CCRDA NEWS-STORY

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Micheal Martin, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence,visited CCRDA.

Eshetu Dub, Senior Director, Communication and Social Marketing representing the Executive Director of CCRDA, emphasized in his welcoming remarks that Irish citizens and the Irish government had collaborated with CCRDA closely for several decades.

The representative stated, "Honorable Tánaiste, we are pleased to be reminded of our special Irish ties with your country through one man. Brother Augustin O'Keeffe was an Irish citizen with an Ethiopian soul. A lightspirited open-hearted, and unwaveringly committed man who led CCRDA for nearly two decades." Micheal Martin.... page 2

CCRDA Held its Biannual Board Meeting



During the board meeting, Tessema Bekele (PhD), a CCRDA board member who had completed his term, received recognition. CCRDA held ...page 2

Aspiring Synergy- Two Seasoned Organizations inked an MoU.

CCRDA and Ethiopian Management Institute (EMI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU was signed on August 15, 2024, at the EMI Head Office. Aspiring Synergy...page 3

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Ireland Deputy Prime Minister....

Mr. Eshetu further stated that "Your excellency's visit in its own merit is a wonderful moment, recounting his memory and legacy brightens up the day even more. Allow us to mention our gratitude for the Irish people and government for various development partnership through Irish development organizations, most specifically the Irish Aid".

Tánaiste Micheal Martin expressed his gratitude for the recognition granted to Irish Missionary Brother Augustin O'keeffe. Furthermore, he noted that "Ireland for past decades partnering with the Ethiopian people in terms of development and access to education".



CCRDA Held its Biannual Board Meeting...

Tessema (PhD), Executive Director of the Emmanuel Development Association, has been serving on the CCRDA board for the past four years.

Dr. Tessema stated that "for the past four years, I have been a board member, and I feel honored to be a part of CCRDA; the organization is my home. We contribute, and I hope to see CCRDA become a more dynamic, dominant, and influential organization in the next years.

Tessema (PhD), further stated that "I am continuously willing to contribute whatever I could to CCRDA".

The newly elected Board members, Tewodros Belachew, Country Director of Help Age International, Tsegaye Degefu, Private Entrepreneur, and Mrs. Tsedey Tefera, Country Director of Bleu Blanc Rouge Foundation (BBRF), have been welcomed to the team.



Aspiring Synergy- Two Seasoned …

During the signing ceremony highlighted that, Mou's objective is to assist the effective and efficient use of resources combining the towards the development of human capital. D

uring the signing session Executive Director of CCRDA Nigussu Legesse (PhD) stated that "CCRDA, a membership organization of 469 CSOs, is committed to empowering communities. To empower communities, we need to strengthen our member CSOs, notably local CSOs. Training is essential for the creation of competent staff members capable of dealing with the challenges that arise with staff turnover and other capability challenges. I'm aware of the institution's endeavors and strengths, so we will share our experiences. I hope this MoU will lead us to a mutual progress".

"Our member organizations aim to empower communities as their most important objective. Only empowered communities make demands regarding their rights. Our partnership will be valuable in achieving this, and we will continue focusing on putting it on the ground".

Chief Executive Officer of EMI Nigusse Mitiku (PhD) stated on his part "EMI is well known for its trainings and research.



Our trainings are practical, and our methodology is many effective public officials, myself included, before coming to where I'm now somehow, some time ago took some of the training from this institute.

The CEO further noted that "we are working with the government and the private sector. We have had good projects with CSOs, but I think not up to our desire. Working with an experienced organization like CCRDA will give us more opportunity to serve. We have roughly 100 associates in various areas of consulting and training. I hope we can work together in diverse areas. CCRDA and its member organizations have worked to strengthen communities through human-centered efforts. Our collaboration will additionally allow us to achieve our social responsibilities".

Precarious Institutional WaSH System, a Closer look on Health Care Facilities

CCRDA hosted a workshop on Institutional Water, Sanitation, and Health (WaSH) Practice and Challenges. The workshop was held on September 30, 2024, at the CCRDA conference hall. Members of the CCRDA WASH Forum, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Water and Energy, attended the workshop.

CCRDA WaSH Forum Steering Committee Member Habtamu Tekle stated in the opening address "while the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders have demonstrated improvements in Institutional WaSH; in Health Care Facilities it they have continue to come short of the standard level. To strengthen Institutional WASH services in the nation at large, we need the coordination effort of various stakeholders".

