



CBCE-GS

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2023 - January 2024

"The Church we want to be is a Church in which there is communion with Christ, the true vine without whom we can do nothing" Cardinal Berhaneyesus



## CBCE-GS Management

- The management with a temporary task force has facilitated the annual plan and budget of 2024. The plan and budget was consolidated and presented to the finance council and endorsed by the 56th Bishops Plenary.
- The management has revised staff salary and benefit for FY 2024 in consultation with temporary taskforce and the proposal was endorsed by the 56th Bishops Plenary.
- The management hold monthly regular review meeting with CRS partnership and capacity strengthening (PCS) team

## Ethiopian Catholic Church Ten-Year Plan

- On 19th December 2023, the Ethiopian Catholic Church has launched her Ten-Year Plan which was under preparation since July 2022 until September 2023. The strategic plan titled: Ethiopian Catholic Church Ten-Year Plan (ECC-TYP) is a long-term plan, which was completed at the end of 2015 in the Ethiopian calendar (September 2023) and is starting the execution phase as of 2024. On the occasion, at the Inter luxury Hotel in Addis Ababa with over 250 dignitaries, institutional representatives, religious leaders, diocesan management staff, congregational superiors, and provincials, partner organization representatives, lay, family and youth association members, national office staffs and many more were present. This process has built upon – and will continue to build upon – the universal Catholic Church’s Synod process of listening to one another, reflecting deeply, and developing consensus on a way forward.
- Currently Strategy working groups are formed to develop functional strategies on each major functional areas of the Church. Each team is working on the three-year execution plan to be presented for the big workshop to be held in March 2024.
- The National Strategic Execution Committee (NSEC) meets weekly to follow up and guide the progress of strategy working groups.

## Pastoral

- The annual Pastoral Coordinators meeting of AMECEA region member Conferences has been held in Lusaka – Zambia from 20 – 24 November 2023. CBCE Pastoral Coordinator, Abba Abera Makebo was participated only via zoom in this meeting due to visa problem.
- Annual National Laity Council meeting has been held from 1-5 November 2023 in Dongora catechetical center in the Vicariate of Hawassa. Nine out of the thirteen dioceses were participated in this annual meeting.
- Ethiopian delegation from CBCE has been participated in the meeting organized by the AMECEA Pastoral Office on Catechetical centers and catechists in the AMECEA region in Dare Salam – Tanzania from 11-14 December 2023
- The 2nd Ordinary meeting of Faith and Doctrine Commission has been held in Nolawi Hall here in Addis Ababa on 13 November 2023. Discussed on the pastoral challenges that the Catholic Church in Ethiopia is facing currently, which have doctrinal implications.

## Child Protection and Safeguarding

- Finalization and dissemination/distribution of CBCE Safeguarding Policy to dioceses and national office.
- Preparation of report for the year 2023 and plan for the year 2024
- Follow up of safeguarding policy implementation activity at diocesan level, and transfer of allocated budget for safeguarding policy implementation at diocesan level
- CBCE Safeguarding policy familiarization for church leadership by using learning alliance at “Tikur Wuha”. platform (activity November but not reported)
- Facilitation of consultative workshop in collaboration with AMECEA regional office of safeguarding department at Addis Ababa/CFIPT. (activity November but not reported)

## Plans

- Continue cascade training on protection and safeguarding, compliant handling for diocesan focal person, school focal person, parish focal person, congregation representatives, diocesan advisory team and all key parish personnel and religious communities at diocesan level.
- Continue training and familiarization workshop for diocesan Child protection officers, school coordinators and parish priests on the developed guideline of compliant and feedback mechanisms at diocesan level.
- Conduct SEC/ Strategic Working Group (SWG) Meeting
- New project proposal preparation

