CCRDA

MONTHLY DIGITAL DIGEST

German parliamentary delegates visited CCRDA.



On November 22, 2024, the delegates visited CCRDA and concentrated on the CCRDA Core Group Partners Project (CGPP), GAVI project which aimed at reaching Zero Dose and Under-immunized Children.

Eshetu Dub, CCRDA, Senior Director, Communication and Social Marketing, representing Executive Director of CCRDA, presented a welcome address that highlighted the organization's history from its inception to its current state. The Representative said, "we are growing responsible, we are growing to carry the burden in fact it's not a burden it's a privilege we are standing to serve more than 10% of legally registered CSOs in our country".

The Representative added that, for more than five decades, CCRDA has played a significant role in creating CSOs relation with government and development community, which have previously been marked by mistrust. He stated, "CCRDA has served as a bridge to break the mistrust, to collaborate well to ensure inclusive development, and we have done our part well enough. we represent our members, and CSOs in various setups such as Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM-E) and Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC)".

Tsehay Admassu, CCRDA, Senior Director, Program Development and Management, highlighted the organization's 51-year history, which began with 13 CSOs and has since grown to 469 members. The Senior Director stated that "CCRDA which has members in all over the country in diverse issues, has now five regional chapter and continue working on relief, rehabilitation, development and advocacy"

Legesse Kidane, CGPP, Ethiopia Secretariat Director, gave insights on the CGPP Ethiopia Secretariat, which was formed in 2001.

The Director noted that "the goal of CGPP is to contribute towards the national polio eradication efforts as well as outbreak preparedness and response of Priority Zoonotic Diseases (PZDs) and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs) in the border, pastoralist, and hard to reach areas."

Melaku Tsehay (PhD), CGPP GAVI project coordinator, provided a summary of the project, which has been underway since 2010.

Regarding identifying, registering, mapping, and reaching Zero Dose Children (ZDC) and Under Immunized Children (UIC), the coordinator stated that 96% and 67% of identified ZDC and UIC were vaccinated during two rounds of the GAVI CSO fund project until March 2024, respectively.





The coordinator also provided a summary of the project's results regarding demand creation and documentation.

"Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) advocacy meetings were held, and more than 170 religious and influential leaders participated. Community Conversation (CC) manual has been rewritten and translated into Afar and Somali languages. 110 CC sessions were also conducted."

Addressing the status of GAVI, Targeted Country Assistance (TCA) grant, which focuses on providing technical assistance for immunization, the coordinator noted that the project, which is being implemented in 59 woredas in Gambella and Somali regions, will run until December 2025. GAVI CSO fund, centered on reducing zero-dose and under-immunized children, is being implemented in 18 woredas in Afar, Southwest Ethiopia, and Gambella regions.

According to the coordinator, some of the hurdles for the GAVI project include security issues, natural disasters, and an overburdened local health-care system due to IDPs and other system emergencies.

Enhancing Right-Based Gender Sensitivity-Game Changing ?



CCRDA Conducted a Training on Gender-Responsive Advocacy for Mainstreaming Peacebuilding and Human Rights.

30 experts from CCRDA member CSOs actively engaged in gender advocacy and peacebuilding, especially in conflict-affected regions attended the session, which took place from November 6-8, 2024

Trainer Fisseha Zewdie emphasized that "addressing global concerns such as peacebuilding, human rights, and gender issues requires collaborative action from all stakeholders, not just government efforts. These topics are intertwined and demand a unified approach".

The trainer further added that "the training is aimed at enhancing the capacity of CSOs experts by equipping them with essential knowledge and strategies for gender-responsive policy advocacy and inclusive practices. The goal was to foster collaborative dialogues for effectively integrating gender perspectives into their various initiatives".

Frehiwot Getachew, Youth Friendly Health Service (YFS) Officer at the Youth and Cultural Development Foundation (YCDF), shared her thoughts: "This is my first training focused specifically on gender advocacy. As my organization's gender equality and social inclusion focal person, the insights I gained here directly apply to my work, particularly through practical exercises that enhance our gender advocacy efforts."

Aster Gezahegn, project coordinator from Save Life, stated that the training is invaluable, stating, "I learned how to integrate gender issues into our project implementations. The trainers, with their extensive experience, provided critical insights that helped refine my understanding.

Melesse Animaw, Project Coordinator at Health, Development and Anti-Malaria Association (HDAMA), added, "having training on gender and peace advocacy is essential. The diversity of perspectives from experts across various organizations enriched my experience. I plan to incorporate the knowledge I gained to ensure our future projects are gender sensitive."

Workshop focused on individual and collective healing to build peace



On November 26, 2024, CCRDA hosted a workshop focused on individual and collective healing to build peace from an Ethiopian Transitional Justice (TJ) perspective.

Experts from CCRDA member Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), particularly those working on trauma recovery and community resilience in conflict-affected areas attended the session.

Bayissa Chala, Director of CCRDA, Capacity Strengthening Team, highlighted the vital role of CSOs in the successful implementation of Ethiopia's TJ, stressing the need for a clear understanding of its core concepts. He emphasized, "CSOs, who are closer to the communities, must grasp the TJ concept to contribute effectively."

Teguada Alebachew, a member of the TJ Expert Group and Lecturer at Civil Service University, gave highlights on the status of Ethiopia's TJ process. She stated that Ethiopia is nearing the final phase of drafting laws to implement the TJ policy, with CSOs expected to play a key role in during the discussion phase.

On her presentation which centered on Transitional Justice and Individual and collective Healing the Expert explained that "Transitional Justice involves justice-focused processes that societies undertake in the aftermath of large-scale human rights violations, in recent past, resulting from conflict or dictatorial regime". She stressed that TJ is not just about reconciliation but also restoring trust between citizens and the state, as well as within communities.

TJ is one type of peacebuilding mechanism. The expert added that "TJ by acknowledging the past and articulating a vision for the future, it helps build a sense of a trust in the newly reconstituted post conflict political community. Justice".

The expert emphasized that, "TJ process should go beyond the thin version of reconciliation and should try to restore trust vertically between citizens and state institutions and horizontally between citizens".

She outlined key TJ mechanisms, including accountability, truth-seeking, reparation, amnesty, and institutional reforms, all aimed at fostering justice, reconciliation, and sustainable peace. The expert also underscored the importance of consultation, media relations, gender sensitivity, and broad civil society engagement, while maintaining the process's legitimacy and impartiality through indigenous knowledge and approaches.