An overview of the state of the Institutional WaSH, particularly that of Health Care Facilities, were presented by Beza Kibret, Senior Expert at the Ministry of Health (MoH). Based on the District Health Information System, software version 2 (DHIS2), the Senior Expert stated that the Institutional WASH status on Health Care Facilities, basic water supply, basic sanitation, and basic waste management are 31%, 75%, and 66%, respectively.

Institutional WASH in Health Care Facilities is below the standard level, according to the Expert, the main challenges include instability, budget and technical staff shortages, delays in hardware construction, and rising construction material costs.

Regarding the roles of WaSH partners including CSOs, the Senior Expert stated that, strengthening capacity of Regional and Zonal HCFs, enhancing technical and financial support, improving healthcare facilities, infrastructure and conduct trainings and workshops.

Tigist Gebremedihin, the coordinator of the WaSH program at Swiss Church Aid, provided a brief overview on the assessment of the waste management practice and WASH infrastructure in the Amhara Region.

The coordinator said that "the assessment was conducted to find out more about the WASH conditions in collaboration with the Amhara Regional Health Bureau. examining the waste management practices and WASH infrastructure in 50 HCFs in the Amhara Region, which includes the West Gojam Zone and the North Shoa Zone".

Bridging the Digital Divide for Impactful CSO Engagements.

CCRDA conducted a training focused on digital literacy for peacebuilding. The training took place on September 5-6, 2024, at CCRDA training hall. The training session was attended by 25 participants from various CSOs who are actively engaging in conflict-affected communities and have been able to use digital literacy skills for peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The training was coordinated by the CCRDA capacity strengthening team. Temesgen Aschenek (PhD) gave the training.



According to the training coordinators, the aim of the training has been to provide participants with the digital skills required to effectively use technology for peacebuilding, such as digital basics, information literacy, digital citizenship, digital communication, and data management.

The coordinators added that by giving this digital literacy training for peacebuilding, CCRDA aims to enhance the capacity of its member CSOs to promote peaceful and inclusive communities through responsible use of technologies.This will allow them to better engage with communities, establish trust, and promote conversation and understanding.

During the session some of the strategies discussed that can be employed to utilize new media for engagement was social media presence on various social media platforms, regularly posting contents that showcase organization's work, values, and impact. Engaging with followers by responding to comments, sharing relevant news, and encouraging discussions.

Additional strategies for engaging with new media include using online platforms to launch advocacy campaigns and hosting live streams or webinars to communicate with our audience in real time.

Themes covered during the two-day training session included what makes institutions vulnerable in the digital space, what should be done to ensure online engagement, the challenges of new media, digital hate speech and its impacts and features of hate speech.

Mending Broken, Tender Dreams through Education

Imagine1day successfully implemented Leaders, Educators, and Parents (LEAP) Project for Education through Community Mobilization.

“The project laid its basis on innovative and active engagements of the community, parents, leaders and schools” said Dr Seid Aman Country Director of the organization. The project was implemented for the past three years in Oromia and Tigray regions. The target was to contribute towards increased access to equitable and quality primary education for children through enrolment and retention of 63,428 out of school children. Fortunately, the project was completed by exceeding 45% of its target, the organization’s official documents revealed.

LEAP projects, aim is ensuring access to quality primary education for marginalized out of school children and creating hopeful future for students like Ebud Abreha, from Tigray, who was displaced by conflict and dropout of school for three years.

The project not only enhanced school enrollment but it increased retention rates and academic performance of students and created sense of ownership and self-resilience by adopting income generating activities for parents and schools.

It is noted that Ethiopia has made significant progress toward universal primary education however, due to many reasons 13 million children are out of school, from this figures many of the out-of-school children are from pastoralists, the internally displaced, or refugee communities. Nearly half are girls who drop out or didn’t attend school due to harmful traditional practice, social norms and natural phenomenon like menstruation at puberty or due to lack of cleanliness and separate toilet facilities. /UNICEF/.

Changing this context is a daunting task which needs a concerted effort. Changing life more often starts from attitude. To change the mindset of the community towards harmful traditional practice and girls’ education Imagine 1day employed its own approaches: community elders were consulted and discussed the issue. separate rooms were constructed for adolescent girls during menstruation. This enabled female students to keep their hygiene and attend class without frustration and dropping out.

