PROJECT SUMMARY

Goal: To contribute to the development of long-lasting peace between Buda minority community and Amhara majority community groups in Mehalmeda Town, through building cultural integration and cooperation.

BACKGROUND

Ethiopia is a multi-diversified culture, ethics, religion and believes. Regarding to believes, there are wrongly perceived believes like Leprosy, Woito Community, Buda community and so on.

In Ethiopia the term *buda* (“evil eye”) is associated with craftsmen, especially endogenous iron workers. Those with *buda* were-hyenas and use their spirit aspect to attack victims at night by tearing at their innards, resulting in a progressive and lethal disease. *Buda* also includes the power to produce the same effects through a malevolent stare. This long-aged oral tradition and non-proofed says in Ethiopian, especially the Amhara majority community developed wrong social mindset. The Amara majority community that undermines, discriminates (no social interaction, isolated their children from the Buda community (not playing together) and, marginalize the minor community (Buda) who are perceived as below human being community types.

Due to the pressures of cultural misperception the Buda community members are being pushed out from the urban center to the periphery, cutting them off from public service, living under poverty line with a state of low self-esteem, hopelessness and high rates of insecurity. However, cultural misperception continues from generation to generation to maintaining the status of marginalization. This project contributes to building long-lasting peace between the Buda Minority and Amhara communities through creating community awareness, change of social mindset, and enhancing community cooperation and integration.

IMPLEMENTATION

Baseline Diagnosis: A quick diagnosis survey will be conducted to understand the general setup and community interactions, and to identify key actors and entry points in the community peacebuilding process.

Training of Trainers: 24 representative participants will be trained for 3 days on how to build a win-win social interaction through cultural accommodation, conflict management and resolution. Participants will include five community members, two community leaders, two service providers from each community group selected by each community representatives, while two FM radio journalists, one experts from each local peace and security office, and one expert from cultural and tourism office. Finally, the trainees will go to the community members for another three days to create popular awareness. The
Organizing Football Event: About 26 children who are under 18 will be selected voluntarily from families of each community both by community leaders and representatives. The selected children will be placed in culturally mixed teams, trained for a week to build team spirit, and then play in final 40-mintues football matches with the presence of their families, community representatives, and key stakeholder audiences. The football match will be organized by the family committee and Mehalmeda Elementary School and will hear key messages on cultural integrity.

Community Dialogue: A one day community dialogue about cultural diversity, integration, and cooperation will be organized by the Future Generations University student and community representatives. Five community leaders from community groups (idir), one facilitator, and one sociologist will be selected as panelists. About 20 volunteer community members from each community group and five representatives of key local service providers will be invited to attend community dialogue.

Organize Live Radio Program: Local FM radio will be used to broadcast about the general concept and good practices of cultural diversity and integrity for creating mass awareness for people about what is wrong and right on traditional misperception and social mindsets. Radio based community discussion will be facilitated by the student and professional journalist, and success story information will be collected too from each community members and key partners.

Sustainability & Stakeholders: Students of Future Generations University with the collaboration of community based organizations called Idir (which is a social group established by the community) will work closely with both communities. Community members will be the main responsible body to implement the project. Besides the local public peace and security office and the cultural and tourism office will be key stakeholders during the project. In the end, one community peace group will be organized by both community members (Idir), and a covenant of cultural unity will be developed and signed.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS
To change the community mindset on traditional misconceptions about minority community and enhance community cooperation.