**“የጽሎት ፍቅር” በሚል ርእስ የተዘጋጀ ሙጽሐፍ በጥበብ የምርምርና የጽሎት ማእከል ተተርጉሞ ለአንባብያን ቀርቧል። ሙጽሐፉም የተፃፈው በአንድ ፍስጥ ምእመን ሲሆን በህዳር 2016 ዓ.ም 160 ገጾችን ይዞ ለአንባብ በቅቷል። ይህንንም ሙጽሐፍ በካቶሊክ ሙጽሐፍት መደብር ውስጥ ያገኙታል።**



## Education

- Education Department collected grade 12 Catholic Schools' result for the academic year of 2015. There are 33 Catholic high schools in all dioceses. Currently, the data was collected and analyzed 31 schools' results. One school from Addis Ababa, Tsionmariam Catholic School and the second Catholic school from Boditte could not obtain their data. Otherwise, 3 Catholic high schools are in Tigray, yet trying to get the data from Adigrate.
- The data is displayed on the table for the sake of space and to present in brief comparing two years result of the National as well as the catholic schools. Charts 1&2 display the result of the National one or Country wide and Charts 3&4 display the result of the Catholic schools.
- Comparing the Catholic schools grade 12 results for two years with that of the whole country's result meaning full conclusion could be reached for decision making as well as lobbying the government to strengthen mutual partnership. The readers are invited to read the tale and understand the implication. If more information needed it could be obtained from Education Department.

### Plans

- Finalize three-year strategic plan
- Donor partners visit
- Finalize Proposals and submit to the donor

## Food Security and Emergency Projects

### A. Food Security project

1. Enhancing Job Opportunity and Employability for Youth and Women (EnJOY) Project

1.1 Facilitation of Capacity Building Trainings (VGC and 21st Century Skills Trainings)

The official inauguration of Vocational Guidance and Counselling (VGC) service provision manuals developed by EnJOY Project at the Radison Blue hotel in Addis Ababa, in the presence of state ministers from the Ministry of Labor and Skill and invited guests, marks an important milestone in this project.

1.2 Regional Harmonization and learning workshop on of EnJOY OSJC (One Stop Job Centers) implementation at all levels. The workshop demonstrates the commitment of Caritas Switzerland, ECC-SDCO, and the stakeholders involved in the EnJOY project to ensure the sustained impact and effective management of the OSJC beyond the project's timeline.

2. Innovative Climate-Smart Livelihood Enhancement for Resilience Building Project (CLEAR) Project

The CLEAR project was developed in response to the pressing development issues faced by the communities in Endegagn woreda/district of Gurghe Zone and Decha District of Bonga Zone and has successfully secured funding from Caritas Australia for a five-year project, spanning from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2028.

3. Construction of Shaded Market and Processing Business Structures to Enable Ethiopian Entrepreneurs (IFE) Project  
ECC-SDCO, in collaboration with Caritas Switzerland, has successfully secured funding from the Federal Government of Germany for a project aimed at supporting entrepreneurs, particularly youth and women, in establishing self-employment ventures through the provision of 80 market shades and processing facilities of 16m<sup>2</sup> to 50m<sup>2</sup> sizes.

### B. Emergency Projects

4. Integrated Emergency Response for Drought Affected Agropastoral Communities in Elwaye and Dubuluq Districts of Borena Zone in Oromia region, Ethiopia. The team has prepared

## Health

- The health department has been undertaking three years health strategic plan working group meeting has been held twice to provoke on how to go about, how frequents to meet and so on. The meeting was fruitful in which we played basement for our planning. We shared tasks and working on it hoping the final will be good.
- Attending the weekly Strategic plan working group meeting in order to be updated with the work progress and share status from the sectoral perspective / department and the department 2024 annual activities and financial plan has been done.
- As representing is one of our mandate the health department representing St. Luke Catholic Hospital Nursing and midwifery college the department has been facilitating and working on the project extension with Oromia Regional Health bureau and Bureau of finance. Successfully accomplished.
- Strengthening partnership with familiar organizations those who have similar and correlations missions is one of the area in which the department is working. Keeping this in mind the department has been attend three partners meeting in which one is the consortium annual meeting with National podocoanisis action network, Inter religious council immunization/EPI/and Nutrition workshop, Water and sanitation workshop.

