



CBCE-GS

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” *(Romans 8:11)*



# CBCE –GS Management

- On March 27, 2024, The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ethiopia (CBCE) has appointed Rev. Father Asfaw Ketema as its new Secretary General for CBCE-GS. He will officially assume the role in June 2024, succeeding Bishop Lukas who served for six years before his recent appointment as coadjutor Bishop of Eparhcy of Emdibir. The CBCE expresses gratitude to Bishop Lukas for his dedicated service and offers well wishes to Father Ketema as he takes on this new leadership role.
- The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ethiopia (CBCE) is pleased to announce the signing of a contract agreement with Cherinet Construction Company and Fasil Consultancy Firm. This partnership will see the construction of two new facilities on the grounds of the Catholic University in Lebu. The Project includes **Multi-Purpose Building** with a ground-plus-two multi-purpose building with a target investment of 57 million Ethiopian Birr (ETB) and **Additional Building** with a ground-plus-one building with a budget of 21 million ETB. Both projects are expected to be completed within one year, with a total cost of 78 million ETB. These new facilities will serve as multifaceted centers for pastoral and social services.
- CBCE General Secretariat (GS) presented the 2023 Annual Performance and Audit Report, along with the Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission's (ECC SDCO) 2024 Annual Plan, to the Bishops' Conference, Board Members, and General Assembly members.
- CBCE-GS recently hosted a delegation from Caritas Australia on their annual visit to Ethiopia. The senior management team met with the Caritas Australia representatives at the National Office on April 8th, 2024.



# Women and Family Affairs

- Compiled ECC-SDCO Branch offices Women Empowerment and Social rehabilitation sector reports
- Compiled and report Grow Project Six month accomplishment to NEWA
- Facilitate MoU signing with four Freedom Fund partners implementing CDW Project
- Conduct Monitoring and Supervise KII with ACS
- Conduct Monitoring Visit and refresher training for Young graduates in Jimma Bonga
- Conduct Biannual Learning Forum with key stakeholders on the legal framework for CDWs
- Commemorate International Women’s Day for all CBCE staffs
- Participate in inclusive peace training and March 8 commemoration with IRCE

## Plan

- Submit Quarterly report to Freedom Fund
- Submit financial report to NEWA
- Conduct Review meeting at ACS
- Conduct monitoring of risk assessment, KII and behavioral change assessment tool application
- Consultation meeting with MoU signing Partners
- Work on Strategic plan on empowerment and inclusion
- Develop Project proposal



## Ethiopian Catholic Church

# Ten-Year Plan

The National Strategy Execution Committee (NSEC) has been working hard and leading the Strategy Working Groups (SWG’s) to develop plans for the ten areas of the strategy:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Governance                                  | • Education  |
| • Pastoral                                    | • Health   |
| • Social (including Social Integration)       | • Plus the four cross-cutting Systemic Competencies: Safeguarding, |
| • Operations (HR, Finance and Sustainability) | MEAL, Empowerment & Inclusion, Communications & Advocacy           |

Almost all draft plans have been finalized, reviewed, feedback given and have been updated.

On Monday, April 8th, an all-day NSEC retreat was held with the objective of reviewing all plans from key dimensions and providing feedback – i.e., vis-à-vis drivers of change, opportunities and risks, integration of cross-cutting systemic competencies, sequencing – as well as final planning before the workshop which begins in April 16th. Notably, the preparation of that workshop is nearly complete, with participants numbering around 100 and with an overall goal of joining efforts across the Church in Ethiopia in moving forward with the implementation of the ECC Ten-Year Plan (ECC-TYP) which was approved by the Bishops last year.



# Safeguarding

- Provision of training in two dioceses (Hosanna and Bahirdar) 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 two dioceses (Hosanna and Bahirdar) for diocesan Child protection officers, school coordinators and parish priests on the developed guideline of compliant and feedback mechanisms.
- Attend training on Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) and PSEA organized by UN Women at Bishoftu from 25 – 31 of march 2024
- Attend zoom with partner (PORTICUS – Africa)
- Distribution of IEC materials to diocesan offices
- Finalization of the three year strategic plan
- Finalization of internal organizational assessment facilitated by PORTICUS -Africa with the purpose of providing non-financial support on the areas of Governance strategy and risk management , financial management and system, Program monitoring and evaluation, and people and performance.
- Diocesan support and follow up on safeguarding policy activity implementation

