THE CCRDA DIGITAL DIGEST

50+ Years of Tested and Proven Service to a Nation

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Celebrating Impact



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CCRDA has been honored with a significant award by the Grand African Organizational and Leadership Awards Organization in recognition of its outstanding contribution to development, humanitarian action, and institutional leadership.

The award ceremony took place on December 21, 2025, at the Adwa Victory Memorial. The event brought together distinguished leaders, organizations, and change-makers from across the continent to celebrate excellence in leadership and organizational impact.

Grand African Organizational and Leadership Awards Organization was established to recognize and celebrate outstanding African leaders and organizations that are driving positive change, innovation, and economic development. Through its awards, it seeks to build a strong and positive narrative of African achievement on the global stage by honoring individuals and institutions whose work creates lasting impact. CCRDA and its staff members were among the honorees recognized for their exceptional contributions.

During the ceremony, a total of 22 staff members were recognized under various categories, including Best Employer, Best Leadership, and Best Organization. This recognition reflects CCRDA's strong institutional culture, effective leadership, and commitment to empowering its workforce while delivering meaningful results for communities across Ethiopia.



On behalf CCRDA, the award was received by Nigussu Legesse (PhD), Executive Director of CCRDA, from H.E. Mulatu Teshome, former President of Ethiopia, in recognition of CCRDA's outstanding and continued commitment to development, humanitarian action, and institutional leadership.

Such awards play a vital role in motivating individuals and organizations to continue working diligently and innovatively to create positive impact. The honor stands as a testament to CCRDA Ethiopia's leadership, professionalism, and unwavering mission to contribute to a better and more resilient future.

In recognition of this achievement, CCRDA staff members gathered at the office on December 23, 2025, to celebrate the award.

During this celebration, Mrs. Hirut Melkamu from the Communication Office shared insights into the award process. She explained the procedures and criteria involved, highlighting her role in representing CCRDA on the Award Committee and the collective efforts that led to this recognition.

Looking ahead, Nigussu Legesse (PHD), delivered a speech expressing his heartfelt appreciation to all staff members including board members, leadership teams, and former staff for their dedication and contributions. He emphasized that the success and positive impact of CCRDA are the result of shared commitment, teamwork, and sustained efforts to bring meaningful change to communities across Ethiopia.

Such recognitions not only celebrate past achievements but also serve as powerful motivation for individuals and organizations to continue working with dedication and purpose. For CCRDA Ethiopia, the award reinforces its resolve to strengthen its mission and expand its impact in the years to come.

WaSH General Assembly Meeting

CCRDA successfully held its WaSH General Assembly Meeting on December 31, 2025, at the CCRDA Conference Hall, bringing together General Assembly members, CSOs, and key stakeholders to reflect on sector achievements and set priorities for the year ahead.

Nigussu Legesse (PhD) Executive Director of CCRDA, opened the meeting by praising WaSH Forum members for their committed dedication to enhancing water, sanitation, and hygiene services throughout Ethiopia.

He highlighted the launch of the WaSH Forum Annual Bulletin as an important milestone, describing it as a valuable reference for tracking progress, identifying gaps, and guiding future action. He also underscored the significance of Ethiopia's selection as a host country for COP 32, calling on CSOs to work together to ensure Ethiopia's WaSH experiences and priorities are well represented in global discussions.

He confirmed that CCRDA will commit to strengthening the WaSH sector through enhanced collaboration and coordination among stakeholders in this fiscal year.

Mr. Abera Endeshaw, Senior Advisor to the Minister for NGOs' Coordination Affairs, Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), gave the opening remarks and emphasized the vital role CSOs play in improving WaSH services nationwide. He stated the government's commitment to strong partnerships and pointed up the importance of better performance measurement, coordination, and accountability to deliver real impact at community level.

He also shared key updates, including the ongoing revision of the Water and Energy Policy and the review of Phase III of the One WaSH National Program, encouraging stakeholders to scale up proven and effective interventions.

A key highlight of the event was the official launch of the WaSH Forum Annual Bulletin by Dr. Nigussu Legesse, Mr. Abera Endeshaw, and members of the WaSH Forum Steering Committee.

In addition, two WaSH Forum Steering Committee were recognized for their dedicated service as they completed their terms.



Presenting the WaSH Forum's 2025 achievements, Mrs. Rahel Hiletework, WaSH Forum Coordinator at CCRDA, reported that the Forum now comprises 65 active member organizations. She outlined major accomplishments, including policy engagement initiatives, advocacy and validation workshops in major cities, forum strengthening, radio awareness programs, and the completion of an accountability assessment of water supply services in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Hawassa and Adama.