### Plan

- National office annual report preparation and Diocesan office plan completion and Field trip at three Diocesan office for technical support and supervision to health facilities

and submitted a concept note to German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) through Caritas Germany for the Integrated Emergency Response project.

5. New Emergency Project proposal for 2024 and submitted to Caritas Internationalis to be circulated on the CI official website (BAOBAB) and new Concept Note submitted to German Federal Cooperation

6. CLEAR Project of Caritas Australia prepared project MEAL framework. FSRW team has used to prepare a comprehensive five years MEAL framework for tracking the progress in the implementation of the project. 6.2 FSRW team has assisted Jimma Bonga Branch office in preparing proposal for agreement with government.

7. Humanitarian Response Reports for EA 29/2021 project and EA 25/2022 project were developed. The audit and evaluation process will take place in the year 2024. Field monitoring arranged by Food Security Team to EA 25 project implemented in Elwaye in Borena Zone and Konso and Derashe Zones in Southern Ethiopia Region for staffs of National Disaster Risk Management Commission

Plans  
Business incubation center (BIC) focuses on supporting aspiring entrepreneurs to setup a (innovative) business. Hence EnJOY project has organized a High-Level BIC Networking at Addis Ababa, Sky Light Hotel on January 2, 2024.

EnJOY Project Learning and Phase-out Event. EnJOY project implementation time will come to end by January 31, 2024. As a result, the project has organized workshop at Addis Ababa, Haile Grand Hotel on January 30, 2024.

Coordinate and finalize the preparation of the three-years indicative plan and Collect data from the field to start the preparation of the main new project document to be submitted to German Federal Cooperation and Follow up and close of FAO project, which has been implemented in Bale Robe

Currently Caritas Ethiopia in cooperation with Caritas Germany are working on a project outline for an allocation of funds from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) – Divisions S08/S09 –for a humanitarian assistance project abroad.



## Women and Family Affairs

- Prepared Women, Children and Social Rehabilitation team 2024 annual plan
- Conducted Meeting on three years strategic plan for Empowerment and Inclusion
- Refine gender policy strategy and action planning
- Monitoring Visits:- Conducted Review meeting on CDW project
- Monitoring visit of Job information Center of a project entitled “Enhancing Employment Prospects of Young graduate Women: An action research project” at Hawassa Conducted with Donor and partners
- Conducted meeting with Young graduate women at project site Hawassa
- Conducted Community of Practice (CoP) Meeting with CDW project partners at ECS.
- Participated in the training and experience sharing on Gender Based Violence (IRCE) and Inclusion Training with Education Cluster/A. A/

### Plans

- Annual reporting of the Women, Children and Social Rehabilitation Department National and Dioceses plan and report compilation
- Quarterly reporting of CDW project for FF
- Follow up of CDW project and assist behavioral Change assessment data entry and analysis
- Organize Review meeting of CDW project
- Project Proposal writing on Gender Equality Promotion
- Follow ups of Grow Project and facilitation request and budget transfers.
- Work on the SWG of Empowerment and inclusion

