



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



Women and Family Affairs

- Finalized MoU with four partners funded by Freedom fund which will enhance collaboration and share expertise.
- Quarterly report submitted to freedom Fund on Child Domestic Workers project.
- Conducted Net-working meeting with governmental and Non- governmental organization on CDW.
- Conducted monitoring visit to project site of Child Domestic Workers in collaboration with ACS.
- New Gender equality and inclusion project proposal draft finalized.
- National and Branch offices plan consolidated and submitted on Women, Children and Social Rehabilitation sectors for the physical year 2024.
- Facilitated budget transfer for implementation of grow project to branch offices.
- Conducted final meeting with ECC-TYP SWG sub sector planning team to plan 3yrs Empowerment and Inclusion and Social integration outcome.

Plan

- Monitoring visit to branch offices of Hawassa and JimmaBonga for grow project.
- Commemoration /Celebration International Women's Day.
- Finalize new gender equality project proposal.
- Workshop on learning alliance form with governmental and non- governmental organizations.
- Meeting with partners on experiences sharing and updates on PEMSII progress.
- Follow ups and meeting every two weeks on CDW project at Gulele sub city and ACS.



Ethiopian Catholic Church Ten-Year Plan

February Activities

A decision was made to reschedule the First Strategy Execution workshop from early March to April 16-19, 2024, and it will be held at St Francis Institute for Philosophy and Theology. The overall aim of the event is to build consensus around proven and promising implementation strategies and activities for the first three years in order to contribute significantly to the outcomes in the ECC Ten-Year Plan.

In anticipation of this opportunity to share work to date, Strategy Working Groups (SWG's) are working hard to develop plans as well as budgets for the next three years.

In March

SWG's will finalize draft plans and these will be reviewed by other NSEC members. An all-day review workshop to provide comprehensive feedback is planned.

Safeguarding

- Provision of training in three dioceses (Bale-Robe, Emidebir, and Jimma-Bonga) 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
- Familiarization workshop in three dioceses ((Bale-Robe, Emidebir, and Jimma-Bonga) for diocesan Child protection officers, school coordinators and parish priests on the developed guideline of compliant and feedback mechanisms.
- Diocesan support and follow up on safeguarding policy activity implementation
- Finalize publication of safeguarding IEC materials and started disseminations to dioceses
- Finalization of the three year safeguarding plan
- Finalization of new project proposal to be submitted to donor partners
- Continue diocesan follow up and support on the implementation of safeguarding policy activity at diocesan level
- Attend UN-Child Protection AoR cluster virtual meeting
- Finalize third quarter (Nine Month) report for Caritas Australia



Training Session in Emdebir



Training Session Bale-Robe



Training Session in Jimma-Bonga



YOUTH

- Preparatory meetings and brainstorming sessions for the month's activities have been conducted.
- A workshop titled "Peace Building and Promoting a Culture of Dialogue" was held at the ECUSTA Pastoral and Youth Formation Center from February 19th to 23rd, 2024. The workshop was attended by 10 dioceses, and 5 major inputs were delivered, which were enriched by group discussions and experience sharing. The project's implementation plan was discussed among the participants, and it is being financed by the USCCB. The attendees were Diocesan Pastoral Coordinators and Youth Ministry Chaplains.
- On February 25th, 2024, in the Archdiocese of Addis Ababa locally themed "Demket" - Night to Shine Program was organized. The program's focused on God's love for individuals with special needs and disabilities. It included various activities such as Holy Mass, a Bazaar, stage performances, and celebrations. The program was presented in partnership with CBCE-Youth Office, Meri Kokeb St. Padre Pio Special Need Ministry, and Tim Tebow Foundation from USA.
- Working on Pastoral team Strategic Working Group to finalize implementation plan of three years strategic plan.
- Preparation of lobby paper to enhance UN cluster engagements.
- First round virtual gathering of Translation and Proof reading Volunteers team have been organized. They received briefing about the volunteers program and they were introduced to the tasks ahead of them.
- Attended Universal Periodic Report (UPR) preparation workshop in relation to the JISRA project that is based on Freedom of Religion and belief.
- Attended virtual Info Session of EU- Solidarity Corps Humanitarian Aid Volunteerism Program.
- Consultation meeting with Focolare Movement coordinators on the activities the movement have planned.
- Our volunteer attended a learning session on Early marriage and FGM, organized by IRCE.
- Attended departmental meeting, and discussions with different stakeholders on activities of the ministry office.

