



CBCE-GS

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

“God is the source of peace. War is madness! Any war always ends in defeat for all. Let us develop a culture of peace”  
*Pope Francis*



## Ethiopian Catholic Church Ten-Year Plan

The National Strategy Execution Committee has met three times in January in order to continue overseeing planning by each of the Strategy Working Groups (SWG's). Thus far the following groups have presented draft plans: Pastoral, Social (overall), Social/Education, Social/Health and Operations as well as two systemic competencies – Empowerment and Inclusion (gender) and Communications (with a third, Safeguarding, to present in early February along with Social Integration). The Governance group is led by Secretary General Abba Teshome and supported by other CBCE Management members, and has recently been able to form their SWG so as to consolidate initial ideas and draft an initial plan in the coming weeks. It is similar with MEAL which, by its very nature, cuts across but also draws from each of the dimension and sectors – and will build off of initial contacts and membership to the MEAL-SWG and plans to start drafting ideas by mid-February.

The culmination of this will be at the First Strategy Execution Consultation workshop March 5-8, 2024 in Addis Ababa where we will consult with stakeholders, receive feedback and ideas, update plans and validate – with the aim of having general consensus on changes to come in the Church in Ethiopia.

# Education

The following major activities have happened in the Education Department

- A booklet, that contains a brief historical account and some success stories of catholic schools in Ethiopia has been prepared as a first draft.
- Education department has also finished the first draft of three-year strategic plan document
- Virtual meeting with the Ethiopian Education Cluster done twice in the reporting month
- Donor partners from Manos Unidas visited and had a fruitful discussion and report from the education department. Rv. Fr. Teshome welcomed the visitors and made a brief explanation about the education department as well as how the CBCE-SG activities are going on. Especially, the accomplishment of the Church-wide Ten year-strategic Plan and how the three-year strategic plan is under preparation based on the Ten-year strategic plan. He also handed the visitors the copy of the Church-wide Ten-Year Strategic Plan document.

Photo of the visitors'

## Plans

- The Education Department has planned to finalize the three-year strategic planning document. In order to finalize the document, the working group, from the National Office, Addis Ababa Office and Meki Office education coordinators will meet in February 6, 2024 at the National Office.
- Project proposal will be prepared based on the three-year strategic planning document.

The booklet on the historical background of the catholic schools' will be finalized and published

## ECC-SDCO Health Department

The health department has been undertaking different activities that have been planned to be undertaken by the department in the month of January 2024. Among those activities the major ones are: -

### **Preparing 2024 annual plan for the health department**

- The department has prepared /developed the annual plan for health in which we are going to be led for the year 2024 and submitted to the planning and monitoring department. This plan contains all the activities that the health department has planned to implement in the year 2024 as part of project implementation to strengthen the health system
- The second one is compiling the Branch office health projects plan for the year 2024, collected and compiled. During this time from the 13 branch offices 56 institutional health projects and 5 community health projects have been compiled and submitted to the planning and monitoring department of CBCE.
- The third one is the ongoing three year strategic plan development and the weekly meeting in which we have discussed the status has been done as planned
- The fourth one is strengthening private partnership and attending meetings with donors for lobby new project and TOT training on END FUND LF Morbidity Mapping and Management project at ADMA .

### **Next month plan**

- Filed tripe three branch office for technical support and supervision to health facilities
- Organizing two training technicians on (infection prevention and Advocacy on health for health facilities manager.

## Communications

- EBCE/ECS SC & PR Department is service giving department upon request.
- So, inviting more institutions and EBCE/ECS departments to advertise/sponsor pages of **Fikirna Selam Newspaper**
- EBCE/ECS departments will give information based on different events, celebration etc. so it will be easy to promote by SC & PR Dept
- Dispatch letter of invitation to different government and private media organizations requesting them for the service of media coverage for the Christmas message of H.E. Cardinal Berhaneyesus D. Souraphiel C.M.
- Arranging different Congregation Spiritual fathers to give an idea and thoughts about Christmas based on the Catholic Church Liturgy.
- Invite media agents to give news coverage on the Feast of Epiphany
- Collect data and sort out information for the next Fikerna Selam News Paper edition.
- Update information on the organization Face book and Telegram.

# Safeguarding

CBCE-GS child Protection and safeguarding office

- Cascade training in two dioceses (Meki and Hawassa) 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 for 59 Male and 27 Female
- Familiarization workshop in two dioceses (Meki and Hawassa) for diocesan Child protection officers, school coordinators and parish priests on the developed guideline of compliant and feedback mechanisms for 61 males and 27 females.
- Attend resource mobilization and accompaniment training for safeguarding national safeguarding officers organized by AMECEA and CRS on the agenda to enhance fundraising in strengthen safeguarding and care reform initiatives for the member conferences in AMECEA region from 22 – 26 January 2024, in Malindi/ Kenya
- Compile and finalize six month interim activity implementation report to Caritas Australia
- Diocesan support and follow up on safeguarding policy activity implementation
- Meetings and discussions with SWG conducted on finalization of the three-year strategic plan of the child protection and safeguarding office.