## Plan

- Finalization and submission of new project proposal to partner
- Attend annual review meeting on Child safeguarding workshop organized by DKA Austria from April 3 – 4/2024 at Bishoftu
- Conduct fiscal visit to Diocesan offices
- Displaying of safeguarding information material at the national office
- Continue diocesan follow up and support on the implementation of safeguarding policy activity at diocesan level
- Attend and facilitate the strategic execution workshop
- Attend online meeting/assessment on safeguarding policy organized by AMECEA
- Join and participate in Safeguarding Learning Review and serve as an Advisory Group Member for Porticus supported project (safeguarding) in Ethiopia.



*Training Session in Bahirdar*



*Training Session in Hosanna*



*GiHA & PSEA Training session at Bishoftu organized by UN Women*

# Health

February and March /2024

- **Training provided to selected Catholic Health Facility health Professional on Infection Prevention**

Infection prevention training was provided to Health professional working in Catholic Health Facilities at Wolliso St. Luke General Hospital, Nursing and Midwifery collage. The intention was to prevent Nosocomial infection from patients, visitors and Relatives. It is also very important to prevent community based infection and keeping this in mind this training was organized giving priority to patients' safety. Diocesan support and follow up on safeguarding policy activity implementation



- **2024 Fiscal Year ECC-SDCO National and Branch office Annual health plan prepared and submitted**

ECC-SDCO Health annual plan for the fiscal year 2024 has been prepared and submitted to National office planning and Monitoring unit so that that the PEM unit companies and present to the concerned body. On the same way the branch office health program plan of the fiscal year 2024 is also compiled and submitted for further completion as program with other organizational plan for the fiscal year of 2024.

- **ECC-SDCO Health Department 2023 Annual health report prepared and submitted**

The Health department has been implementing different projects to strengthen the health system by under taking activities contribute towards the service enhancement.

Organizing and providing trainings for health workforces to improve health care service provision skills to assure quality and accessible health care services to mother and children. Emergency health response project implemented in war affected areas has been compiled and report submitted to the national PM&E for further completion to be used by decision makers. On the same way the health program and projects implemented in all ECC Branch offices has been reported to us and we compiled and submitted to PM&E so that all the health program performance of 2023 compiled into one report and made ready to present to concerned body.

- **The 3 years ongoing strategic Execution plan for health was done and all activities and indicators were revised and narrated.**

The ongoing, church wide health strategic plan for the coming three year is on progress and SWG has been closely working on it and now we are approaching the first workshop. Working on the document and nurturing is going. The team reached to agreement on the points and all planned activities to accomplish in the coming three years. Activities, indicators and others related issues were revised.

- **Partnership strengthening**

To strengthen partnership the department has been participating in different meeting and workshop. Attending meeting in person with health cluster and online meeting on different issues to establish working partnership. Not only with health cluster but also with NaPAN, and IRC.

## **Plan in April, 2024**

- Organizing workshop on Lobbying and advocacy techniques for Health coordinators and selected health facility managers
- Training provision on under 5 and maternal nutrition counseling for selected Catholic Health Facilities working on MCH Unit
- Training participation on Strategic planning
- Preparing annual report for Partners

# YOUTH

- On March 9th, 2024, in the Eparchy of Bahirdar-Dessie locally themed “Demket” - Night to Shine Program was organized. The program’s focused on God’s love for individuals with special needs and disabilities. The program had various activities such as Holy Mass, stage performances by the region’s association of people with disabilities and special needs, and meal sharing. The program was presented in partnership with CBCE-Youth Office, Eparchy of Bahirdar-Dessie Pastoral Office, and Tim Tebow Foundation from USA.
- New proposals developed, finalized and submitted for donor partners.
- Support and accompaniment of Youth movements - In collaboration with Foclare movement new proposal developed for the local event themed “Gen-Fest Ethiopia 2016”, discussion with YCW- Ethiopia members.
- Attended and actively engaged in different programs with in CBCE – Project launch event at Tullu Fera, March 8 Celebration, Bible week program, and Caritas Ethiopia General Assembly.

- Mobilize youth volunteers to attend awareness raising session organized by Parkinson Patients Support organization and a youth volunteer attended March 8 Celebration by IRCE- Ethiopia.