Plan

- Night to Shine Program locally themed "Demket" - will be organized in the Eparchy of Bahirdar-Dessie. National Office Staff will attend the program.
- There are planned pastoral visitation to dioceses, to cascade peace building programs and visit their situation to keep solidarity with them.
- Continue working on Pastoral team SWG to finalize implementation plan of three years strategic plan.
- Establish UN cluster engagement for Youth Ministry.
- New proposal development to be submitted to partners.
- Organize volunteers engagement in different missions and services.
- Attend departmental meetings, JISRA Youth Ambassadors meeting, ROACO project working group meeting and discussions with different stakeholders on activities of the ministry office



Pastoral

- CBCE-GS management and staff have traveled to Emdebir Eparchy on 17 February 2024 for the Episcopal consecration of his Excellency Abbune Lukas (Teshome) Fikre, the Secretary General of the Conference. The consecration ceremony was colorfully conducted and it was a wonderful occasion of evangelization and witness of the Catholic Church’s service to the people of God without any distinction: serving humanity in general regardless of religious differences, ethnicity, color, status...
- Ethiopian Catholic Church leadership, led by His Eminence Cardinal Berhaneyesus had a half day meeting with the leaders of **the International Forum for Peace, reconciliation and democracy in Ethiopia** who came from Minnesota – USA. The meeting was held on 15 February 2024 in Nolawi Hall in our Secretariat. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss on how to promote Peace and Reconciliation in Ethiopia which are the dire necessity in our country at present.
- The leaders of Aid to the Church in need from Germany have visited our secretariat on 20 February 2024. We had a fruitful discussion with them on how to work together on pastoral concerns of our Conference.
- CBCE –GS has reserved a warm welcome reception to our newly Consecrated Bishop, his Excellency Abune Lukas (Teshome) Fikre at his return to the Secretariat office on 22 February 2024. On the occasion Abune Lukas has expressed his gratitude to the CBCE – GS staff for accompany him in the consecration ceremony at Emdebir and for their support and prayer in general.
- CBCE – GS Pastoral Coordination office has conducted three days workshop from 19-23 February 2024 at Lebu ECUSTA Pastoral center for pastoral Coordinators and youth chaplains from respective dioceses and Eparchies on Peace building and culture of dialogue . The workshop was very successful in terms of creating awareness on the theme and 10 dioceses out of thirteen were actively participated.
- CBCE – GS Pastoral office has participated in three representation meetings organized by Inter religious forum of Ethiopia.
- Monthly editorial work of “Fikirna Selam” newspaper for this month was conducted successfully.



His Eminence Cardinal Berhaneyesus with the leaders of the International Forum for Peace, reconciliation and democracy in Ethiopia



Leaders of Aid from Germany visiting our secretariat



CBCE –GS welcoming newly Consecrated Bishop



Three days workshop at Lebu ECUSTA Pastoral center for pastoral Coordinators and youth chaplains

Migration

- CBCE-GS center have welcomed 44 beneficiaries; 34 adults and 5 minors. The beneficiaries were recieved from differnt institutions; Woreda adminstraion, police and returnees from abroad.
- Out of the total 33 beneficiaries have verified to be reunified to their family and the society.
- All the beneficiaries enjoyed the basic needs (food, accomodation, orientation, life skill training and couseling service)
- Out of the total, 4 beneficieries had medical cases and diagnosed accordingly.
- All beneficiaries have gone through psycho-social support.
- 6 new arrivals have been recieved by the center in February 29, 2024. Currently, here are 17 beneficiaries residing in the center
- The Loving Home project second semester budget as been transferred to the three dioceses.
- The department had participated in a workshop on child participation and the pillars of accountability to affected populations (AAP) from 20-21, February 2024 organized by Education cluster.

Plan

- 6 to 8 beneficiaries are expected to be accomodated in March 2, 2024.
- The center project will facilitatr and provide basic business skill training (BBS) for 25 beneficiaries.
- The monthly ES-NFI cluster will take place and to be repressed by the the migration section
- To recieve beneficiaries referred from different insitutions

Food Security

1.1 Food Security

New Agriculture-focused Dignified Employment for Youth in Ethiopia (ADEY) Program Proposal Development

- Recently, the Ethiopian Catholic Church have fulfilled the requirements of due diligence to access fund from Master Card Foundation, Agricultural Transformation Institute. In this regard, a new project proposal is under preparation since mid-February which is to be submitted in March. The project is planned to be implemented in newly established Southern regional States including Sidama Region. The following main activities have been conducted in February:
- A technical team travelled to Hawassa Vicarate with ATI Team to conduct physical capacity evaluation to check the due diligence fulfillment. The ATI Team also conducted an institutional assessment here at head office level after Hawassa visit.
- Based on the assessment results, we notified that we have passed the due diligence requirements
- This time a file assessment is finalized, data collected, and a project proposal is under preparation, which is to be submitted before mid-March 2024.
- This project is designed to accelerate the job creation plan by enhancing the support provided to young entrepreneurs and wage-employment seekers for self-sustained and improved livelihoods in parallel with their existing programs

EU Funded EnJOY project

- EU funded EnJOY project, which was implemented in Nekemt branch office is terminated officially and a final report is submitted to the Consortium Lead in February.

UN FAO project

- This project was implemented in Oromia and Somali regions, and its implementation finalized in 2023. The project intervention includes the provision of seed, water pump and livestock feed on top of training to farmers and development agents in agronomy and animal husbandry. The final and all require documents were submitted in February to FAO.

