



CBCE-GS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*While He
blessed them,
He was parted
from them,
and carried up
into heaven.
(Luke 24:50)*



Management

The CBCE General Secretariat (GS) management team, along with a special committee, ensured a smooth handover process for the outgoing Secretary General His Excellency Abune Lukas and the incoming Rev. Abba Ketema Asfaw in June. A dedicated committee was formed with representatives from Human Resources, Finance, Procurement, Documentation, and Communications. This committee worked diligently throughout the process, culminating in a successful official ceremony. The ceremony itself was led by His Eminence Cardinal Berhaneyesus and included participation from Excellency Bishops and other distinguished guests of the Church. The management team welcomed the New Secretary General Rev. Abba Ketema to his office and pledged their support throughout his tenure. Later on All staff members have officially welcomed him.



Women and Family Affairs

- Financial report prepared and submitted to partner.
- Follow up done to NEWA project in collaboration with three dioceses.
- Follow done on Child Domestic Worker project in Addis Ababa.
- Workshop organized by UN Women on Gender Transformative Approach.
- Training workshop and Review meeting was attended on safeguarding organized by freedom Fund and DKA Ethiopia.
- Planning meeting organized on system change with partners and Freedom Fund.
- Participated in advanced computer training at Debretet.

Plan

- Learning Forum will be organized for partners and government line offices.
- Review meeting will be organized with partners on Child Domestic Workers.
- The team will participate TOT training organized by Conference of Major Religious Superiors.
- Follow ups will be done for current projects in A.A and two diocese.
- The department team will participate in monthly with partners on community of practice.

Safeguarding

- Participate in the advisory team meeting to document the insights gained from the project impact organized by PORTICUS Africa.
- Join the Zoom meeting regarding the Memorare Initiative with the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors African representative.
- Complete the publication of the child protection toolkit intended for use by children.
- Carry on distributing information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to diocesan offices.

Plan

- Finalize the new project proposal
- Compile the final financial and narrative report for Caritas Australia
- Conduct a CBCE safeguarding policy familiarization session for a school community at Ashera, Hosanna
- Organize a CBCE safeguarding policy orientation session for the priest association
- Continue with the follow-up on diocesan safeguarding activity implementation.



Food Security & Emergency Team

1. Food Security

1.1 Signing an Agreement with ATI

The Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and development Commission (ECC SDCO) has signed officially the project agreement in April 2024 with Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI) for a project known as Agriculture-focused Dignified Employment for Youth in Ethiopia (ADEY). Our organization secured fund from the MasterCard Foundation through the Agricultural Transformation Initiative (ATI) amounting to **USD 4,643,600** for a 5-year program for the implementation of ADEY program. This substantial fund will be utilized to implement a project aimed at benefiting the communities in 15 woredas located in Southern Ethiopia, Sidama, Central Ethiopia, and the Southwest Regional States.



The project will be executed through the Ethiopian Catholic Church's branch offices situated in key locations including Hawassa, Soddo, Hossana, Emdebir, and Jimma Bonga. These offices will play a crucial role in overseeing the implementation of the program and ensuring its success on the ground.

One of the main objectives of this initiative is to create decent jobs for a total of 61,570 youths within the target regions. Through various activities and interventions, the project seeks to empower young individuals, enhance their livelihoods, and create sustainable opportunities for their growth and development.

1.2 Advanced Computer Skill Training

The Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission recently conducted a comprehensive Advanced Computer Skills training program at the Debrezeit Management Institute. . This training program was attended by 23 staff members from the national office, as well as branch offices of Emdebir and Jimma Bonga. The training spanned over 5 days from May 27 to May 31, 2024 and covered various important topics including Microsoft Office proficiency, data analysis techniques, and webpage creation.

Participants reported that the training was exceptionally beneficial and well received. It significantly enhanced their understanding and skills in data analysis, Kobo tools utilization, and creating impactful presentations using PowerPoint. The hands-on nature of the program allowed participants to actively engage with the materials and apply their learning directly.

The training program offered has proven to be a valuable opportunity for staff to upgrade their digital literacy and advance their capabilities in utilizing various software tools for enhanced productivity and efficiency. The knowledge gained from this training will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the work carried out by the participants in their respective roles within the organization.



