THE CCRDA DIGITAL DIGEST

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CCRDA

The Muted Stumbling Blocks

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only 28 % of Ethiopian Women are having tools to manage their menstruation and 25% do not use sanitary products at all. Regarding sanitary pads tax was reduced by 30% to 10% however, it became 75% more expensive in the following three years.

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

The workshop was organized regarding international MMH day which is celebrated on May 28 annually. The theme of the year is "Together for A # Period- friendly World".

In the event CCRDA, other CSOs, which are working in WaSH engaged in production of dignity kit, representatives from various organizations, students, community members, and guests participated.

Ayelech Eshetu, state minister, Ministry of Education, in her opening remark addressed that many adolescent girls are drop-out of school or absent for 5-7 days monthly due to lack of sanitation materials and facilities during menstruation. She noted that this reality causes negative impacts on education and economic productivity. By emphasizing the urgent need for action, she called for collaborative effort in construction of WaSH facilities, provision of sanitary materials, strong awareness creation and advocacy.



Ayelech Eshetu
State Minister, Ministry of Education

Wendaye Wube, from Ministry of Health presented that only 28 % of Ethiopian Women are having tools to manage their menstruation and 25% do not use sanitary products at all. Regarding sanitary pads tax was reduced by 30% to 10% however, it became 75% more expensive in the following three years. Thus, it is noted that this condition affected the affordability of menstrual products.

Moreover, it is noted that, even if 89.9% of schools have any type of toilet only 26.8% of the schools have proper access to WaSH facilities and only 12.2% of schools have menstrual hygiene safe space, resting, washing, counseling and waiting unit.

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Child-Focused Budgeting – the Blurred Policy Line

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. The workshop was held on June 1 and 2, 2024 in Bishoftu town. Members of the budget and social standing committees of the House of Peoples Representatives of FDRE and senior delegates from sector ministries attended the workshop.

Child Protection budget is invisible in development plans and costs for child protection are spread across budgets of different sector ministries. Other challenges include child protection costs are not documented separately in the sector ministries which made tracking and because child protection costs do not have their own programme codes or sub-codes.

At the workshop, experts from sector ministries and CSOs presented their findings on policy, legislation, and conventions, and discussed the importance of child-focused budgeting by social sectors with members of the parliament.



Tsehay Admassu
Senior Director, Program
Development and Management Core Team

The Senior Director further noted that the House of Peoples Representatives has a constitutional responsibility to oversee, control, and assist the government's implementation and performance in achieving these Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This oversees, control and support by the House of Peoples Representatives not only increases the ability of countries to achieve SDGs, but also contributes to the building of democracy and good governance

During the workshop, attendees discussed Ethiopia's experiences with SDGs, including achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and plans regarding child-focused budgeting.

Key updates of the selected pro-poor sector ministries (Education, Health), and other sector ministries (Finance and Women and Social affairs) priority programs and funding mechanisms and to-date progress towards SDGs targets were also presented. Global, regional, and national experiences on the child focused budgeting and accountability mechanisms were also discussed at the workshop.

During the training, Yinebeb Tamir, Senior Program Manager-CRG (Child Rights Governance) at Save the Children International, presented a budget analysis of child rights and protection. 10 years social justice and social security development plan, budget transparency and accountability mechanisms of the government and challenges regarding child protection budget were discussed in the presentation.

According to the Senior Program Manager, the Child Protection budget is invisible in development plans and costs for child protection are spread across budgets of different sector ministries. Other challenges include child protection costs are not documented separately in the sector ministries which made tracking and because child protection costs do not have their own programme codes or sub-codes.

Officials from Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Women and Social Affairs gave highlights on recent Ethiopian child focused budgeting in their respective sectors. Budgeting for Children from the global perspectives, practical experiences and Investment in Children for Better Child Rights outcomes from United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and SDG Perspectives were also presented by experts during the workshop.

Back to the Basic-Indigen Solutions for Conflict Resolutions

In May and June months of 2024, CCRDA conducted two workshops which focused on peace building.

CCRDA aiming to take part in conflict resolution efforts at national level such as in the National Dialogue Commission's on ongoing effort.

A three-day training session on peace building and conflict resolution, organized by CCRDA, was held from May 28-30, 2024, at the CCRDA training hall, targeting members of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs).

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 peace building and conflict management efforts.



Temesgen Aschenek (PhD), Trainer

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.

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 second workshop, focusing on peace and conflict resolution, titled "Exploring the Indigenous Approaches to Peace Building and Conflict Resolution in Ethiopia," held on June 13, 2024, at the CCRDA conference hall.

CSOs, FBOs, Religious leaders, customary institutions representatives, elders from Amhara, Afar and Sidama Regions and experts from Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Peace attended the workshop.

An overview of the practices of Mad'aa institutions which employ a customary method to resolve disputes in the Afar region is presented by Geda Wakeyo. According to the researcher, Among the people of Afar, the mad'aa institution (indigenous social-legal principles) governs human relationships and protection of animals. It is led by unwritten laws or principles communicated orally from older generation to the new generation.

Hailu Tadesse, expert from South Wollo Zone Culture and Tourism office, gave highlights on a cultural judicial system known as Abegar, which was established to judge and adjudicate crimes ranging from simple to serious crimes in Amhara Region, South Wollo Zone.

Le'ke Hiruyawiyan Belay Mekonen, chairperson of Amhara Region Traditional Elders Association, gave a presentation on traditional elder's system and its benefits to demonstrate the value of existing mediation in Amhara Region.

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Le'ke hiruyawiyan Belay Mekonen
Chairperson, Amhara Region
Traditional Elders Association

Yonas Mamo of Tiruzer Ethiopia for Africa (TEA) presented a presentation on the major conflict factors in the Gambella region's Nuer zone. From September 2021 to 2023, his organization undertook the study in the Youth Voice-Ethiopia Project in the Nuer Zone.

Incorporating indigenous practices and customary laws into the formal education system and launching a clear legal and policy framework for the use of indigenous dispute resolution institutions were forwarded as recommendations to effectively utilize indigenous practices and customary laws for resolving conflicts. This is because most indigenous customs and practices are passed down orally from generation to generation and are neither inscribed nor codified.

The workshop emphasized that elders must serve as role models for the future generation, without partisan pretense and political allegiance and should continue to impart the wisdom to the new generation with the moral fabrics of the custom intact.

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The problem become aggravated for girls with disability because of information access, physical challenges and stigma and social isolation.

Celebrating the MHH in the blind boarding school emphasizes the issue and reminds the need for collaborative action to change the reality and to make schools and other facilities more period friendly.

Israel Ataro, Lead Executive Officer of Primary Health Care from Ministry of Health, in his closing remark emphasized investment in menstrual hygiene management and availability of WaSH facilities, strengthened partner support, curriculum revision and awareness creation, tax exemption for sanitary pads should be given priorities for better result.