



CBCE-GS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him;
and he will shew them his covenant.”*

Ps. 25:14



Justice and Peace

MHPSS

Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World), Caritas Germany, and Misereor, all German Church-based relief and development organizations in cooperation with Caritas Ethiopia hosted a learning and conference event, presenting research on Church-based mental health and psychosocial support interventions in Ethiopia's Amhara, Oromiya, and Tigray regions. This learning and conference event aimed to: Share the research findings and recommendations to promote networking and raise awareness about mental health and psychosocial support in Church-based organizations in Amhara, Oromiya and Tigray Regional States emphasizing the values of locally driven trauma healing initiatives. It provided a space for mutual learning, exchanging experiences and networking among the participants. The event that took place on 18th of June, 2024 at Hilton brought together Church representatives, religious leaders, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, and mental health service providers.

The discussions focused on findings of the study conducted in the aforementioned regional states and sharing experiences from Church based actors especially in their engagements with IDPs, and with those who underwent trauma experiences as a result of the war that waged in different parts of the country more specifically in the northern and western part of Ethiopia.

The conference was part of the feedback workshop which took place at Caritas Ethiopia from 17th until 21st of June, 2024. Caritas Ethiopia was one of the organisations which also has been interviewed and very much involved in facilitating this event and workshop. This event marked the conclusion of a research initiative that began in January 2024, in collaboration with various Church-based organizations active in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). The idea of the workshop was to get to know each other amongst the partners, discuss with and learn from each other's experiences in the field of MHPSS. Furthermore, the idea was to provide a platform for planning further actions and potential joint interventions. To offer self-care and team care given the challenges of helpers in dealing with ongoing suffering and insecurity.



Cohesion between the Tree & Stone

The tree you see above grew on a rock. We saw this stone when we went to Debrezeit to participate in the workshop organized by the Department of Justice and Peace from 2nd July to 4th July 2024. When we think in our habitual mind, we may think how a tree can grow on a rock. But when we look at it with our spiritual eyes, we may not be surprised, because the substance/source from which both are made is the same. This tree is located in the Galilee center monastery in Debrezeit.

When I took this picture of a tree with my phone camera, the thought that came to my mind was; At first, I think that was the soil should have supported the tree trunks and made them grow. So, if this stone can support and embrace these tree trunks, why is it impossible for humans to live harmoniously like the stone & tree?

I think this disharmony between two individuals, between two groups is the main cause of the conflicts that are seen in different places in our country at the moment. The other is that we do not know the grace that has been given to us like the tree and rocks.

Our desert fathers like St. Francis showed us love by even taming

the wild beast. 'Brother wolf, I bid you in the name of Jesus Christ come now with me, nothing doubting, and let us go establish this peace in God's name.' And the wolf obedient set forth with him.

Having Realized that it has no difference with all other creations, the tree did not doubt that it could grow on a stone, and the stone did not say that this tree cannot grow on me because it does not belong to my tribe. When we consider the condition of the stone and the tree to be support and hold each other, it is impossible by the law of Biology. Because the principle of Biology says that living things are not related to non-living things. But nothing impossible for God.

It's not without reason that I picked up this amazing combination of stone and tree. The Ethiopian Catholic Church Development Commission (ECC-SDCO) Justice and Peace Program activities are analogous to the story of the stone and the tree. The Justice and peace department does not believe that humanitarian work will end conflict. In fact, the department believes that humanitarian work can have positive and negative effects in the conflict dynamics. If not carefully calibrated, the targeting of beneficiaries, procurement of supplies, delivery of service and re-settlement of displaced people can have negative impacts on conflict dynamics. Similarly, the provision of humanitarian assistance can have a positive impact by reducing tensions and preventing competition over resources.

Safeguarding

- Provision of training in two dioceses (Soddo and Gambella) 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
- Finalized new project proposal
- Compiled and Finalized narrative and financial report for Caritas Australia and PORTICUS Africa project.
- Attended PORTICUS Africa project learning advisory zoom meeting
- Diocesan follow up
- Finalized "Memorare Initiative" (MI) MoU signing
- Attend UN Child protection AoR cluster meeting

Plan

- Finalize additional new project.
- Distribution of remaining IEC Material
- Finalize publication of CFRM document
- Purchase and Place safeguarding compliant suggestion boxes
- Attend UN cluster meeting
- Continue with the follow-up on diocesan safeguarding activity implementation.