1.3 Accompany partners visit to Diocese

Caritas Australia delegate have made a visit here in Ethiopia and travelled to Jimma Boga and Emdeber to look at the progress of the CLEAR project financially supported by CA. The delegate members were accompanied by the Food Security Team during the visit, which a constructive and paved a way for further funding. ▼

2. Emergency response Project

2.1 EA 35/2023

- This project intends to support the war and drought affected vulnerable communities in Tigray and Amhara
- Project agreement signed at federal level with Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission and copies of the project agreement sent to Amhara and Tigray regional states via our branch offices of Bahirdar-Dessie and Adigrat.
- Fund transfer made to the above-mentioned branch offices so that they can proceed with the implementation of multi-purpose cash and WASH activities as per the project schedule.

2.2 EA25/2022 Emergency Response project

- Terminal audit finalized in April,2024
- Terminal Evaluation conducted in April,2024 and waiting for the final evaluation report from the independent consultant.
- After the finalizing of the report, both audit and terminal evaluation reports will be submitted to Caritas Internationalis (CI).

3. Attend Caritas Internationalis Humanitarian Conference in Athens

Caritas Internationalis arrange a Humanitarian Conference in Athens from April 21st to 25th 2024. Caritas Ethiopia is a member of Caritas Africa Humanitarian Team and invited to attend this Conference. The Humanitarian Conference aims to:

- Celebrate learnings and achievements over the past years responding to humanitarian crises and identify key challenges to address in the new Strategic period.
- Bring participants up to speed with and seek feedback on the Confederation Strategy Humanitarian objectives, Governance Framework (Humanitarian Committee) and revisions undertaken to the Operating Model (Emergency Toolkit and Protocols).
- To deep dive and get participants steer on Humanitarian priority topics for the confederation moving forward building on past work that needs continuity and potential new areas of engagement.

3.1 Summary of Key Take Aways and Recommendations:

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Regionalization: We realize the great importance of the role of regions, and it should be further enhanced.

National Expertise and knowledge sharing: Very impressed by the Indonesia "One Caritas Response" model! And Latin America DRR expertise

Localization: Localization needs to be put into practice, but the Confederation must understand local capacities, which are often extremely strong in specific areas.

Humanitarian Mandate:

- Reaffirmation of the Emergency Appeal (EA) as a great tool for joint responses and coordination
- Rapid responses need to be rapid
- Reinforced a spirit of not being alone in humanitarian response

Context adaptation: Presentation of useful approaches that can be adapted to our context, but at the same time, we feel on the same page

3.1.2 Recommendations:

Emergency Appeal (EA): review to make more strategic and more in line with the spirit of the one Caritas, roll out the revised toolkit and initiate the process for establishing formally the CHAT mechanisms

Localization: Review Commitments document and ensure there is a monitoring on their application

Safe and Dignified Programming: Remains a critical area to keep prioritizing building on 10 years of work and knowledge generation. To feature in HC workplan

Reporting: Thank you for carefully taking into consideration all the inputs from this two-day meeting, and please report to us soon

Knowledge Management and Generation: So many ideas and good practices existing already! Make sure they are better known and shared.

Tools: Review and re-evaluate templates and tools, and make sure they are not overcomplicated.

Strategic Coordination:

- In coordination with other committees and the CI General Secretariat, develop an organigram of committees, task forces, and working groups with contact information and share it with all Caritas. The organigram should include a brief on the structures, roles, and responsibilities of these systems.
- HC members need to act as regional representatives, feeding back to members in the region. Making sure cascading of info: especially on HAF, CHAT, etc.

Manage expectations: We need to be mindful of what we expect/request from regions (looking at their available resources)

Health

- Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and development Commission national Health department has been implementing different health activities from April 1st 2024 to May 31st 2024. The main activities implemented among others in April & May, 2024 are:-
1. Conducted advocacy and lobbying techniques to Diocesan health Coordinators and selected health Facility managers.
 - The purpose of this workshop was to improve the capacity of data collection at health care facilities level in order to make evidence based lobbying and advocacy. Making evidence based lobbying and advocacy helps to partnerships with stakeholders. It also improves visibility of Catholic Health facilities and their contribution in health service delivery to Ethiopian peoples.
 2. Conducted Maternal and under 5 nutritional counseling training for Catholic Health professionals working on Maternal and Child health (MCH) unit
 - The training aim was to improve mothers and children nutritional status screening capacity for Catholic Health professionals working on MCH unit.
 3. Strategic Planning workshop participation:
 - Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission health department at national level and some health coordinators from diocesan level as well as health facility managers participated on 3 years strategic Planning workshop.
 4. Report preparation and Submission
 - All health system strengthening project implemented activities and financial costs were prepared and submitted to donor.