## Plan

- Pastoral visitation to Adigrat, to cascade peace building workshop and visit the situation.
- Cascading of Peace building workshop to different dioceses (Emdibir, Hosanna, Sodo, Hawassa, Meki, Robe Apostolic Administration - the workshop will be delivered for selected youth leaders.
- Participate in Strategic plan Validation Workshop.
- Organize volunteers’ engagement in different missions and services.
- Attend JISRA Youth Ambassadors meeting, ROACO project working group meeting and discussions with different stakeholders on activities of the ministry office



# HRM

- Prepared and submitted ECC-SDCO Staff List for CHSA Reporting criteria.
- Facilitated Logistics and Catering service for AMECEA Regional meeting here in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.
- Facilitated a welcoming session to Fr. Stephene Okello, SECAM AU Representative in Addis Ababa
- Organized evaluation session for two events took place at the Secretariat Office level
- Facilitated first round staff training session in an identified gap on email and calendar usage, organized by IT Team of the Secretariat.

## Trainings

- Attended Trainings on Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) and Prevention on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) investigation organized by CNPO

## Permits & Visa Facilitation

The following permits for Expatriate Church Personnel have been Facilitated

- 8 New Work Permit & ID Card
- 5 Renewal of Work Permit & ID Card
- Correction on ID Card & Work Permit for 42 expatriates have been processed as per the directive issued by line government office

# Pastoral

- World council of Churches (WCC) has made a half day meeting at the Archbishop’s residence on 18/3/2024. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss on the registration process of Joint Resilience Partnership (JPR). The three Churches have presented their letter of request to be registered and have a legal status for JPR from Government office.
- Ethiopian Bible Society has organized a week long exhibition and Bible week celebration from 25-30 March 2024. CBCE Pastoral Ministry office has actively participated in organizing the exhibition and celebration of Bible week. It was a very successful event where leaders and members of Christian denominations joyfully participated.



- CBCE Pastoral Ministry office is organizing workshops for youth and youth chaplains in Eparchy of Addigrat from 2-7 March and in Soddo Cathedral for the youth and youth chaplains from Soddo, Hossana and Emdibir Eparchy from 8-12 April 2024 on Peace Building and Culture of dialogue.

## IMCS

- Working with 4 Strategic Working Groups on drafting 3 year plan, submitted
- Part of ECC team working on “Bible Week” held from March 25-30, 2024 (support in preparing for the exhibition, explaining the exhibits, taking part in parallel panel programs, logistics, etc)
- Finalize pastoral narrative reports of 2023, collection of photos, letters for PMS
- Follow up on requirements for approved project
- Planning for upcoming Inter Faith Harmony Week as part of the Inter Religious Council of Ethiopia Youth for Peace Forum
- Researching / consulting on safeguarding
- Took part in meeting held between the ECC and the Minister of Education



### Plan

- Assess ECC engagement in Inter Faith Harmony Week through IRCE Youth for Peace Forum
- Organize a national gathering of student representatives in collaboration with ACS
- Report on safeguarding research results
- Take part in First Strategy Execution Workshop
- Support PMS incoming national director
- Work on IMCS Database
- Deal with other issues as they arise



# Migration

- Migrant returnee, domestic workers and vulnerable women joint project started in 2018 is completed.
- More than 40 vulnerable women had been assisted in March, 2024.
- Attended the validation workshop on CSOs collected national dialogue agenda.
- Three days basic business skill (BBS) training for IGA candidates in Soddo by the Loving Home project.
- Safe migration training for youth from different parishes and schools in Hosanna.
- Business briefing session for IGA candidates in Hosanna.
- Training for Zonal stakeholders on safe migration and life skill.
- Training for Woreda stakeholders and community elders on how to cooperate on working the same issue.

## Plan

- Monitoring visit and meeting of Loving Home project at three dioceses from April 11-14, 2024
- Prepare project on migration call for proposal in collaboration with CBCE-GS women and family affair department

# Returnees

- ECCSDCO has recently entered into a partnership agreement with Caritas Belgium for the European Reintegration Program (EURP) project. This collaboration is set to last for a year and will focus on providing essential reintegration services for returnees, with a special focus on temporary accommodation, business startup, and psychosocial support.
- Under the EURP project, ECCSDCO and Caritas Belgium will be working closely together to ensure the successful reintegration and smooth transition of migrants returning to their home countries. As part of this initiative, ECCSDCO is set to receive 33 returnees from various European countries.
- The reintegration budget for this project is projected to exceed Euro 100,000, however, this figure may vary depending on the nature of the project.