Training Session at Apostolic Vicariate of Gambella (AVG) (Photo Credit AVG)



Training Session at Apostolic Vicariate of Soddo (AVS) (Photo Credit AVS)

Health

July Implemented Activities

1. St. Luke Catholic Hospital and College of Nursing and Midwifery 5 years Project Agreement with Government Completed

Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission Health Department Completed 5 years project Agreement with Oromia Regional state Bureau of Finance and Health Bureau. The ECC-SDCO health Department after improving the project into Government standard, both Bureau of Finance and Health Bureau of Oromia regional state accepted the Project proposal and Agreed on the activities.

Project Name: St. Luke Catholic Hospital and College of Nursing and Midwifery for adequate response to new and Old health care needs of the Communities.

Project Goal

To contribute for the improvement of the health level of the population reducing the burden of disability adjusted life years in the project area for old and emerging diseases and promote training activity aimed at mitigating the shortage of health professionals (especially Midwives and Clinical Nurses), in collaboration with the Oromia Region Health Bureau.

Project beneficiaries:

*Direct Beneficiaries:-*342,500

Indirect beneficiaries: 1,415,915

Project Budget: - 624,946,838 ETB

Project Life:- 5 years/ July 1st 2024 to June 30th 2029

2. Staff Participation on training

One staff of ECC-SDCO health department participated on training Facilitated by WHO for one Day at Elilly Hotel, Addis Ababa. The Topic of the training was PIMS(Pharmaceutical Information Management System
The PIMS is software useful to

- Complete visibility into the movement of pharmaceuticals, from the central warehouse to all points of dispensaries.
- Readily Available reports and statistical analysis, to facilitate both internal decision making and external communications.
- Standardization in the flow of commodities and information, minimizing the number of steps in the supply-chain process and increase efficiency
- Improved patient and health worker experience by supporting the practices pharmacoVigilance and rational prescribing and dispensing

3. Preparing Project Proposal

ECC-SDCO health department has prepared project proposal with 3 years project phase on cervical cancer prevention which is going to benefit 3000,000 girls and women by promoting vaccination, screening and treatment.

August Month Plan

- Securing funds for one year on health system strengthening project
- Approaching different partners on already on desk project proposals

Pastoral

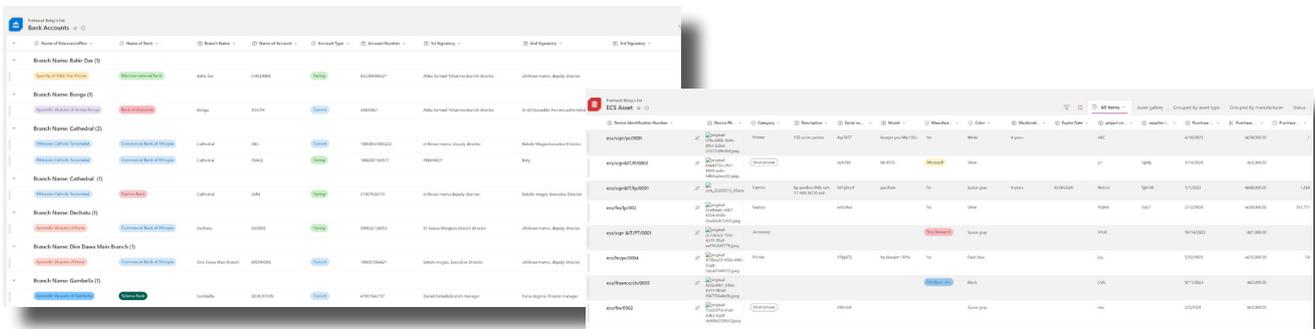
Meeting of SECAM with Regional and National Secretaries General was held in Brazzaville – Republic of Congo from 24 -29 July 2024. CBCE was represented by Abba Abera Makebo, Deputy Secretary General. He has shared to the participants the socio – political and ecclesial situation, as well as the achievements and challenges of Ethiopian Catholic Church. The main theme of the meeting was: “SECAM, A PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF SYNODALITY” The Church in Africa towards 2050”. The four working days of the meeting were consecrated to draft a vision of the Church - Family of God in Africa and its Islands 2025 – 2050. The draft document focuses on six areas: Evangelization, Ongoing formation for God’s People and co-responsibility in the Church, Peace, Justice and Integral development, Climate and Environment, Ecumenism and Inter-Religious dialogue and Communication (Technology and Digital Evangelization).