Discussing the success factors, Hawi Alemu, Media and Communication Manager said, the organizational value, “infinite possibilities” enabled Imagine 1day to implement the project in a feasible and effective way. In relation to IDPs, Imagine1day run programmes, which had integrated education and child protection work and created safe spaces for learning, psychological support for traumatized students in conflict or post conflict areas.

Moreover, value-based, holistic leadership, transparent discussion with the community and staff dedication were key conditions which enabled the organization to tackle challenges during the implementation period and helped kids like Ebud Abraha to have a way to pursue education and a chance to succeed in life. Ebud is now enjoying his class and embracing a tender dream of being someone, one day.

This project implementation will add positive energy to other CSOs and stakeholders who are working on the education sector to bring notable change and foster the country’s development.

Imagine1day, a CCRDA member organization, established in 2007 GC in Vancouver Canada. The organization was named based on the aspiration of the goal, that " One day all Ethiopian children will access quality education free of foreign Aid by 2030”.

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Smart Perspectives for SMART Advocacy

CCRDA conducted a training on SMART Advocacy to enhance Reproductive Health and Family Planning (RH/FP) on July 10-12, 2024, at the CCRDA training hall. The training was attended by 40 participants from various CSOs.

The training was about providing technical knowledge and practical skills on SMART advocacy in advancing RH/FP for the participants while effective designing, planning, implementing, monitoring and measuring advocacy outcomes.

On the opening remark CCRDA, Capacity Building Team Director, Bayisa Chala stated that "the session addresses how CSOs' RH/FP advocacy efforts work at the grassroots level via community-led and youth-friendly approaches".

The Director further stated that "the training focuses on how CSOs can contribute to achieve the National FP2030 commitments (the global partnership focused on family planning) in the remaining period. It also discusses how CSOs could enhance their engagement and align with government plans on FP/RH".

CCRDA has been carrying out different activities focusing on creating and strengthening an enabling environment for expanding comprehensive quality RH/FP service provision through implementing member CSOs. The project implementing partners have been engaged in RH/FP demand creation, reducing socio-cultural barriers and enhancing the capacity of health service providers for improved/ quality services at health facility level according to the Director.

Asmamaw Eshete and Surafel Fekadu gave the training, which was organized by the CCRDA Capacity Building Team. Asmamaw Eshete, stated that SMART advocacy "It's a systematic process of developing and carrying out an advocacy strategy to influence key decision-makers for further actions".

According to the trainer, SMART Advocacy applies the principles of SMART to connect and work with the specific person who controls the levers of change. Using SMART Advocacy, individuals can anticipate what information, and insights will convince the decision-maker and the possible actions that acting will achieve their goals. It provides a framework for identifying what can be achieved within discrete timeframes and which changes have the potential to advance a larger, long-term goal the trainer added.



Recalibrating WASH Drives

The 12th annual joint WASH-WRM-Energy multi stakeholders Forum was held at Hilton Hotel Addis Ababa, on July12, 2024.



Habtamu Itefa (PhD)
FDRE, Minister of Water and Energy

Habtamu Itefa (PhD), FDRE Minister of Water and Energy, in his opening remarks underscored that to achieve in the Water and Energy Sector special emphasis needs to be given for a combined effort, community and technology that can play the pivotal role in addressing issues in Water and Energy sector. He added that collaboration among actors in the sector to ensure effective resource utilization and avoiding duplication of efforts is mandatory.

Dr. Nigussu Legesse in his keynote speech addressed that due to increasing commitment of the government and the combined effort of the various development partners, and user communities the WASH sector has shown encouraging progress in implementation of wash facilities and service coverage.

He added that, currently, the efforts in the sector have gained additional drive in a more integrated and coordinated manner. Thus, these joint efforts need to be employed to tackle the scarcity of budget, low execution and financial utilization, lack of equitable distribution of funds and to the maintenance of programmes, sustainable service delivery.

Dr Nigussu mentioned that CSOs are striving to make sustained efforts to contribute to the achievement of the ambitious targets indicated in the one WASH national program as well as the SDG. CCRDA through its WASH forum capacitates its members to contribute more. However, the contribution of its members is under reported. Dr. Nigussu had also reminded CCRDA members working in the sector to report their contribution timely when requested.

In the annual forum Wendaye wube from Ministry of Health presented about the initiation of TSEDU Ethiopia which aims at creating clean, comfortable institution and communities in Ethiopia by 2030. He disclosed that 65 % of sanitation facilities are unimproved and 61% of schools are without basic sanitation which exposes students to transmitted diseases like diarrhea.

