



CRDA NEWS

June—July 2008

Together for a Better Future

Civil Society’s Discussion with Premier Kindles Some Hope of Amendments on Draft Proclamation - **Some Remain Unchanged*



P.M Melese Zenawi

Based on an eight page general and 32 pages detail commentaries developed

through consecutive meetings of civil society and submitted to Ministry of Justice /MoJ/, a two round discussion was held with H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi at the Premier’s Office on May 28, 2008 and June 4, 2008 to seek ways of amending the draft Charities and Societies Proclamation. The discussion kindled some hopes of revision on the preamble, some articles of sanctions as well as other administrative issues. However, issues of classification

of organizations as *foreign* and *domestic* depending on their income source, along with the provisions attached to them by and large remain unchanged. The detail 32 pages Commentaries developed by the National Civil Society Taskforce established from CRDA constituency, other network NGOs, international and faith based organizations, etc. focused on general constitutional rights, the Ethiopian government view and its policy

direction with regard to NGO & CSOs, examination of the law against the benchmarks of any progressive civil society legislation and other article by article analyses of administrative issues. During the discussion also representatives of the Civil Society Organizations strongly questioned the appropriateness of classification of organizations as foreign/international and domestic/...

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Dr. Meshesha Vows to Bring Changes in CRDA

Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, the new director of CRDA, expressed his commitment to bring about the desired change and put the Association into a new height by working with all internal and external stakeholders on the priority issues designated by the Association. This was disclosed on the Staff-Director introduction meeting organized at the CRDA on May 7, 2008. Introducing him to the staff, Ato Yabowerk Haile, Board Chairman, of the Association noted that ...



Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, Director of CRDA

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CRDA Membership Assembly Approved Reports, Conducted Election, Discussed on Legislation

The CRDA 227th Membership Assembly heard and approved the year 2007 physical and audited financial reports and elected four Board members for the coming two year terms in its regular meeting conducted here at the CRDA Conference Hall on July 25, 2008. The Assembly further discussed on the process and progress report on the CRDA and CSO taskforce’s endeavor to amend the Draft Charities and Legislation ...*Cont'd to p. 4*



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MoJ Released the Revised Draft Legislation, *CSO Taskforce Sent Additional Comments*

After a series of consultations with the Civil Society taskforce and a two round Civil Society Versus Premier discussion, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has released a revised version of Charities and Societies Proclamation from June 20, 2008 onwards. The CSO Taskforce has sent additional 10 pages comments to further refine the revised version.

The revised version of the draft proclamation has only 117 articles. Much of the civil society comments are said to have been incorporated in the draft. The preamble of the revised version, which reflects and justifies the overall purpose of the legislation and informs the designing of detail policy and technical matters is now changed into a more supportive, enabling type which recognizes the contributions, and role of civil society organizations. NGOs established or run by Ethiopian and mobilize more than 10% of their revenues shall be termed as not 'foreign' like the former version but "Ethiopian Residents Charities or Societies."

The objective, the duties and responsibilities of the pro-

posed agency are also now toned down and directed into a supportive supervisory role than absolute control and intervention in the civil society organizations.

In the former draft, there was a provision to form a 'Council' under the agency and comprising of only sector administrators and other government bodies. In the new version it is now changed into 'Charity and Society Board' and two of the seven members designated as Board members shall be from the civil society organizations. However, these two CSO members are still to be selected by the government discretion.

The revised version under article 3:2 also explicitly excludes religious institutions, bilateral NGOs, Communal grassroots Associations such as 'Idir' and 'Iqub' from its scope of applications. Accordingly, the former contention and doubts as to how it might affect the independence of religious institutions now seems resolved.

The purposes of charitable organizations which were defined under article 16:3 of the former version are now

included under article 14:2 in the revised version with more elaborations. Nevertheless, some of the purposes relating to the advancement of human and democratic rights, ensuring equality of nation nationalities, ensuring observance of the rights of children, the disabled, conflict resolution, and promotion of the efficiency of justice and law enforcement service are allowed only to Ethiopian NGOs who generate more than 90% of their assets from local sources.

The revised version in its article 9:3 has allowed administrative appeal on the decision of the Director of the Agency. Moreover, the renewal of license which was formerly set up to be every year is now changed into every three years.

