CCRDA NEWS-STORY

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Debriefing on the COPs Action

A panel discussion, aimed at sharing experiences from the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), was conducted on Thursday, April 4, 2024. The COP28 debriefing panel discussion was conducted in collaboration of CCRDA and the Population, Health, and Environment (PHE)- Ethiopia Consortium. Government representatives from different Ministries, the private sector and CSOs attended the debriefing. Debriefing...page 2

The Pursuit of sustainable peace and Security in South Omo Zone.



Dissemination workshop on the findings of the assessment on root causes of conflict & possible solutions in South Omo was conducted by CCRDA /DCA project at Jinka on April 12,2024. The Pursuit...page 3

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Debriefing on the COPs …

COP28 major outcomes, mitigation and adaptation schemes and their Implication for Ethiopia were presented and discussed by experts from different ministries and CSOs in the meeting. COP28's agreement on the need for transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy and the debate on the loss and damage fund expectations by the developing world along side the need for robust advocacy were also presented by two experts via webinar.



In an introductory remark, Endeshaw Mogessie, Executive Director of PHE-Ethiopia Consortium, stated that "the panel discussion is organized to learning about COP28 decisions, to see if the landscape of climate change dialogues in the global context are conductive, to see what we do, and to understand which organizations are working on the issue so as to maximize our contribution to the cause".

The Director further stated that "this session is designed to gather input for the CSOs COP taskforce, which was established in April 2023, having an objective to improve collaboration among CSOs by building a common understanding of the climate challenge and to engage with government partners to better represent Ethiopia in COP events and other climate initiatives".

In the opening remarks of the discussion, Nigussu Legesse (PhD), Executive Director of CCRDA noted that "the debriefing is structured to provide good insight on COP28 and the global direction on the topics of climate justice, finance, adaptation, and mitigation. Conclusion and recommendations that we are going to make in the discussion will serve as an input for future environmental restoration efforts and the implementation of environmental justice and fairness in climate finance".

According to the Executive Director, since its inception, the national CSOs COP taskforce has achieved remarkable outcomes. "The taskforce's targets for this year include raising funds and strengthen capacities for improved operations and activity implementation, as well as to network with other sector stakeholders at the national and international levels".

CCRDA served as secretary of the Climate Change Consortium Ethiopia (CCCE) and chaired the National CSO COP taskforce. CCRDA participated in COP28 through its delegates. The team attended different events, mainly conferences related to the environment, water, and food security.

The Pursuit of sustainable peace …

The workshop is organized to publicize the research which was conducted to investigate causes of conflict and possible solutions to improve the situation of peace in South Omo Zone.

Coordinator of the project Rahel Hiltework, in her opening remark asserted, CCRDA's position, saying "peace building, conflict resolution needs consistent, continuous, inclusive, active engagement of all pertinent actors."

Dr. Messay Mulugeta from Addis Ababa University delivered a presentation on the assessment. He highlighted the significance of the research and the areas it covered Dassanech and Nyangatom woredas of the zone. The purpose and significance of the study were to identify the causes of conflicts and the use of indigenous knowledge, traditional actors in solving the problems.

The researcher highlighted the context of the area, South Omo Zone is a pastoralists economy where development projects, infrastructure, and social services are at a nascent stage. Socially it is a region characterized by a high degree of cultural and linguistic diversity with the reality of frequent conflicts over the last decades.



As Dr. Messay stated the findings on which he said, the cause of conflicts they are basically resource competition, livestock raiding, social norms and individual position, and Traditional beliefs and practices, such as the high cultural reward accorded to cattle Jumpers and warriors; The norm encourage youngest generation to engage in violent conflict to win the accolade the culture bestows on the actors. Acquiring assets, disagreement on boundary demarcations between some inhabitants of Turkana and Dasanach were cited to illustrate the case. Irresponsible acts of Politicians and elites who are fueling conflicts by taking their political agendas to the community in an ill meaning maneuvering were mentioned as significant source of conflict.

The participants of the workshop also agreed on the findings of the assessment and emphasized that arms smuggling and reluctance of the government in taking proactive measures to prevent the conflict, weak law enforcement, are major issues which need attention. Moreover, they stressed the need to move beyond workshops and act on the ground.

