THE CCRDA DIGITAL DIGEST

50+ Years of Tested and Proven Service to a Nation

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CCRDA

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Building Up on a Resonating Legacy

Micheal Martin, Ireland Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence, visited the Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (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 for several decades.

The representative addressed the Deputy Prime Minister, "Honorable Tánaiste, we are pleased to be reminded of our special Irish ties with your country through one man, Brother Augustin O'Keeffe - an Irish citizen with an Ethiopian soul. A light-spirited, open-hearted, and unwaveringly committed man who led CCRDA for nearly two decades."

Mr. Eshetu further stated that "Your excellency's visit in its own merit is a wonderful moment, recounting Brother O'Keeffe's 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".



The DPM, a memorable stop at CCRDA premise

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

Speaking ahead of Ethiopia and Kenya's visit, Mr Martin were said that "Ireland has a proud legacy in the Horn of Africa and that continues through the work of the Irish Aid programme and our NGO partners operating in the region.

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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 the Getfam Hotel.

"we must realize how pre-existing gender inequalities 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 barriers".

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.

Abeba Amare, Director of Development Projects Management at CCRDA said on the occasion "our goal is to move beyond conventional repartitions and strategies that address the special needs and rights of survivors while also challenging and changing the underlying gender inequalities that fuel such violence. Together we can make a difference in the lives of survivors and let us work together a future free from gender-based violence".

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 inequalities 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 barriers".

Sisay Asfaw, a member of the Transitional Justice (TJ) Working Group of Experts at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), presented highlights of the National Transitional Justice Policy. According to the expert, "TJ policy is to protect the interests of vulnerable groups such as women, victims, children, internally displaced people, the elderly, and the disabled. For these communities, policy efforts include criminal accountability, representation in TJ institutions, truth finding, reparation, and amnesty".

Teguadda Alebachew, Former Gender Advisor, Transitional Justice Working Group of Experts presented Ethiopia's Transitional Justice Policy, The Reparation Pillar and Gender Dynamics on CRSV. Regarding reparation under the Ethiopian Transitional Justice Policy, she stated that the policy adopted a comprehensive TJ mechanism including Accountability, Truth-seeking, Conditional Amnesty, Reparation, and Institutional Reform.



Panelists in action

During a panel discussion, various field experts presented a holistic health care model for CRSV survivors, context analysis and international standards for gender-just transformative reparation, effective best practices, and lessons learned on a survivors-centered approach.

Protecting Teen Lives, for Responsible Development

CCRDA conducted a panel discussion on adolescent and youth health issues, particularly teenage pregnancy and early childhood development. The session took place on July 3, 2024, in the CCRDA conference hall.

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, policies, emerging issues and gaps regarding factors that affect adolescents".



Meles Solomon,
Neonatal and Child Health Desk Head,
MoH, gave his presentation.

The Senior Director stated that the workshop has been helpful in obtaining input for the project on RH/FP advocacy issues. "Our advocacy activity focuses on improving women's and children's health, lowering maternal and child mortality, and preventing HIV.

Overview of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Ethiopia were presented by Meles Solomon, Neonatal and Child Health (NCH) Desk Head, at Ministry of Health (MoH).
The 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 for Ministry of Health, Reproductive Health, Family Planning, Adolescent 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, Challenge 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 their 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 sectoral coordination, particularly among health, education, and judicial bodies, in relation to child marriage and teen pregnancy. The adviser stated that MoH build a family planning service at the school level and facilitate coordination across sectoral offices.

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Building Up on a Resonating Legacy

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The DPM looking closely what CCRDA is made of

While the impact of climate change and conflict is threatening the lives and livelihoods of many people in the region, there are also critical opportunities to build peace and bolster innovation and development.

During his visit to Ethiopia, the Tánaiste announced €15 million of funding from Ireland for flagship programmes of the Government of Ethiopia and new development and humanitarian programming to benefit those furthest behind throughout the country and the region.

Concluding his visit to the region, the Tánaiste said "I've received a warm welcome in the Horn of Africa. The visit reaffirmed that Ireland's relationship with Kenya and Ethiopia is moving to a new phase. Meeting with students, climate action innovators, peacebuilders, humanitarian workers, community activists, and entrepreneurs, I saw first-hand the new kinds of partnerships, to reinforce prosperity and peace. The challenges facing the region are significant but so too are the opportunities, including for significant growth in two-way trade and investment."

According to Irish Mirror, Ireland has provided over €415m over the last five years in bilateral funding to partners in the Horn of Africa who provide humanitarian and long-term development assistance to vulnerable populations and support for conflict resolution and actions to counter the impact of climate change.

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