## Operations

### Human Resources

- Prepared departmental annual plan for FY 2024
- Finalized recruitment of 4 Junior Accountants, 1 Health Project Officer, and Executive Secretary for CLC (however, 3 out of 5 started working with us), and engaged 6 volunteer to assist in various events and activities (3 out of 6 volunteers continued working with CBCE-Facilitation Services)
- We are delighted to welcome our newest staff members, W/ro Azeb, Ato Taye and Ato Muluken, and our volunteers W/rt Suzi, W/rt Meseret and Ato Ermias to the team. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to all of them.
- Finalized and reported staff salary and benefit revision with the assigned committee members
- Prepared different HRM memorandums and submitted to management for decision and directives
- Finance Strategy Working Group is working on developing a 3-year functional strategic plan for Finance Department
- Number of individual that obtained services from CBCE-Facilitation Services: work permit closing (146), new work permit application processing (92), renewal of work permit (8), passport renewal service (1), diplomat passport processing (6 rounds), invitation letter processing for visa application request (more than 10), visa extension processing at embassies (1), ID processing at Immigration and Citizenship Services (ICS) (10)
- Accommodation and catering services at the new Youth and Pastoral center in Catholic University compound.

### Plan

- Continue working on the 3-year strategic plan for HR Department
- Finalize annual HR report for FY 2023
- Perform staff contract renewal for FY 2024

### Property Administration

- Facilitated purchase of finishing materials for Bishops Conference Center to make it fully functional.
- Additional office renovation in the Jubilee building for lease to CRS based on their specification
- finalized sanitary system maintenance at ECS building.
- Made partial lease rate revision for offices held for commercial purpose at the ECS building.
- Annual inventory counting for the year ended on December 31st 2023.

### Plan

- Continue working on the 3-year strategic plan for Property administration Department

## Justice and Peace

- The Justice and Peace department has finalized the Church-Wide Strategic Plan slotted for 3 years and soliciting resources from partners to undertake peacebuilding and social cohesion conversation with selected community leaders in selected diocesan structures.
- Conducted a workshop on peace dialogue for community leaders and government counterparts in Tepi town within Jimma Bonga Jurisdiction.
- Bread for the world, Caritas Germany and Misereor are financing a study on approaches and best practices of mental health and psychosocial support interventions for survivors and communities affected by armed conflict in Ethiopia with a view of enhancing the capacity of partner organisations to respond. There will be a field phase and a partner workshop. The study should be finalized in June 2024.
- The J&P Department has represented the Church by attending different consultative workshops and meetings within Addis Ababa convened by IRCE, MoP and other network organizations such as ‘Vision Ethiopia’.

### Plans

- Organizing TOT on Peace education for Diocesan and congregations for five days in selected diocesan structures,
- ToT training for Diocesan Pastoral Agents on Parish Based Peacebuilding Manual.
- Preparation of peace education implementation guideline and share the same with selected schools within Addis and some from Dioceses.
- Consultation with IRCE Peace Department on possible collaboration to enhance peace in conflict prone areas

### Finance

- Represented the Church in a national forum organized by Ministry of Revenue (MoR) on taxation of religion affiliated taxable entities
- The CBCE finance council meeting was held on December 18, 2023 and its main agenda was annual budget for 2024 the finance council members are approved 2024 plan the budget
- There was a partnership meeting with CRS to discuss about capacitating CBCE Finance Department in various areas
- As it is yearend the assigned audit firms of ECC-SDCO’s came to the office and take the year-end inventory.
- A National Finance Task Force composed from 4 Dioceses and National Office representatives is working on selection of Financial Software, Developing Budget and Cost Allocation Manual, and
- Finance Strategy Working Group is working on developing a 3-year functional strategic plan for Finance Department
- Annual Budgeting Template (ABT) was developed in collaboration with PMEAL, Program and Communication Departments with active involvement of the Management of CBCE-GS
- Project financial Monitoring was facilitated with various donors (ENJoY, MISERIOR, CVM)
- Annual Financial Reports (AFR) are being prepared for audit Pastoral Ministry for the years up to 2022.
- Project final and interim financial reports were prepared for various Projects (EA-25/2022, EA-29/2021, CDW, CRS,
- Project Audit Report for MISERIOR’s Justice and Peace Department, EA-29 Emergency Response was completed
- Concept note submitted to Cordaid on capacity building for finance department