The CSO Taskforce on its part appreciated the incorporation of series of comments in the revised version and forwarded additional 10 pages comments comprising of 35 points to further refine the law. The comment among the others focused on refining the definition of terms like 'officer', 'foreign

money', 'program or project work', 'administrative expenses'. In the scope of application also the commentary requested the exception of regional offices and other Associations governed under other laws. The taskforce further requested the inclusion of balanced number of CSO representatives in the Board.

In addition, it requested amendments on issues relating to the power of the Agency, membership in the Civil Society Associations, opening of branches, designation of auditors, organizing general meetings, registration procedures, loosening administrative measures stipulated under article 104 to 108 of the revised version etc...

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CRDA Reinvigorating Forums and Regional Liaison Offices

As part of its overall institutional revitalization process, CRDA is currently reforming the operation of its forums and regional liaison offices. The strategic direction of the Association now attaches high importance to these organs as they serve as operational arm and effective instrument of representation across various part of the country and different sects of the civil society.

The result of the strategic evaluation carried out at the beginning of the year 2008 and the consecutive discussions held afterwards as well as the consensus built at various levels has motivated a basic reinforcement and reinvigoration of Forums and RLO.

Accordingly, a team led by the Director of CRDA and consisting of the Membership and Networking Development Department /MeNDD/, its respective staff and Forum Coordinators, Regional Liaison Officers were busy from May-July 2008 revitalizing the Forums and RLOs. The following are some of the activities undertaken during the three months' time;

I. Actions that were taken to revitalize the CRDA Forums

The CRDA Forums are platforms organized around different development themes with the purpose of serving the members of the Association to come together for learning, experience sharing and to collectively voice their common concerns. Currently, there are seven Forums namely: Children and Youth Forum, Gender Forum, Good Governance Forum, HIV/AIDS Forum, Rural Development Forum, Urban Development Forum and Water and Sanitation Forum. These forums have been instrumental in enabling CRDA members to advance various development agendas. Accordingly, a number of researches were conducted, workshops were organized and trainings were delivered through the Forums.

However, the forums have experienced certain challenges lately as a result of the protracted change process and the inconducive external environment. Therefore, it was imperative for the department to revitalize and reinvigorate

the forums and get them going with a new energy.

1. Development of the Forums' Service Guideline

It is to be recalled that a guideline that sets the framework for the effective operation of the forums was endorsed by the Board on November 1, 2007. MeNDD has been operationalizing this guideline since May 2008.

2. Elections of New Steering Committees

General Assembly Meetings of all the seven Forums were held in the months of



May, June and July 2008, where elections of new Steering Committee members, Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons were made. The elected Steering Committees and Chairpersons have resumed their responsibilities in their respective forums since then.

3. Formation of working groups under the different Forums

Different Working Groups are being formed within individual Forums with the purpose of setting up teams that will work on specific thematic issues under the Forums. The formation of the Working Groups offers the opportunity to all members of the forums to actively engage in the activities of the forum. Examples in this regard are the three working groups formed under the Water and Sanitation Forum (WSF) on August 1, 2008 namely: Coordination and Networking Thematic Group, Learning, Documentation and Awareness Raising Thematic Group and Research, Advocacy and Lobbying Thematic Group. The other Forums are

also initiating working groups.

4. Preparation of a Five-Month Action Plan

Action plans that run from the month of August to December 2008 were prepared for all the forums in July 15, 2008. The forums will concentrate in implementing this action plan in the coming five months.

5. Identification of Research Issues

The forums are identifying research topics, which will be conducted within the five months period. The implication of the Draft Charities and Societies

proclamation on the operation of the Forums is one of the identified research topics to be embarked upon.

II. Actions taken to bolster the Regional Liaison Offices

The CRDA Regional Liaison Offices (RLOs) represent the Association at the regional levels and they facilitate the Associations' engagement with regional bodies such as regional governments, community based organizations and other development actors. MeNDD has been taking some crucial steps to bolster the three Regional Liaison Offices (East, South and North RLOs), among which are:

1. Development of Regional Platforms Guideline

A guideline that specifies the roles, geographical coverage and structures of the RLOs was developed and approved by the Board on July 10, 2008.