## Plan

- On April 1st, 2024, ECCSDCO will welcome its first forced returnee from Sweden. ECCSDCO will offer the returnee temporary housing support and assistance in establishing a small business



# Food Security

## 1.1 Food Security

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

- The project document is finalized and submitted to ATI
- Agreement will be signed with ATI in April
- 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.
- The 2023 consolidated report of both emergency and food security projects have been prepared and finalized.

## 1.2 Humanitarian and Emergency Response

- Evaluation and final audit of EA 25 is ongoing and will be finalized in April 2024
- 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. However, agreement to be signed is pending as the expected fund for this project is not secured as planned. It is agreed to review and plan the while project based on the fund secured so far.

## 1.3 Accompany Caritas Africa Zonal Representative meeting held in Addis Ababa

-  CaritasAfricaorganizedaZoonRepresentative meeting here in Addis Ababa from March 18th to 22, 2024. ECC SDCO accompany and participate on this meeting during the meeting. The Zonal representatives were representing Zones of CA under the Regional Office of Caritas Africa, and they were delegated from Benin, Cameroun, Comoros, Togo, CI Secretariat in Rome, Cartas Africa, Mozambique, Rwanda, Malawi, Tanzania, Senegal, and Niger

### Plan

- Sign project agreement with 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 based on the available fund at hand.
- Accompany Caritas Australia visiting delegation to Bonga and Emdebir
- Finalize the base line survey of CLEAR project.
- Attend, different Cluster Coordination and other working group meetings

# Communications

- **New Documentary:** A 45-minute documentary was produced featuring interviews and profiles related to project achievements in Tulu Fera. This includes the 18 families of the victims of the Ethiopian Airlines ET302 airplane crash in March 2024 provided the project funding with BCIF.
- **Ongoing IT Training:** A two-hour monthly IT training program for staff was initiated by the IT Unit. The first session covered effective use of organizational email on March 1st and 4th, 2024. The upcoming session on April 9th, 2024, will focus on best practices for collaboration using Office 365.



- **Fikir ena Selam/ Link Updates:**  
**March & April Publications:** The Fikir ena Selam team successfully published the March 2024 monthly newspaper and is currently working on the April 2024 edition.  
**Increased Visibility:** Fikir ena Selam gained exposure during the Ethiopian Bible Society's Bible Week held from March 25th to 30th, 2024.
- The Communications Team is actively collaborating with PAX Catholic TV to expand media coverage across digital and print platforms, ultimately aiming to increase the Church's visibility.

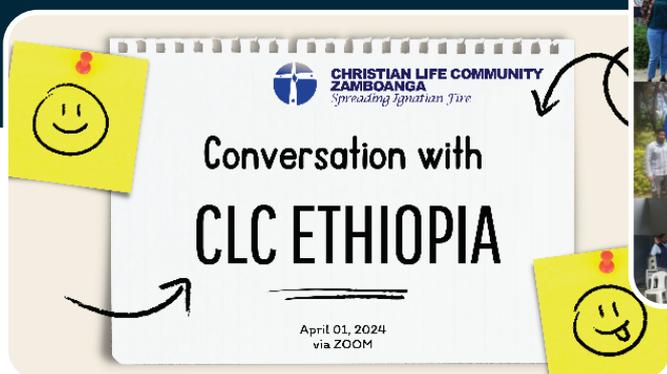
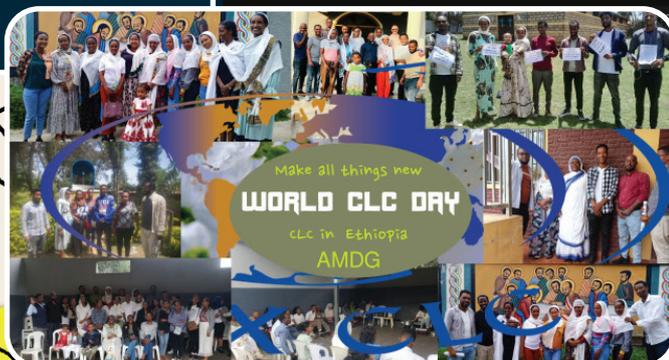
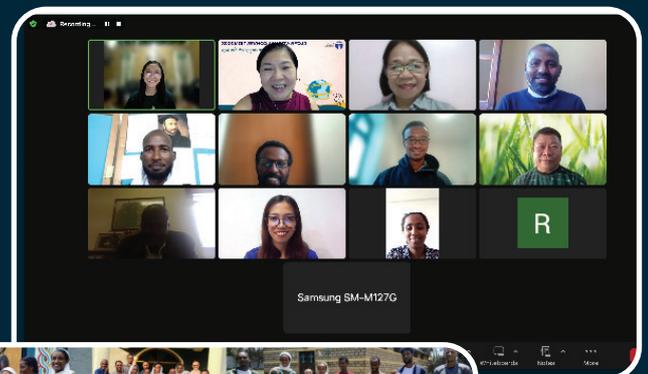