The program also featured a presentation by Ms. Martha Getachew, Climate, Development and Resilience Financing expert, who discussed the role of Ethiopian and African CSOs in shaping COP 32 outcomes. She highlighted the technical, political, engagement, and logistical contributions of CSOs and underscored the need for a unified WaSH position at national and continental levels.



Martha Getachew
Climate, Development and Resilience Financing expert,

The meeting concluded with active plenary discussions, where participants emphasized strengthening WaSH services in schools, improving accountability through regular reporting, and sharpening advocacy on priority sector issues.

Amplifying Users' Voices for Better Water Services

Strengthening citizen participation and accountability in public service delivery took center stage at the Workshop on Amplifying Users' Voices for Better Service, held, at Dire Dawa, Hawassa, Adama and Addis Ababa in the Month of December 2025.

The workshops aimed to enhance community awareness of water service accessibility and quality, create a structured platform for Water Forum members, to present residents' concerns, and facilitate direct dialogue between citizens and the Cities Clean Water Supply and Sewerage Service. It also sought to promote accountability, transparency, and inter-institutional coordination while identifying practical recommendations and follow-up actions to improve water service delivery.

The consultative forums brought together community representatives, Customer Service Forum members, water Ambassadors, cities water service officials, civil society actors, and media professionals to discuss water service governance challenges, practices and practical solutions in urban water service delivery.

Participants in the Adama customer forums reviewed the Modjo–Adama water project, acknowledged infrastructure improvements, and raised concerns regarding service quality, communication, emergency response, and water bills.



Adama Workshop

Similarly, Community representatives from other cities acknowledged noticeable improvements in water service delivery following recent training and engagements, particularly in resolving long-standing shortages in some areas.

Stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening participation, improving feedback, and ensuring reliable, safe, and sustainable water services.

They also raised shared concerns about recurring pipe bursts linked to road and railway construction, shallow and poor-quality installations, intermittent supply often limited to night hours salt blockage in transmission lines, and prolonged service interruptions in some areas.

City water officials responded by outlining ongoing and planned infrastructure improvements and emphasizing the need for inter-institutional coordination. The workshops strengthened community awareness, encouraged open dialogue, and reinforced the role of citizen participation and media engagement in advancing transparent, accountable, and responsive water service delivery.

Challenges of the water service delivery such as delayed complaint handling, unanswered hotline calls, unprofessional conduct by some staff, coordination gaps in drilling activities, safety risks from uncovered wells, long queues at payment centers, and the impact of meter removals on basic access. Despite these challenges, communities emphasized that transparency, responsiveness, and overall service quality are gradually improving, underscoring the value of continued dialogue and community engagement.

The workshops enhanced community understanding of the structural and institutional factors affecting water service delivery while enabling service providers to receive direct feedback on citizens' priorities and concerns. It also highlighted the need for stronger intersectoral collaboration and reinforced the critical role of Water Forum members as visible and trusted intermediaries between communities and authorities.



Sustaining CSOs in a Shifting Global Landscape

CCRDA,conducted a two-day training aimed at strengthening the financial sustainability of CSOs in Ethiopia. Held from December 25–26, 2025, at Jacaranda Hotel in Bahir Dar.

The training convened CCRDA member organizations from across the country under the theme "Advocacy for CSOs' Financial Sustainability in Response to the Current Global Crisis."

It addressed the increasing challenges facing civil society organizations, including declining donor funding, rising operational costs due to inflation, climate-related shocks, and growing humanitarian needs, all of which continue to place significant strain on their ability to deliver essential services nationwide.

Over the two days, participants explored advocacy as a strategic tool for influencing policy, enabling operations, and advancing sustainable financing beyond traditional fundraising.

The workshop examined alternative financing options, including domestic resource mobilization and privatepartnerships, emphasizing reduced reliance on external donors. Advocacy focused on influencing legal and policy frameworks, public budget engagement, and government dialogue. Strategic communication sessions highlighted impact documentation, accountability, and digital platforms to enhance visibility and credibility.

The training used a participatory approach, combining presentations, group work, case studies, and experience sharing, enabling attendees to translate concepts into actionable strategies. By its conclusion, they reported greater confidence in engaging policymakers and donors, integrating advocacy into organizational strategies, strengthening collaboration, and pursuing diversified, resilient funding models.

Ultimately, CCRDA reaffirmed its commitment to advocacy and capacity building to sustain CSOs' impact in Ethiopia's development and humanitarian efforts.

Key sessions focused on the core principles of CSO financial sustainability, the impact of global and national crises on funding trends, and innovative approaches to resource diversification.