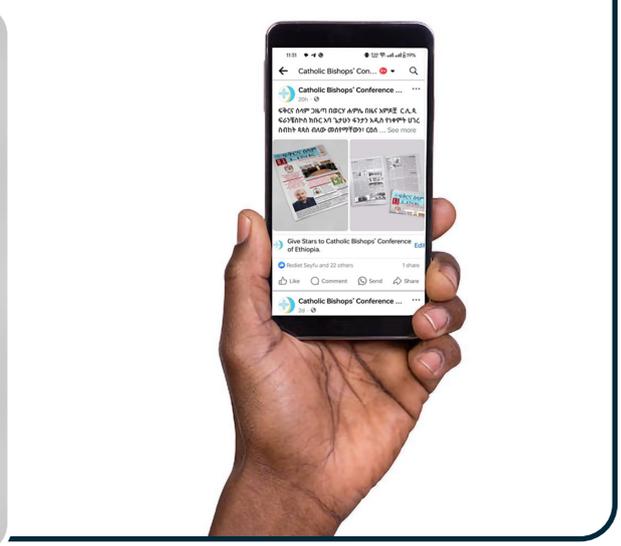
Social Communications, PR, and IT

The CBCE-GS Database Unit is launching a new Microsoft List platform to streamline Human Resources, Asset Management, and Finance operations.

This centralized system will consolidate staff information, asset records, and bank signatory details. To ensure a smooth transition, the unit conducted an initial rollout with staff including the ECC SDCO Director, department heads, and MEAL representatives. The implementation process will involve collaborative discussions with each department to refine workflows, make necessary design adjustments, and provide comprehensive training. Once the National Office has established a successful model, the platform will be expanded to all dioceses and congregations.



Published Newspaper and online advertizing



Youth

- On July 1st / 2024 organized virtual information sharing session for Hungary Scholarship successful applicants. The session focuses on the following processes of the application and experience has been shared from a previous scholarship holder who is currently in Hungary doing his studies.
- Facilitated and attended GEN-FEST Youth Festival organized by Focolare Movement. The festival was organized in the Apostolic Vicariate of Hawassa, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and Youth Center from July 19 – 23/ 2024. The festival included Prayers, Formation programs on peace building and conflict resolution, Pro-life- teachings of the Catholic Church about Life and inputs and practical activities on Laudato’si that include planting trees and cleaning the lake side of Hawassa lake and Charity activities that fully engaged the youth and help them stay alive in the whole duration of the festival and their young ages. The program had more than 100 participants from 4 dioceses.
- Attended general staff meeting, monthly SCPR&IT department capacity building training
- Project reports, new proposal developments are undergoing.
- Support and accompaniment for Youths

Plan

- Capacity building workshop for youth chaplains and leaders from three dioceses in the Apostolic Vicariate of Jimma Bonga.
- New project proposal development
- Translation and Proofreading team will continue working on the resource book “Navigating with God”
- Support and accompaniment for Youths
- Attend monthly SCPR & IT department capacity building training, department meetings and Pastoral team meetings.
- Mobilize volunteers for different requests



Successful Scholarship applicants of the Ethiopian Catholic Church From the Hungary Helps Agency in the Academic Year 2024/2025



Hermona Benyam

Who applied for International Relations in the Master's degree program in Budapest Business University, received the Scholarship from Stipendium Hungaricum, she is from the Archdioceses of Addis Ababa.



Honey Asrat

Who applied for Computer Science in the Master's degree program in ELTE University, received the Scholarship from SCYP framework, he is from the Apostolic Vicariate of Sodo.



Mechal Timotewos

Who applied for Computer Science in Master's degree program in Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), received a Scholarship from Stipendium Hungaricum, he is from the Eparchy of Bahirdar-Dessie.



Bereket Amanuel

Who applied for Environmental Engineering in Master's degree program in Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Science, received the Scholarship from Stipendium Hungaricum, he is from the Apostolic Vicariate of Hossana.

The National Youth Ministry Office Would Like To Congratulate You On The Educational Scholarship You Have Been Awarded. We Wish You A Productive Study Time In Hungary, And Encourage You To Be Ready To Serve Your Church And Your Country On Your Return.

GEN-FEST Youth Festival





Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ethiopia