# CLC

- As a newly opened office, we are purchasing necessary office equipment.
- The office has established a formation team to develop adequate formation materials and provide formation sessions for members of the Christian Life Community and others as needed.
- On March 23, the World CLC Day was celebrated globally. CLC in Ethiopia participated by sharing and discerning paths for hope among various communities. The office facilitated document translations and followed up on program activities.
- A Zoom meeting was held between CLC Ethiopia and CLC Philippines (Zamboanga) to share experiences and explore collaboration opportunities in apostolate activities and missions.
- Efforts were made to gather data for the community database, and almost 90% has finished.
- Visitation and formation activities were conducted for the Dilla community and the parish of Mary Help of Christians in Dilla.
- The communities in Hawassa and Meki conducted a 3-day retreat at Tikur Wuha Retreat Center.
- Encouraging members to spent fruitful lenten season by providing guiding materials

## Plan for April

- Facilitating a Lenten time 3-day retreat for the Hossana, Jajura, and Shone communities from April 12-14 in Hossana.
- Planning and preparing the program for an 8-day retreat and identifying a suitable venue.
- Organizing a formators formation and discernment day.
- Drafting a project proposal for ongoing formation activities.
- Preparation to accompany and support people in need who are living around Entoto Mariam, which will be held on the eve of Palm Sunday.



## Internal Audit

### Audit Report Collection:

- The collection of audit reports for the 2023 fiscal year is progressing well.
- Eleven dioceses and two congregations submitted their reports by the due date.
- Two additional dioceses have recently submitted their reports.

### Plan

- The remaining three dioceses are still finalizing their audit reports.
- The plan for April 2024 remains to consolidate all received audit reports and send them to external auditors for review.

# MEAL

The CBCE MEAL office executed lots of compliance-based activities in the month of March, 2024. It was a busy month, during which time the office had to:

## 1. Coordinate 2024 FY Annual Reports

- Produced reporting templates usable both at the national and diocesan secretariats ECC-SDCO branch offices and shared so that fiscal year 2024 annual reports are delivered within time, processed and consolidated as one document for submission to the Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ASCOS) before 31st March 2024.
- In the same manner, a detailed reporting template of the ASCOs was completed by all ECC-SDCO branch offices and the national office programme departments, finance and HR, processed and consolidated as one document and submitted to the Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ASCOS) before 31st March 2024;

In summary, the office coordinated and consolidated three different but very closely interrelated annual reports. These are:

- National office ECC-SDCO programmes, finance and HR report;
- Coordinated branch offices report preparation, sector level consolidation coordination and consolidated as one document by the MEAL office
- Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ASCOS) report

## 2. Took part on coordination and facilitation of ECC-SDCO Board of Governance (BoG) Regular Meeting and member branch offices General Assembly

As per the ECC-SDCO Statute, the MEAL office, in collaboration with the Deputy secretary General and Executive Director of the commission, organized ECC-SDCO Board of Governance Meeting (BoG) on March 25/2024 to discuss on the commission's annual audit as well as the physical reports findings and set agenda items for the General Assembly (GA), held on 28th March 2024.

## 3. Preparation for CBCE-GS Strategic Plan Implementation Phase Workshop

In addition to the above enumerated important events, the office has been engaged on the SP implementation phase workshop preparation, partly working on the MEAL office plan and partly closely working with the NSEC in preparation for the three days' workshop (April 15-19/2024) planned to take place here in Addis.



ECC SDCO General Assembly 2024

# Catholic Bookshop

የቃሉ ውበት : በክቡር አባ ዳንኤል አሰፋ