### Plans

- Passing the necessary adjustments to finalize the 2023 year transaction of CBCE Finance department.
- To prepare accounts and ready for the institutional audit
- Finalizing the Audit of Pastoral Ministry Financial Statements for the period up to 2022
- Continue working on the 3-year strategic plan for Finance Department



## MEAL

- As usual, the period from 1st December- March is the busiest months every year for the office. In December 2023, the office was busy in addressing the following.
- The office finalized amendment of activity and budget plan preparation templates for fiscal year 2024 and disseminated for all Diocesan Secretariats requesting them to accordingly prepare and submit their respective activity and budget plan to the national office no later than 10th January, 2024. Accordingly, the Eparchy of EmCS has already submitted the Dioceses' 2024 activity and budget plan to the national office for review.
- 2023 Annual Reporting template is still under review. We expect to finalize sometimes in January, 2023 and share with all concerned early February 2024.
- The other equally important activity carried out in December 2023 was preparation of CBCE-wide three years Planning and MEAL office Strategic Plan for the period 2024-2026 led by the two outcome indicators earmarked in the Ten-Year-CBCE Strategic Road Map.
- In line with this, the planning office at CBCE-GS underlines MEAL as the backbone of the Church's' pastoral and social ministries engagements. Preliminary preparations are underway to produce Guideline to Monitoring Aspects, Guideline to Evaluation Aspect, Guideline to Learning Aspects and Reporting Aspects.
- Accordingly, the office is establishing knowledgeable SWG team from various entities including consultants, partner organizations shortlisted experts, mainly from CRS, CST, and representatives from four diocesan secretariats.
- Two staff members of the office are also engaged on pertinent activities, including completion of ET 302 Boeing project, expected to terminate sometimes in January, 2023. MEAL expertise service is also underway with CBCE-GS departments, notably for WFAs department.
- There are also other ongoing activities, which at the moment are not worth mentioning as important event in December.

## Communications

- Preparation of Monthly Newspaper Fikir ena Selam / Link, November and December edition is released, and the edition covered major messages including the CBCE message to Christmas, 56th Catholic Bishops Conference, Message of CBCE on the declaration "Fiducia Supplicans", the Ten-Year Plan Launch ceremony, the new Coadjutor Bishop, Rev. Fr. Teshome Fikre, and many other articles and news coverage.
- Judith Wind-Schreiber as part of her support in strengthening the internal communications in a regular setting, she installed six working groups in November and December. These groups are secretary, HR, grants management, finance, departments and communications.
- The department has arranged priests and Choirs to provide preaching, messages and songs for more than 15 secular media houses TV's and Radios on the celebration of Christmas of the Ethiopian Catholic Church.
- The department attended the annual communication coordinators meeting held in Nairobi from 10th -13th December 2023.
- Meeting Weekly with Strategy working group and working on the three year execution plan of Communication and Advocacy.

## Printing

- Printed Monthly Edition of Fikirna Selam/ Link Newspaper of November and December.
- The unit is preparing of Staff IT to all CBCE-GS staff



## Youth

- National/ Diocesan youth days celebrated in different dioceses
- Message of His holiness Pope Francis for the Local youth day have been translated to Amharic and distributed to the young people in Ethiopia
- Annual plan of the Youth Ministry office is developed.
- The three years execution plan of the Youth Ministry is developed, and proposal are submitted.
- "Tweeting with God" resource book translation began.
- Recruit volunteers for the Visa section at CBCE-GS
- Event coordination and volunteer arrangement for the ECC-TYP Launching event.
- Facilitation and Coordination of Hungary Scholarship application for the 2024/2025 Academic year.
- "Night to shine" a program that promotes social integration of people with special need and disability proposal submitted.
- Attended "Youth Samaritan" Projects launch initiated by the Bible society of Ethiopia.