Most of the participants shared the recommendations of the assessment. Some of the recommendations are a proactive early warning and response, awareness creation and capacity building of local leaders and pastoralist communities; Inculcating peace building values on the new generation, and strong collaboration among CSOs, FBOs, and traditional leaders in peace building activities.

Redesigning the Agroecological Practice – a Call for Prevention Before the Cure



A Consultative Workshop was convened on April 23, 2024, to strengthening promotors of agroecology in Ethiopia.

The workshop was organized by CCRDA, PELUM Ethiopia, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY DASSC), Agri Service Ethiopia (ASE) and Ethiopian Organic Seed Association (EOSA). PELUM Ethiopia hosted the event at Vibes Hotel in Addis Ababa.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss good practices of CSOs that have the potential for replication and scaling up in future. It was also to develop the 2024 road map for agroecology promotors that can gradually evolve into strategies.

The event was attended by researchers with expertise in agriculture and ecology, invited CSOs, relevant stakeholders, and farmers from Oromia Region.

On his opening remarks Regassa Feyissa (PhD), Executive Director of EOSA, stated that Agroecology represents an overarching and comprehensive systems framework to guide public policies towards sustainable agriculture and food systems that has the potential impact on our daily lives.

Hailu Araya (PhD), Executive Director of PELUM Ethiopia, also gave a brief presentation on issues associated with the Ethiopian agriculture. He talked about agricultural input and soil health, as well as potential solutions for rebuilding the food system in a manner that is sustainable and equitable for all.

Sale Wassie, CCRDA, Senior Director for Resource Mobilization, Partnership Promotion and Contract Management Core Team, gave highlights on the first Ethiopian agrobiodiversity Seed and Food Fair, which was organized by Agroecology promoters and held on 26 January 2023 at Ghion Hotel.

According to the Senior Director, the fair was organized with an aim to create awareness to partners who actively engage in rights-based food and nutrition security; to create awareness on existing policies, strategies, and practices that hinder access to safe, nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable, and environmentally friendly food production. Strengthening the linkage and partnership among those who are at the forefront of conserving indigenous crop species.

Additionally, this one-day workshop featured group discussions and reflections to gather inputs for the development of the road map.

"Fiker Coffee" A Bond that Awakened Slumbering Aspirations.



"Fikir Coffee" is one of monthly programs of Love for Mothers and Children organizations project beneficiaries. The event is intended to create a dialogue session for the women, who are single, deprived and neglected mothers.

Martha W/Aregay the Director of the organization explained the event "the dialogue enables them to boost their self-esteem, share income generation ideas, saving and collaboration mechanisms".

Beneficiaries like Alemitu, her name is changed for the sake of privacy said that "I was not in a condition to live my life with hope before I joined the organization. However, currently the organization provides me seed money, day care for my child and psychological support. Due to this my situation is changed, and I am eager to live my life with hope and raise my child.

She added that "Fikir Coffee helps us to share experiences to encourage and care for each other and motivate us to increase our saving and change our life status".

Similarly, the organization created a hopeful life for a single mother like Tayitu her name is changed for the same reason. She memorized that her life was miserable when she found out her pregnancy while she was a 2nd year university student.

Tayitu said that "I had no one to consult with and I felt hopeless and hated my life. I dropped out from university and suffered a lot to raise my child with no income. I was depressed and felt neglected. Fortunately, I found information about this organization and registered as a beneficiary. This opportunity was the turning point of my life because it helped me to live with hope and raise my kid" Currently Tayitu is working as an assistant nurse in the organization after getting training and supporting her 5-years old KG student.

She added that "Fiker Coffee has created a mechanism for me to discuss life, struggle and success and it enabled me to enhance my self-esteem. It believes that my life struggle can be a motivational story for my friends".

It is known that in Ethiopia coffee ceremony was, and still is to a greater extent, an integral part of daily life. Families and communities gather to engage in conversation and strengthen their bonds and discuss their social, economic and psychological problems. Our stay with the women once again proved the virility of the tradition & the organization is using it to a good effect.



We further noted that it is strategic and effective using this social asset to solve destitute women's problem and it has even a therapeutic effect and a means of building the women assertiveness.

Moreover, because of prevailing gender norms, much of the responsibility for childcare falls on women, especially those who are poor and vulnerable. This unequal distribution of care limits women's time to pursue educational and employment opportunities which in turn held women and girls back from advancing in their career aspirations. Thus, Provision of childcare service by LOVE for Mothers and Children organization gives relief for the project beneficiaries and enables them to rekindle their dreams beyond solving the much existential challenges of winning the daily bread for their families.

