance and appeal cases improved from 52% to 90%, and average duration for disposal of cases decreased from 6 to 2 months.

In order to ensure the supremacy of law based on the Ethiopian constitution, 6 proclamations were drafted and enacted. To enhance knowledge and understanding of citizens on constitutional matters and other crucial law, 76 awareness creation trainings were delivered to more than 9 million citizens of the country during the fiscal year. To improve transparency and accountability, 6 new and revised regulation and directives were enacted. A complaint handling mechanism was also developed and implemented.

6.4 Democracy and Good Governance

6.5.1 Strengthening the democratic system:- in an effort towards strengthening one economic and political community, the 5th International Forum on Federalism was held in Ethiopia together the Ethiopian Nations and Nationalities day. In addition, civil issues demanding federal level legal framework were identified and communicated to the House of People's Representatives. These are International Civil Rights Law, Dispute Resolution Law and Vital Registration Law.

Preparations were made to revise the existing grant sharing formula such that an improved federal grant sharing formula could be used for the 2012/13 budget year. The House of Federation has carried out several activities to enhance citizens' knowledge and understanding of the constitution through electronic mass media teachings and discussion forums in Amharic and other major regional working languages. Moreover, 15,000 Amharic, 5,000 Afan Oromo, 5,000 Tigrigna versions of the Federal Constitution

were distributed along with 13,200 constitution books to schools, the federal police and national defense institutions.

During 2010/11, the NEBE carried out local and by-elections in Addis Ababa while by-elections were carried out in some woredas of Oromia and SNNP regional state. Civic and voter education was delivered to one million people to enhance awareness about election among citizens. Moreover, 9,535 election officials and 7,277 public election observers were trained. NEBE also conducted the first post-election evaluation in Ethiopian history in the fiscal year under review. It then translated the findings in five local languages and English and then published the report. Two consultative forums on various topics have been organized by the NEBE for 64 political parties. The NEBE has been organizing a series of capacity building training programs for all parties. In the 2010/11 budget year, the first round training in Transformational Leadership was given to the leaders of 76 political parties. In addition, training was provided to media professionals about their role in democratic and peaceful election.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission conducted awareness creation training, distributed copies of International Human Rights Documents and conducted research on human rights and prevention of harmful traditional practices. Trainings on human rights were given to parliamentarians, police officers, judges, military officers, prison administrators and different community groups. In order to monitor human rights violations, electronic complaint handling and free telephone handling system implementation was in process. With regard to rectifying human rights violations, the total number of cases transferred from 2009/10 to 2010/11 was 634. During the year, a total of 981 complaints were submitted to the commission. Consequently, there were a grand total of 1615 complaints handled by the commission, of which 1272 were addressed. In addition, the commission monitored 113 prisons out of 118 prison centers in the country.

6.4.2 Ensure Good Governance

A regulation and directive are drafted to ensure effective implementation of the proclamation on wealth registration of government authorities. Accordingly, about 18 thousand members of parliament, ministers, and other government officials disclosed and registered their assets during the fiscal year. The proclamation of witness protection was enacted in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice. The Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission also prosecuted a total of 349 individuals during the fiscal year. A guilty verdict was passed on 248 of these individuals. Thus the prosecution capacity of the Commission has reached 86.8%. The Commission also successfully renounced 80% of public and government property that was embezzled.

Land development and Management Policy and implementation strategies (1 proclamation, 8 regulations, 5 directives and 9 manuals) were prepared and endorsed in the fiscal year. At the federal level, a land development and management bureau was established in the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction. Based on the plan to establish urban planning units at all emerging regions, training has been provided to Somali and Benishangul Gumuz regions.

With the view to establish collaboration in tax administration between the relevant tax administrative body and third parties, information communication network was established with the Ethiopian Airlines, National Bank of Ethiopia and Customs of Djibouti. 24,107 cash registry machines were procured and made operational by obligated tax payers. Intensive training using electronic and print media has helped improve the taxpayers' understanding and increase registration. From the total prosecution of suspects of illegal tax practices, 91.28% of the verdicts passed were in favor of the authority.

6.5 Media Broadcast Performance

It was planned to increase the number of community radio to a total of 12 from its previous level of 8 during the plan period. However, it was possible to increase the number to 10, as there were only two demands for community radio license. With

regard to public broadcasting service licensing, it was planned to increase the licensed service from 9 to 10. However, since most of the regions already have their own radio stations, no applicants requested for licensing during the budget year. In addition, two public licenses were granted to public television services, which took the total number of televisions in the country to 6. Up on the request from the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (ERTA) 32 UHF and 4 FM Radio frequencies were allotted for its expansion works compared to its plan of 21. This considerable achievement was due to the digital technology expansion demand from ERTA. It was planned to improve and strengthen 4 regulatory laws and standards of mass media expansion. Accordingly, two working regulations and one technical standard were prepared. In order to make operators responsible for media laws and regulations, it was made possible to rectify 132 violations through monitoring of broadcasted programs, field inspection and appropriate decision making on broadcasting complaints. The achievement exceeds the plan by 32%.

7. Promote gender and youth empowerment and equity

The government's objective during the GTP period with regard to women and youth initiative is to ensure equitable socio-economic and political participation of youth and women as well as to make them direct beneficiaries of the economic growth. Similarly, the government has planned to minimize children's vulnerability.

It is worth noting that the accomplishments in the economic, infrastructure, social and capacity building sectors have direct significance to women, youth and children issues. Thus the performances that were not pointed out in those sections are presented in short in the following manner.

In 2010/11, it was planned to elevate 50 women owned associations from micro and small enterprises to medium ones. Actually, 101 women owned and operated micro and small businesses grew to medium level enterprises. Credit and saving services were provided to more than 0.61 million women, which is 50% of the target. That is evident

of the need to scale up access to financial services to women entrepreneurs. The participation of women in decision making with the parliament, judiciary and executive bodies reached 27.9%, 30% and 16.5%, respectively. It was also possible to establish and strengthen 247 women's networks.

A draft Children's Policy that considered international conventions on children was drafted during the fiscal year. It was also possible to strengthen 1486 child rights committees against the plan to strengthen 1621 of them that help mitigate gender based abuses.

To ensure the benefits of youth and their participation in all development processes, a capacity building training was conducted to 1,721,482 youth. In addition, 172,654 youth were trained in organizational leadership. 161 youth centers were constructed and 6 youth forums were established. A total of 4.5 million youth in 10 youth voluntary service sectors have participated. 144,570 youth benefited from MSEs programs to generate income. Hence, 37 MSE associations owned and operated by youth grew to medium level enterprises.

As was intensely shown in the two parts of this article the Growth and Transformation Plan has had a good start to it in most of the projects it encompasses. As the successful execution of the plan would be life changing to most Ethiopians, we should contribute a lot in our individual walks of life to make this cross cutting plan into a reality.