## Plan

- Finalization of new project proposals to be shared to donor partners
- Finalize pending publications of IEC materials
- Continue cascading the training on safeguarding and compliant handling at diocesan level

Continue diocesan follow up and support on the implementation of safeguarding policy activity at diocesan level



*Training Session in Hawassa*



*Training Session in Meki*

## Women and Family Affairs

1. What major things have happened in the reporting month? (Travel, fieldwork, review, conference, event, visit, workshop, training)

- Submitted Quarterly report of CDW project for FF
- Prepare and compile annual plan of Women, Children and Social Rehabilitation sector for the year 2024
- Prepared acceleration plan of Q1 of 2024 and follow up of the project progress every Friday
- Gender Equality Project Proposal drafting
- Participated in two partners meetings and three internal meetings
- GroW project budget transfer facilitated
- Assist ACS CDW project team on behavioral Change assessment data entry and analysis

2. What major things have happened in the reporting month? (Travel, fieldwork, review, conference, event, visit, workshop, training)

- Conduct meetings on Empowerment and inclusion SWG
- Facilitate regular monitoring visit and meeting with partner
- Conduct Networking meeting with stakeholders
- Assist ACS on CDW project implementation and on Busara data collection tool application
- Finalize and submit Gender project proposal for partners
- Monitoring of Grow Project implementation progress

# YOUTH

- Facilitation and Coordination of the annual Hungary Helps Scholarship program- a program that gives free scholarship for young people from Countries who experience Christian persecution, conflicts and war. We have organized applicants from 10 dioceses.
- Brainstorming session for the “Night to Shine” program has been organized. “Night to shine” is a program funded by Tim Tebow Foundation. It’s a program where people with a special need are welcomed to the life of the Church and the community. Its vision is to encourage, equip and support churches to not only host an unforgettable prom night experience, but create and maintain a thriving life-long ministry to their community of people with special needs. It will be implemented in the Archdiocese of Addis Ababa and Eparchy of Bahirdar-Dessie.
- Working on the three years implementation plan of the Youth Ministry. First draft finalized for review.
- Development of proposal for a three-year project.
- A team of Volunteers for translation and proof-reading works have been formed. From the registered volunteers. They will be working on the resource book “Tweeting with God”
- Organized inputs for the report on the activities of the Youth Ministry in relation to Care for creation to be shared for AMECEA delegates.
- Implementation plan for the USCCB project has been developed. A project that focuses on building the capacity of chaplains and youth leaders on peace building and promoting a culture of dialogue.
- Facilitation of “Kokeb Zemarian” at the General Secretariat – Charity mission to collect contributions for children affected by conflict, war, drought and other crisis.
- Attended departmental meeting, all staff meeting, and discussions with different stakeholders on activities of the ministry office.

## **Plan**

- Night to shine program will be organized in the Archdiocese of Addis Ababa and Eparchy of Bahirdar-Dessie. Volunteers and organizing committee meetings will happen.
  - A team of Volunteers for translation and proof-reading will work on the resource book “Tweeting with God”
  - Launching workshop of USCCB project
  - Looking for UN cluster access to the youth ministry for networking
  - Attending departmental team monthly meeting.
- Representation of the youth in different events, and programs will continue.

# IMCS

- Submit narrative and financial reports, and plan
- Working with 2 Strategic Working Groups on drafting 3 year plan
- Working with Bible Society of Ethiopia in the Special Publication Subcommittee, preparing for “Bible Week” which will be held in March 2024
- Supporting PMS with regards to Mission Sunday collections and correspondences
- Research to inform my response for IMCS International regarding their plans and documents, East Africa sub region, and upcoming IMCS national gathering
- Supporting IMCS AA (reporting, advising main committee)

## **Plan**

- Go through draft of the 2 SWGs
- Explore whether it is possible to have a national gathering of students in February or March
- Meet with national coordinators and representatives of the East Africa Sub Region virtually
- Update guidelines for our IMCS National Committee
- Draft response and inquires for our International Team
- Work on the Special Publications subcommittee of the BSE
- Book launching by a Tanzanian Jesuit priest on the impact of the Jesuits on higher education since 1945
- Support PMS with reporting and planning
- Work on IMCS Database
- Deal with other issues as they arise

# WASH

ET 302 Victims Memorial Tullufera and its Surrounding Community Development Project is on the completion phase and currently conducting the following activities after CRS as granted completion fund End of February 2023

- Fencing of Tulufera and Godety Schools
- Fixing of Flag pole to each school
- Completing The remaining Two water Scheme (hama and Tulufera water supply ) since The crop has been harvested, water supply activities are more of field excavation, laying pipes so that we must wait for crop to be removed
- Completing the second-generation Clinic construction after the contractor as declined by and terminated by negotiation