Plan for June

1. Securing fund for the next year Project activities
2. Project proposal writing depending on demands

Reintegration Returnee Assistance

From 1st April 2024 until May 2024, ECCSDCO welcomed a total of 19 returnees from Germany, Poland, and Sweden. Out of these, 12 returnees received post-arrival assistance, 3 were provided with airport pickups, and 4 benefited from reintegration support based on their reintegration plans.

Visit of Swedish Police and EU Liaison Officer

On May 14th, Swedish police officials and the EU Liaison Officer visited ECCSDCO Head Office to discuss the new EURP project.

Engagement with EU Delegations:

ECCSDCO was privileged to participate in a meeting with EU delegations at the Norwegian Embassy on May 22, 2024. The meeting was centered around discussing the new project of EURP and exploring potential collaboration opportunities.



On June 6th, the Swedish Foreign Affairs and Swedish Migration Agency visited ECCSDCO.

Plan

- ECCSDCO has a plan to welcome 3 returnees from various European countries, with 2 airport pickups arranged and 4 reintegration assistance programs to be implemented.

Family, Laity and Youth

5th year anniversary of the Apostolic Exhortation “Christ is Alive” was celebrated in an International Youth Congress held in Rome, Italy.

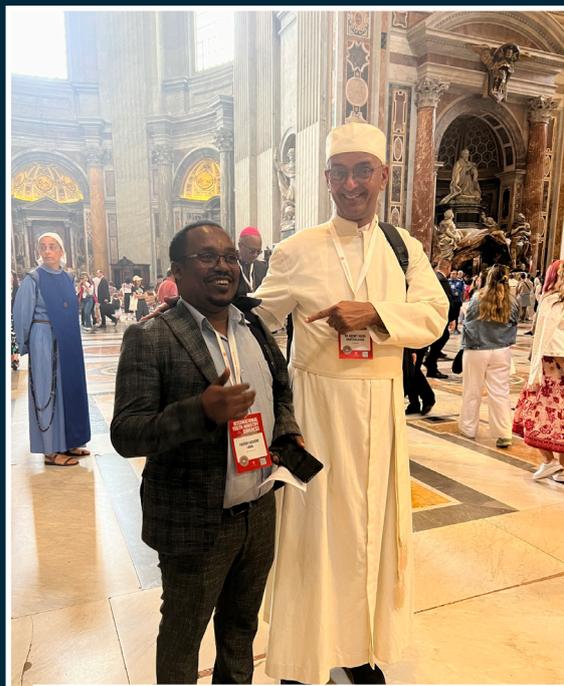
The International Youth Ministry Congress in Rome from May 22nd to 26th, 2024, brought together over 300 delegates from 100+ nations. Rev Fr Abenet Abebe CM, the National Director of Ethiopian Catholic Church Family, Laity and Youth office and Mr. Fasika Lachore Laba of IMCS Pax Romana added valuable insights. The congress focused on Vocational Discernment, emphasizing youth’s pivotal role in evangelization.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, representing the Pope, highlighted the significance of youth engagement and synodality. Discussions centered on igniting enthusiasm, innovative communication, and fresh pastoral approaches. Dynamic exchanges among youth leaders and chaplains shaped the agenda.

Pope Francis urged attendees to embrace joy, authenticity, and discernment in their faith journeys. Activities on synodality and community-building deepened understanding, guided by Sr. Nathalie Becquart’s insights.

The congress concluded with Cardinal Farrell’s reflections and a communal dinner. Participants left with renewed commitment to implement new strategies for vibrant youth communities globally. Rev Fr Abenet Abebe CM and Mr. Fasika Lachore Laba’s contributions enriched the congress’s impact.

Besides, Abba ABENET met in Rome Mr Goi and Charm coordinator of Couples For Christ (CFC) and discussed how they will work in the spirit of International Synodality and strengthen the Family Apostolate in Ethiopia.