### Plans

- Launching of USCCB Project – workshop with diocesan youth chaplains and youth leaders
- Preparation for "Night to Shine" program will begin
- Training for volunteers of the national office
- Apostolic visitation and capacity building training for youth in the vicariate of Jimma-Bonga, Nekemite and Gambella. At Jimma-Bonga Vicariate "Tweeting with God" resource book translation will continue.
- Representation of the youth will continue.

## IMCS

- Feast of Christ the King (evaluation and final details)
- Hosted IMCS International Team (Fasika Lachore- Ethiopian and Fr Jojo Fung SJ- Malaysian) for 2 weeks in December 2023 and in conjunction, assisted in organizing meeting with the international and local teams as well as former regional and international leaders of the movement to discuss Pan-African issues.
- Supporting CLC in getting office space, etc.
- Compiled reflections and suggestions of some faithful on "Fiducia Supplicans" and was able to forward it to our Bishops' Conference
- Summarized Samoa Agreement, possible implications and suggestions and forwarded to Pastoral Office, IRCE contacts, etc.
- December 08 Virtual Meeting for Chaplains on chaplaincy guidelines and updates on the student movement
- Drafting narrative and financial reports, and plan
- IMCS AA welcoming and Christmas program (as well as clarifications on Fiducia Supplicans)

### Plans

- Finalize reports and plan
- Work with ECC Ten-Year Plan Strategy Working Group for Family, Laity and Youth
- Go through documents sent by our International Team to give response as a national movement (and as East Africa Sub Region)
- Support PMS with regards to Mission Sunday collections
- Work on IMCS Database

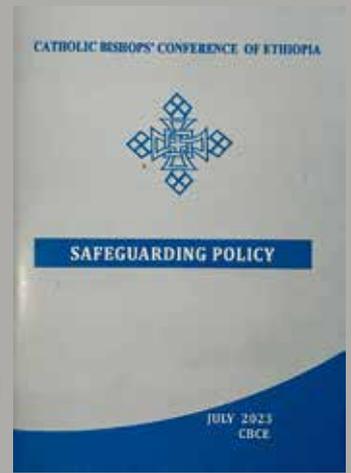


## Information / Upcoming Events

- The AMECEA regional PIHD annual meeting will be held in Addis Ababa by End of January 2024.
- EnJOY Project Learning and Phase-out Event on January 30th, 2024
- Delegation trip of parliamentarians of the German parliament to Kenya and Ethiopia by the Subcommittee on United Nations, International Organizations and Civilian Crisis Prevention and Caritas Ethiopia is trying to join and present peace projects.



Official inauguration of Vocational Guidance and Counselling (VGC) service provision manuals developed by EnJOY Project at the Radison Blue hotel



Distribution of CBCE Safeguarding Policy to dioceses and national office



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Regional Harmonization and learning workshop on of EnJOY OSJC (One Stop Job Centers)



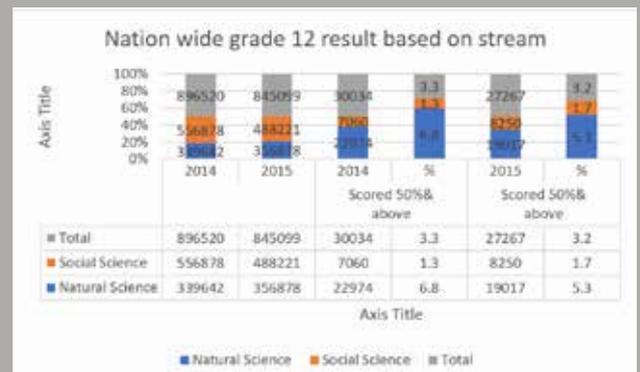
Meeting with the international and local IMCS teams as well as former regional and international leaders of the movement



Monitoring visit of Job information Center of a project entitled "Enhancing Employment Prospects of Young graduate Women: An action research project" at Hawassa



56th Bishops Annual Plenary at the new Bishops Conference center in Ecusta compound



Grade 12 Catholic Schools' result for the academic year of 2015 organized by Education Department