1.2 Humanitarian and Emergency Response

- Final reports of the Emergency projects implemented in 2023 is prepared and finalized
- The new Emergency response project (EA 35/2023) project proposal and agreement is prepared and submitted to the National Disaster Risk Management Commission for appraisal.

- Accompanied a team from Caritas Internationalis (CI) led by the CI Secretary General was visited Eparchy of Adigrat and Hawassa Vicariate project areas including the National office.

1.3 Attend Training of Trainers for Caritas Organizations in CEDOI-M, ACEAC and AMECEA Zones on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR)

- ECC SDCO?Caritas Ethiopia is a member of Caritas Africa Humanitarian Team and attend a training of trainers conducted in Kigali Rwanda from February 26th to 29th, 2024. The objective of the training is to build the capacities of Caritas Africa member organizations in Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) with a view to ensuring locally led preparedness and emergency response to cope and mitigate with disasters lead to improved resilience to negative effects of disasters amongst communities they serve. It is also expected that Caritas Africa member organizations institutionalize the CMDRR concept in their operations.

At the end of the training, Participants observed that:

- The three zones of AMECEA, Association des Conférences Episcopales de l'Afrique (ACEAC) and Episcopal Conference of Indian Ocean Islands and Madagascar (CEDOI-M) have been affected by several hazards which include but not limited to prolonged dry spell, flooding, armed conflicts which have destroyed lives and livelihoods.
- To build resilient communities, it is important to accompany them to develop preparedness, preventive as well as mitigation measures in collaboration with government and other likeminded stakeholders.
- The Humanitarian committee of Caritas needs to work collaboratively with the Advocacy Committee to advance issues identified from the local communities.
- The participants agreed ensure that all our humanitarian work is linked to resilience building and at the same time ensuring that local communities take a leading role in implementing resilient building strategies and advocating for implementation of disaster risk management policies.

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Plan

- Finalize and submit the ADEY project proposal to ATI
- Finalize the external evaluation of EA 25 project
- Finalization of appraisal and signing of EA 35 project agreement with Federal Disaster Risk Management Commission
- Follow-up UN FAO fund re-reimbursement from FAO
- Preparation to accompany Caritas Australia visiting delegation to Bonga and Emdebir
- Facilitate the base line survey of CLEAR project
- Finalize the 2023 consolidated report of both emergency and food security projects
- Attend, different Cluster Coordination and other working group meetings



IMCS

- Working with 5 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
- Preparing pastoral narrative reports of 2023 for PMS
- Research to inform my response for IMCS International regarding their plans and documents, East Africa sub region, and upcoming IMCS national gathering
- Meeting with ecclesial associations to discuss reports, plans and collaborations
- Submit ‘Ye Kokebu Zemarian’ CBCE GS collections to ACS
- Support Youth Office’s ‘Night to Shine’ program in planning, distributing some invitations and posters
- Supporting Pastoral Office in planning activities of the next few months
- Presenting report and plan to Diocesan Pastoral Coordinators during their annual meeting (both for university students office and PMS)
- Follow up on requirements for approved project
- Representing the student movement at a book launching by a Tanzanian Jesuit priest on the impact of the Jesuits on higher education since 1945

Plan

- Go through draft plan of more than 2 SWGs
- Explore whether it is possible to have a national gathering of students in March
- Meet with national coordinators and representatives of the East Africa Sub Region virtually
- Update guidelines for our IMCS National Committee
- Draft response and inquiries for our International Team, in consultation with chaplains, alumni, etc
- Work on the Special Publications subcommittee of the BSE as well as engaging in works related to “Bible Week”
- Support PMS with reporting and planning
- Work on IMCS Database
- Deal with other issues as they arise

Property Administration

- Annual vehicle inspection, Bollo, and Road fund fees were facilitated and distributed to all vehicles of the General Secretariat.
- Office maintenance and modification on CBCE Jubilee building was successfully accomplished as per the demand and standard of CRS Ethiopia to be used for office and meeting room for a longer period.
- Asset physical inventory of SCDO was finalized and a signed hard copy was provided for audit other assets of the General Secretariat records are being updated in every room, building, and compound and custodians are signing on the hard copies.

Printing

February 2024 Printed Documents

- ❖ Constitution of The Consecrated Women Association of Ethiopia (CWAE)
- ❖ የዱቦ ሉርድ ማርያም ድምጽ
- ❖ Monthly edition of Fikirna Selam/Link News Paper
- ❖ Save Guard Posters and “ፍቅር የኛ ምግብ ደገንነቴን ጠብቁልኝ” መስፈፍ



March 2024 Printed Documents

- ❖ የምሥራቅ አፍሪካ ጳጳሳት ጉባኤዎች - በአፍሪካ የትናንሽ ክርስቲያን ማህበራትን ዕድገት ማጠናከር - Strengthening the Growth of Small Christian Communities in Africa
- ❖ የካቶሊክ ቤተክርስቲያን ትምህርተ ክርስቶስ ለልጆች