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CRDA NEWS BRIEFS

CRDA's Membership Assembly Approved Reports, Conducted Election Discussed on Legislation

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and the need to redesign the strategic direction of the Association.

The report presented by Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, Director of the CRDA, on the CRDA's physical performance of the year 2007 showed that the Association had carried out multifaceted activities in the designated five key result areas. The activities have somehow helped members of the association located across the nation in building their capacity, facilitating the exchange of information, facilitating collaboration, strengthening their leadership capacity etc. The joint projects managed through the mandated resource management and carried out through members with donor funding are also contributing to the transformation of the socio – economic life of people in different parts of the county. However the strategic evaluations commissioned by donors and carried out at the turn of the last three year program is entailing the association to reorganize and reorient its direction to a more sustainable business model.

Accordingly, the Director noted, in view of the changing legal atmosphere, emerging situation as well as the recommendation of the strategic evaluation and other present and potential challenges, CRDA is in the process of strategic repositioning for which it requires the active support of members, donors and partners.

Ato Gebre Melak Bereded, Audit Manager of Getachew Kassaye & Co. Audit Firm, presented the audited financial performance of the Association and its opinion on the financial performance of the Association. The Assembly discussed on the reports and unanimously approved both. As per the regulations of DPPA, the Assembly has replaced a new audit firm for the coming three year terms.

The CRDA Electoral Committee on its part presented five candidates nominated by members and election for four seats in

the CRDA Board was conducted. Accordingly, Ato Abere Mihrete, Managing Director of Anti- Malaria Association with 100 votes, Wzo. Beletu Mengistu, Executive Director of ISAPSO with 128 votes, Ato Berhanu Geleto, Executive Director of Rift Valley Children and Women Development (member of current Board) with 118 votes and Ato Yabowerk Haile, Executive Director of ACORD (Chairman of current Board) with 125 votes were elected. Ato Regassa Aboma, Head of the CRDA

reiterated in way that recognizes the role of CSOs/NGOs in the national development activities. The revised version has at least altered the naming of local NGOs raising more than 10% of their income from foreign sources into 'Ethiopian Residents Charities and Societies' from the former naming as "Foreign." The objective of the proposed agency is also changed into a more supportive and enabling role, excessive power is toned down. Religious institutions, small community based organizations (CBOs) are clearly



Membership and Networking Development Department/MeNDD/ on his part presented the chronological progress of situations with the draft NGO legislation and indicated the contribution of CRDA in the national CSO task force established for the purpose. Ato Regassa in his presentation said that since the introduction of the official draft version of the legislation, CRDA had organized series of consultative meetings with members and the larger civil society.

The consultation has enabled a compilation and submission of four – rounds comments to the Ministry of Justice and through it to the Prime Minister's Office. In turn, two rounds of discussions were held with the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Justice which resulted in a revised version of the draft legislation.

Ato Regasa said, the revised draft legislation has many improvements starting from its preamble, which is

excluded from the scope of application. The previously intended council is now replaced with a Board and two of the seven Board members are to be representatives of the civil society. The Board is mandated to review administrative appeals on the measures taken by the Agency. The renewal period is prolonged from one year to every three years which enables signing of medium term project agreements.

However, concerns like the classification of citizenship of NGOs based on their source of funding (10 or 90%), some harsh administrative sanctions, banning of 'Ethiopian Residents Charities and Societies' from advocacy work etc. still remain the same. Naming Ethiopian citizen organizations as "Residents" derides the citizenship rights. The power vested in the Agency is till worrying. Ambiguity surrounding the typology of

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CRDA NEWS BRIEFS

RDF Registers Encouraging Results

The former Committee of Rural Development Forum (RDF), one of the seven forums of Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) announced that the forum has registered encouraging results by accomplishing major activities related to Advocacy and Lobbying.

The report presented on the General Assembly of the RDF in CRDA head office on May 21, 2008, by the representative of former steering committee of the forum, Ato Haftu Woldu noted that the committee has organized different panel discussions and workshops to advocate rural issues, commissioned a Training of Trainers (ToT) manual and organized training on Action Research, developed food security and lobby strategy and published studies on food security and Natural Resource management.