All actors in the water and energy sector, partners and CSOs participated for two days and panel discussion sessions on Water Resource Development, Water Supply, sanitation, energy development and an exhibition were also conducted.

CCRDA conducted an advocacy workshop on Maternal Child Health that concentrated on Preconception and Antenatal Care. The workshop was held on September 20, 2024.





CCRDA Ethiopian Civil Society Health Forum held its General Assembly meeting. The meeting took place on September 4, 2024.





CCRDA conducted a one-day workshop on the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The session was held on August 21, 2024.





Ministry of Health organized a workshop on the conclusion of Global Fund New Funding Model 3 (NFM3) and the launch of Global Fund NFM4.





Scaling up Efforts and Tools for a Gender Sensitive Justice.

CCRDA conducted a panel discussion on "Gender Just Transformative Reparation: A Holistic Health Care Model for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence". The panel discussion was organized by CCRDA in collaboration with Bread for the World, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, UNAIDS, and UN Women. CCRDA members, representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, and Ministry of Health, as well as CSOs, the African Union, UN agencies, and academic institutions, were in attendance. The panel discussion was held on July 11 and 12 at Addis Ababa.



The panel discussion featured experts on specific themes such as conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), most effective policy frameworks, standards, and case studies for responding to CRSV within the reparation framework, as well as existing opportunities and challenges at the national level were discussed.

empowerment, with a focus on the need for holistic health care model, and community-based initiatives that amplify survivors' agency".

Sileshi Tadesse, Lead Executive Officer, Women's Rights Protection and Response at the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA), addressed the role of the National Transitional Justice Policy in a Keynote speech, stating that "it provides the groundwork for resolving past and present-day violence and fostering collective healing".

The Lead Executive Officer further stated that "we must realize how pre-existing gender infequalities could exacerbate the impact of conflict-related sexual violence on survivors. Frequently, women and girls experience discrimination, stigma, and limited access to resources. A gender justice approach could overcome these bfarriers".

Sisay Asfaw, a member of the Transitional Justice (TJ) Working Group of Experts at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), presented highlights on the National Transitional Justice Policy.

Teguadda Alebachew, Former Gender Advisor, Transitional Justice Working Group of Experts presented Ethiopia's Transitional Justice Policy, The Reparation Pillars and Gender Dynamics on CRSV.

Protecting Teen Lives, for Responsible Development

CCRDA conducfted a panel discussion on adolescent and youth health issues, particularly on teenage pregnancy and early childhood development, on July 3, 2024.

During the opening remark, Tsehay Admasu CCRDA, Senior Director, Program Development and Management Core Team, stated that "this is part of CCRDA-David and Lucile Packard Foundation partnership project, which had aimed at strengthening the advocacy and program implementation Capacity of CSOs towards RH/FP Interventions and this session could help us to see what the status of national strategy is, policies, emerging issues and gaps regarding factors that affect adolescents".

Overview of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Ethiopia were presented by Meles Solomon, Neonatal and Child Health (NCHThe Desk Head stated that "Ethiopia has adopted the ECD program as one of its top national priorities in 2019. The government has also committed to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality ECD, care and pre-primary education by 2030") .

Doctor Wassie Lingerih Senior Technical Advisor at Ministry of Health, Reproductive Health, Faily Planning,

dolescent and Youth Health (RHFAYH) Desk gave a presentation concerning child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

The advisor stated what is expected from CSOs "to Involve actively in multisectoral responses, advocate for law reinforcement especially in regions with risks of high magnitude, challenging social norms, support governments in advocacy, capacity building, awareness and system responsiveness so as to help them comply with the Federal Government directions".

During the discussion, attendees asked about the ministry of health's efforts and advocacy in persuading regional state councils (which have yet to ratify the Family Law) to do so. Doctor Wassie responded that his Ministry advocates for regional state council members and meets with some of regional council speakers to enhance their comprehension of the law. The advisor went on to say that "there is no policy concern at the government level about child marriage and teenage pregnancy, there is a gap in implementation, and even in regions where family law has been passed, there are difficulties with implementation".

During the discussion, participants raised concerns about the status of various sectorFal coordination problems, particularly among health, education, and judicial bodies, in relation to child marriage and teen pregnancy.