## Water Supply System

- Completing the two-water supply system and make ready to handover to the government and to the community
- Organizing meeting with WASHCo of the tree kebeles and aware how to manage the water scheme
- Organize meeting Hama Kebele WASHCo and Ejere Town water committee and help to make formal agreement on how to manage the water scheme
- Maintaining of Hama water Supply Generator and start to fill 200M3 of reservoir which is intended serve Hama kebele and Ejere Town.
- Opening ventilation door to three generator house as recommended by regional East Shewa zone technical team

## Second Generation Clinic

- Again, completing the construction Hama Second generation Clinic (Fixing Aluminum doors and windows,
- Plastering and painting; fixing floor ceramic tiles
- Completing sanitary works and over all to complete by this month make ready to handover



# Pastoral

- CBCE-GS has organized half day reflection and prayer program as Christmas vigil celebration for all staff in our Chapel here in the Secretariat. Rev. Abba Teshome Fikre has presided over the mass and Abba Abera makebo and Abba Daniel Hasso have concelebrated and shared reflections on the mystery of Incarnation to the attendees.
- Using the occasion of festive seasons of Christmas and the Baptism of the Lord which were vibrantly celebrated throughout the nation, CBCE-GS Pastoral office has made good use of the occasion to enhance the Church’s visibility in national media outlets. We have transmitted messages of Christian values through various media channels: ETV, Walta, Fana, Arts Tv, Adiss Media Network, Amhara Tv, Kegeberew Tv, Hagere Tv...FM radios. We thank our priests who generously participated in reaching out to these media outlets, particularly, Abba Teshome Fikre, abba Abera Makebo, Abba Abinet Abebe, Abba Daniel Hasso, Abba Hailegebriel Meleku, Abba Melkam Nigussie, Abba Daniel Getachew, Abba Woldesilassie..., Abba Assfawu Getachew...
- As member of Ethiopian Biblical Society, representing Ethiopian Catholic Church, CBCE-GS Pastoral office has established a committee working with other Christian Churches to organize Bible week which will be held from 25 – 30 March 2024.
- CBCE – GS Pastoral office has participated in various representation meetings organized by Government officials (especially by Ministry of Peace and Ministry of tax and revenue) and by interreligious forums.
- Based on the Ten Years strategic plan frame work, CBCE – GS Pastoral office is preparing the strategic implementation document establishing five sub-working groups composed of expertise from Clergy and laity on the following priority areas:
  - i. Formation of Clergy and religious men and women
  - ii. Family, laity and youth
  - iii. Catechism and faith formation
  - iv. Liturgy and Sacramental discipline
  - v. Ecumenism and interreligious dialogue
- CBCE – GS Pastoral office has presented the overview of the Strategic implementation plan progress and the burning issues in the pastoral area to all staff meeting held in 22 January in Selam Hall of the Secretariat.
- Monthly editorial work of “Fikirna Selam” newspaper for this month was conducted successfully.
- Pastoral plan and budget for Fiscal year 2024 was prepared and submitted to ...
- CBCE – GS has given training on youth behavioral change for teachers and students of three Catholic Schools, namely, St. Mary’s school, St. Joseph Cistercian School and Salesians of Donbosco School in Mecanissa area. We thank ato Girma Garedew for his availability and expertise on the matter.

# MIGRATION

Return Reintegration Assistance provided support for reintegration under the JRS and FEDASIL project. This support included services such as airport pick-up, assistance with business plan development, and support with opening businesses in 2023.

Over the course of this period, we successfully assisted 21 returnees in establishing their businesses and provided temporary accommodation support.

The project's reintegration support efforts have been implemented in various regions across Ethiopia, including Amhara, Addis Ababa, Oromia, and Somalia.

- The Department attended an online seminar organized by the Swedish Migration Agency. The seminar focused on returnee reintegration and covered various topics

Under the European Return Reintegration project in 2024, there is a plan to provide reintegration support for a total of 11 returnees from Belgium, Denmark, and the Netherlands. This project is a collaboration between Caritas Belgium, the Danish Refugee Council, and the Dutch Council for Refugees.

*The support services offered to the returnees may include:*

1. Airport pick-up and assistance to ensure a smooth arrival.
2. In-country onward travel assistance to help them reach their desired destination within the country.
3. Provision of basic essentials to meet their immediate needs upon return.
4. Temporary housing support to ensure a safe and stable living environment.
5. Assistance in setting up a small business to help them generate income and become self-reliant.
6. Support for schooling, which may include enrollment in schools or educational programs.
7. Provision of vocational training opportunities to enhance their skills and increase employment prospects.
8. Social, legal, and medical support to ensure their well-being and address any specific needs or challenges they may face.

These services aim to facilitate the successful reintegration of the returnees, providing them with the necessary support and resources to rebuild their lives in their home countries.



*One of the German returnees under the reintegration support program has chosen to engage in animal fattening in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia.*