He also underlined the need to give due attention to address various problems that affect the smooth operation of the forum. Opening the general meeting, Dr Meshesha Shewarega, Director of Christian Relief and Development Association, assured CRDA's firm stand to support the Rural Development Forum (RDF) for the realization of its object-

ives as well as enhance its contributions to the rural development of the country as a whole.

Dr. Meshesha called up on all stakeholders to exert their efforts in order to bring the forum to a new level and provide meaningful services to its members. Dr. Meshesha said that strong contributions committed participations of forums are the milestone to upgrade their capacity and significantly contribute to the success of the rural development of the country.

Ato Regassa Aboma, Head of the Membership, and Networking Development Department in CRDA on his part noted that his department will continue to give the required attention and support to strengthen RDF.

Participants of the General Assembly held discussion on the Forum's strategic planning process.

Rural Development Forum currently has 112 members. It was established in 2002 to engage collective undertakings in the areas of action research, networking and proactively engage in advocacy and lobbying of common concerns on issues related to rural development.

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Dr. Meshesha Vows to ...

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The fact that Dr. Meshesha comes from strong civil society and academic backgrounds as well as his neutral but workable relation with government offices and successful track record would serve CRDA a great deal in its future activities.

Ato Yabowerk said, the Board will closely work with the Director in order to bring about change and invigorate the CRDA. He said, in order to bring about a wholesome and thorough change, CRDA staff needs to extend its committed, diligent and professional service to support the director.

Dr. Meshesha, on his part said, CRDA has always been his favorite NGO for long period of time. His presence in CRDA would mainly mean to bring about notable change and make CRDA a center of excellence for the third sector in Ethiopia. For this, creating a financial sustainability, creating friendly atmosphere and team spirit within the secretariat, promoting long lived relations and enhance accountability to donors, partners, betterment of relations with government bodies, revitalizing CRDA engagement with the rest of civil

society organizations and enhancing CRDA's contribution to the society will be given priority.

Dr. Meshesha said, he is personally goal oriented and positive thinker and will use his outlook to ensure transparency in leadership and professionalism across all the CRDA organs.

In a separate discussion the Director held with the technical staff of the secretariat on May 16, 2008 before noon, he also discussed the challenges facing the secretariat and the technical staff along with possible solutions to improve the situation for the way forward. The meeting arrived at a consensus that CRDA is currently at a cross-road and urgent change is required. In order to carry out these duties reorganizing the secretariat aimed at creating team spirit is necessary. The technical staff expressed their commitment in realizing the consensus reached at the meeting.

The Director held similar consultative discussion with the management team, donors, partners and other stakeholders.

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Ethiopian Volunteers' Day Celebrated

The Second Anniversary of the Ethiopian Volunteers Day was celebrated on May 17, 2008 at the Third Square on the Ring Road of Nifas Silk-Lafto Sub-city, Furi Harbo River, A. A., with the aim of promoting volunteerism and volunteers' in Ethiopia in the presence of hundreds of invited guests, representatives of organizations, volunteers and other interested group. The day was celebrated under the motto, 'Lets Protect the Youth from HIV by involving them in Volunteerism' which is hoped to encourage and inspire Ethiopian youth to emulate positive role model. It has been learnt that the day was observed not only to honor the pioneers in the volunteer movement, but also to build a sense of volunteerism to the future generations.

In the ceremony, representative of volunteer organizations delivered speeches. After a series consultation and discussions with pertinent bodies, May 17 was chosen to be Ethiopian Volunteers Day by taking into account CRDA's establishment as the first NGO as an expression of Volunteerism in May 1973/74 and its notable endeavor in saving millions of lives and contribution to development of the nation. On May 17, 1973 thirteen NGOs willingly organized themselves and founded CRDA to provide emergence relief to people in drought affected areas in Ethiopia. The event was observed at the CRDA on the same day and the days afterward with some mini events within the compound. In another development, Ethiopian Volunteers Association has finalized its project to erect the monument at the Volunteers' Square in Nefas Silke Lafto Sub-city to recognize the magnificent contributions of volunteers in the country. It is believed that the monument will serve to inspire commitments among all who visit the square and over generations to come. Christian Relief and Development Association /CRDA/ and Ethiopian Association for Voluntary Service /EAVOS/ are working closely to erect symbolic sculpture at the volunteers' square. The place was named as volunteers' square last year May 17, 2007.