Youth

- Pastoral team meetings to review feedback from the first strategic execution workshop.
- Review and preparatory meetings with Ethiopian Women of Faith Network (EWOFN) Coordination Committee.
- Follow up on Scholarship applicants of the academic year 2024/ 2025, created a networking platform for applicants to ease communication.
- Attended monthly SCPR & IT departments capacity building training- on Effective Meeting Management.
- Translation and Proofreading team completed the first part of a resource book “Navigating with God”. The full version of the book is now under work by the team.
- Attended a workshop organized by AMECEA to Empower Youth Leaders on the effective implementation of Pope’s Encyclical Laudato si’. The workshop took place in Dar es Salam, Tanzania.
- Capacity Building training for youth leaders from the Archdiocese of Addis Ababa, Mekele, Hawassa, Harer and Robe on Peace building and promoting a culture of dialogue. The workshop was conducted from May 27- 30/2024, at Mojo Pastoral Center.
- Assisted Focolare Movement in the preparation of the First World Children’s Day Celebration in Addis Ababa on May 25th/ 2024. ▼



AMECEA Workshop



EWoFN CC

World Childrens' Day



Plan

- Capacity building training for youth leaders in four dioceses will continue.
- Continue working with Ethiopian Women of Faith Network (EWoFN) - Attend an exchange workshop with African Women of Faith Network Members.
- Translation and Proofreading team will continue working on the resource book "Navigating with God".
- Work on project reports and plans.
- Attend monthly SPCR & IT department capacity building training, department meetings and Pastoral team meetings.
- Mobilize volunteers for different requests.

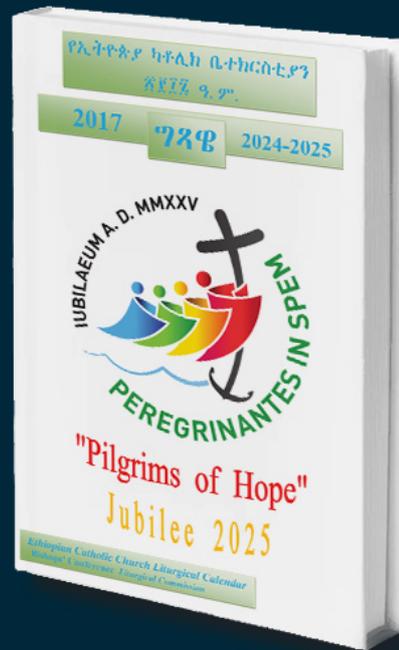
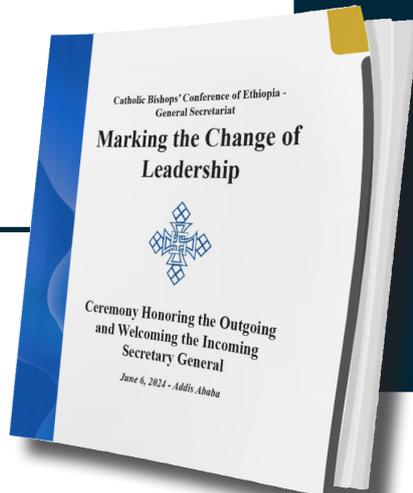
Communications

Communications Department Busy in May! The Communications Department has been a hive of activity this May! Here's a look at what we've been up to:

- Fikir ena Selam / Link Newspaper: The May edition of the newspaper was published, focusing on articles about Holy Mary, as May is dedicated to her.
- Leadership Change Booklet: The department facilitated the creation of a Booklet of marking a leadership change within CBCE-GS, of the incoming Secretary General and the outgoing one. The communications team took the lead in writing, editing, and designing the booklet, which was then printed by ECS Printing Press.
- Training and Development: The department is committed to continuous learning. In May, Ato Gebru and Ato Zelalem, along with 20 other staff members, participated in a week-long advanced computer skills training program held at the Ethiopian Management Institute in Bishoftu (May 27th to May 31st, 2024). The training was facilitated by the Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Office. Additionally, Miss Chereka attended a special Synod Training on Synodality for Catholic Radio and Television personnel on Saturday, May 25th, 2024.



Printing





Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ethiopia