LOVE for Mothers and Children is a member of CCRDA which is working on women and children to improve the livelihood of dependent and destitute single mothers and their children. Currently the organization benefits 56 single mothers with seed money, capacity building, psychological support and children's day care support.

"I was not in a condition to live my life with hope before I joined the organization. However, currently the organization provides me seed money, day care for my child and psychological support. Due to this my situation is changed"

Woes to Make Vaccine Accessible



The workshop aimed at updating CSOs on contemporary immunization policy and practices in Ethiopia. CCRDA's Ethiopian Civil Society Health Forum members attended the session, which was on June 20, 2024.

Mesfin Nigussie, Senior Advocacy Advisor at Save the Children in Ethiopia, stated in his opening remarks that immunization is an essential necessity for everyone. As CSOs, it is crucial to see how we integrate our efforts with government initiatives in addressing vaccine issues, the advisor added.

The adviser Furthermore stated that “this kind of sessions are helpful for creating a joint voice to advocate for our children and bringing the attention to lawmakers, decision makers, and other stakeholders as they address current immunization issues”.

Habtamu Tilahun an Expert, from Ethiopian Public Health Institute vaccine-preventable disease (VPDs) team gave a presentation on VPDs surveillance and recent detection of Variant poliovirus (cVDPV2 cases).

The expert gave recent cVDPV2 Epidemiology status. He stated that Since May 2019 Ethiopia have been experiencing cVDPV2 outbreaks. According to Habtamu, the first case reported from Bokh woreda of Somali region which was associated with a case from Somalia and expanded to other parts of the country. Since then, the country reported 70 cVDPV2 cases. According to the expert, In May 2024, Ethiopia detected five cVDPV2 cases from three regions and the latest onset being 4/6/2024 from Gambella region, Nuer zone-Lare woreda.

Mulat Nigus, Immunization Service Desk Expert at the Ministry of Health, presented on Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) implementation in Ethiopia, including performance, success, challenges, and future strategies. He noted that “Ethiopia has made tremendous progress in reducing morbidity and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs). And Ethiopia in addition to Controlling the COVID19 pandemic also have registered remarkable achievements on seven new vaccines into the immunization program since 2007”.

Building peace – it takes more than will

CCRDA conducted training for CSO and FBO members on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The training took place on May 28-30, 2024, in the CCRDA training hall.

The training, which aimed to improve the culture of peace and coexistence through strengthening the capacity of member CSOs in peacebuilding and conflict management, took place at the CCRDA training hall from May 28 to 30, 2024.



The training session was attended by 54 trainees from various CSOs working in conflict-affected communities, as well as critical stakeholders with the ability to contribute to peacebuilding and conflict management efforts.

In his introductory remarks, CCRDA's Capacity Building Director Bayissa Chala stated that "the program is hoped to increase CSOs' capacity to become active organizations and capable advocates for peace and coexistence. It is also our believe that the training will improve collaboration and coordination among key parties in conflict resolution efforts".

The training session, the Director added, further helps in obtaining details on their position, activities, and approaches in which CSOs can enhance their contribution to peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

The training covered conflict and conflict sensitivity in the CSO context, how CSOs play a role in peacebuilding, conflict management and resolution.

The program was structured to equip participants with theoretical knowledge, analytical tools, and practical skills necessary to navigate and contribute positively to areas prone to conflict in Ethiopia.

The training included the timing and methodology of peacebuilding, the contribution of CSOs to peace efforts, and models of CSO engagements in peacebuilding. The training highlighted best practices from around the world. Lessons from Ireland and Rwanda were taken in the discussion. Participants were involved in exercises to design peacebuilding projects defining model.

CCRDA in collaboration with Save the Children International Ethiopia office and Hiwot Ethiopia, had organized a high-level advocacy workshop on child-focused budgeting, Governance and Accountability mechanism.
June 1 and 2, 2024





Consultative workshop to identify and prioritize relevant advocacy issues focused on RH/FP.
May 9, 2024





A workshop on “embracing the wisdom of Indigenous peace building Conflict Management Practices in Ethiopia”.
June 13, 2024.





A high-level Advocacy workshop on Menstrual Health Hygiene (MHH) was held at H.H sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Blind Boarding School.
June 19, 2024.