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CSO Discuss with Premier ...

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indigenous depending on their source of funding. The legislation process, the assumption and policy rationales of the draft proclamation, the harsh sanctions and stricter administrative measures as well as the sweeping power vested in the agency which opens ways for interference, were brought for discussion. Independency of religious institutions and the need to legislate befitting law, and the like were also raised. During the discussion, the need to make a clear distinction between 'Political Advocacy' from which foreign NGOs are typically banned and 'Development Advocacy', which focuses on development issues such as environment, health, education, gender etc., was raised and discussed.

H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in his response noted that the government policy recognizes the importance and contribution of NGOs for two reasons: The first is NGOs, due to their exposure and reasonable size tend to introduce innovative ideas and test at small scale. The practical results and experience usually serve as a stepping stone for government in its development intervention to scale them up at a national level, like the Sasakawa Global 2000 Extension Package programs. Moreover, there is always a huge gap between government's plan of development intervention and the actual work. Besides the administrative and technical problems, such wide gaps mainly occur due to limitation of budget. Thus, the government always welcomes any endeavor to build the capacity, complement efforts and fill up those gaps

for common good.

Secondly, NGOs are more efficient in mobilizing funds from both traditional donors and new sources which is quite crucial for development. In this case, any theoretical philosophy, which requires government to pull out of development intervention and focus only on policy matters and creation of enabling environment as abstention from the 'resource pool is strongly opposed by the government policy. However, NGOs income generation input and the autonomous contribution is welcome.

Accordingly, the PM Ato Meles said, this proclamation would enable to ensure more accountability to the government and the people, puts a sign post of warning to trespassers, and devise better control on anti-peace threats to national security, terrorists and extremists through its administrative measures. However, associated severe impact on purely endeavorous and development oriented NGOs were not still fully addressed in the Premier's reaction.

Eventhough a lengthy and in depth discussion was held on the nationality of NGOs, parameters used to classify the nationality of NGOs and the administrative provisions stipulated thereof, the Prime Minister had adamantly expressed his government's policy and strategic direction differing from the civil society's quests.

According to the Premier, now or then the government's policy on civil society organization remains to be that any local organization interested to deal with any political advocacy should fully or for 90% of

its income depend on local sources. In this case, the right emanates from its constitutional rights. However, foreign or international NGOs or local NGOs funded by foreign sources cannot 'meddle' in local politics or political advocacy. The rights of foreign or foreign funded NGOs comes not from the constitution but from the governments' discretion and provision of some privileges depending on developmental merits of the organization. When allowed these organizations are managed through administrative measures and not court proceedings. Thus, the spirit and basic principles of the strategy are not for sale to highest bidder' said the premier..

If any developmental advocacy is to be approved, it would be case by case or on clear distinction. Democracy, at every level, is not to be attained by the proxy activation or financial and technical spoon-feeding of foreign sources. It should be something that should be claimed by citizens like any local movements, organizations etc.

In this regard, the civil society's comment on the nationality of organizations presented in reference with article 6 of the constitution provides citizenship rights to natural person of either sex and not to organization. Organizations are conventionally classified as 'foreign' or 'domestic' for administrative convenience. He said, before drafting the law, the legislature has cleared the congruity of the law to the constitution, basic human, democratic rights and international treaties.

The Premier further noted that the drafting of the law has been under consultation process for two years. The proclamation will be tabled for approval at the parliament before its closure. He differs in calling the procedure 'expeditious' and welcomes any individual, group or committee solicited additional commentaries until it is referred to the parliament. He said, dealing with it for few more months is debatable but will be considered.

Nevertheless, the Premier consented to the need to revisit the wordings of the preamble so as it would reflect the contribution and significance of NGOs in the country, the renewal of license in every year or every three years, reducing severity and introducing variety of sanctions, clear definition and clarification of terms especially related to advocacy, the right of 'foreign NGOs' to appeal to the agency or other supervisory government body, turning it towards the creation of conducive environment, simplifying process of re-registration and others shall be viewed back.

