Objective 3

Also in the Bench Maji Zone, training and equipping of local broadcasters and publishers is taking place. Translation principles, authoring and editing skills are being developed to support access to information in the mother tongue.

SIL Ethiopia is a non-profit organization committed to serving language communities in Ethiopia to build capacity for sustainable language development. We make our services available to all, without regard to religious belief, political ideology, gender, race or ethnolinguistic background.
**EMIC – Effective Multilingual Integration and Communication**

In 2016 SIL Ethiopia launched a three year initiative called EMIC - Effective Multilingual Integration and Communication among twelve minority language groups in Ethiopia. In close collaboration with the respective regional and zonal government authorities and with funding from the European Union, the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission and Wycliffe Netherlands, the project has three main objectives.

1. **Children** have an enhanced education through mother tongue Based Multilingual Education (MTB MLE), which bridges them into other languages of wider communication (*Amharic and English*).

2. **Women** are becoming literate, actively engaging in the education of their children and living healthier, more productive lives as they have access to information (oral and written) in their mother tongue.

3. **Individuals and community-based organizations** are authoring/creating materials (oral and written) in their mother tongue. These materials will be accessible through a variety of media sources (print, audio, mobile phones, internet, and radio) such that individuals and communities will have the tools to make more informed life decisions as critical information is communicated to them in their mother tongue.

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**Objective 1**

In the Bench Maji Zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ Region (SNNPR) work is taking place to develop Kindergarten (KG) material in the mother tongue and train teachers for the five language communities Bench, Diizi, Me’en, Sheko and Suri. In addition, text books and teacher’s guides are being produced to support teaching each language as a subject in the higher grades (second cycle) of primary education.

In the Segen Area People’s Zone, also in SNNPR, work has been launched to develop school materials and teacher training for using the mother tongue as the language of instruction in the first grades of primary education in the languages Paako Alete, Diraytaata and Afaa Xonso.

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**Objective 2**

In the regional state of Benishangul Gumuz, Functional Women’s Literacy (FWL) classes have begun for the Berta and Shinasha communities. FWL refers to generating literacy and numeracy among women using contextualised and life-relevant materials.

Fatuma Somit from Abjendu kebele says: “When the medium of instruction & discussions of the functional adult literacy program was in Amharic I was unable to participate and express myself. But now I can support my children’s education as well as knowing how to read and write for myself. Now I become happy and have interest to attend the literacy program and to initiate and mobilize other women in my community to attend the program.”