Due to the limitation of time and against the expectation of the premier, an article by article discussion was not conducted in both rounds. The discussion focused on general principles, constitutional matters and strategic direction. The suggestion by the civil society to form small working group to work as the government counter part on article by article was accepted by the Premier so long as it falls within the time frame.

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Chronology of Events on the Process of Draft Charities and Societies Proclamation

April 28, 2008 - The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) by its letter reference no 11/5634/p-6 invited 30 members of Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) and other 270 Civil Society organizations for a one day consultative meeting on a draft 'Charities and Societies Proclamation' to be held on May 6, 2008 starting from 9:00 AM. The letter stated that the Ministry, by the proclamation No. 471/1998EC vested in it designed the draft proclamation to determine typology of organization, registration and administration of non-profit making organizations based on local context and experiences of Singapore, South Africa and Canada.

May 2, 2008, before noon – After a series of preparations CRDA invited its membership meeting for consultation on the matter as a preparation for the MoJ meeting.

In the meantime, a national Taskforce of Civil Society was formed to work on the issue and to solicit comments on the draft proclamation. On the same date, in the afternoon, the CSO Taskforce established to collect comments and compile them for submission and discussion, conducted similar meeting in the afternoon.

May 6, 2008 - The NGO/CSO versus Ministry of Justice meeting was conducted as planned from 9:00am onwards. Some consensus for amendment and modifications were reached. However, being so hasty the Civil Society requested extension of time for further discussion and consultation among their constituency and to submit a more organized, more digested view on the issue. In addition, participants requested the organization of similar forum with the Prime Minister of FDRE. A week time was granted by the Ministry to submit an organized general and detail comments.

May 9, 2008:- CRDA again called its membership meeting for Thursday afternoon May 12, 2008 to present feedback and evaluate effectiveness of the May 6,

2008 meeting and solicit more ideas to submit comments.

May 12, 2008 afternoon:- CRDA membership meeting was convened, heard feedback on the conduct of the MOJ meeting. Based on the report, the membership added more consolidated views on the already developed ideas, devised strategies, more effective ways and approach to effect the desired output. The comments were referred to the National CSO Taskforce established for the purpose. More people from faith based and international NGOs were recommended to work with the Taskforce.

May 13, 2008 before noon - The national CSO Taskforce organized a general meeting of Civil Society organizations at Kokeb Hall (near Bole Sub city Administration building). Extensive discussions and more ideas were added to the commentary. On the same day in the afternoon, members of the CSO Taskforce gathered and incorporated the additional inputs.

May 14, 2008 at 4:00PM – Representatives of the CSO Taskforce conferred with Ato Asseffa Kessito, Minister of Ministry of Justice, and discussed the comments article by article. On the way, the Taskforce formally presented its serious desire to discuss with the Primer Minister to enable ultimate changes, as per the urge of the consultative meetings.

May 16, 2008 – Ministry of Justice informed CRDA and the Civil Society Taskforce that H.E. the Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has expressed his consent to meet the Civil Society on May 24, 2008 in the afternoon at his office meeting hall.

May 20, 2008 before noon– CRDA organized its membership meeting to discuss on the contents and approaches for the proposed Civil Society Premier Meeting. The Taskforce also collected the suggestions and developed them as a common approach. The approach among others recommended two representatives to

present the general and specific issue, other four to clarify sectoral issues and if needed four to respond for any possible queries rather than giving the chance to everyone. Moreover, the contents were preferred to start from CSO/NGOs to government relations, policy matters and strategic directions, legislative benchmarks and the creation of an enabling environment, compatibility of the draft proclamation with the FDRE constitution and international laws, treaties, and then to specific article by article discussions.

May 24, 2008, 1:30PM onwards - About 300 representatives of Civil Society organizations conferred with H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. The discussion, however, didn't proceed as intended. Almost all of the time was consumed in addressing repeated questions relating to nationality of organizations depending on their funding sources, compatibility with FDRE constitution and other general matters. For the detail article by article commentary discussion a second round consultative meeting was appointed for within 7-15 days.

May 29, 2008 – CRDA organized a self reflection meeting on the proceeding of the Civil Society versus Prime Minister meeting. The meeting agreed that the discussion was not that much successful in yielding the desired change and managing the proceedings of the meeting. Moreover, some participants were found marketing their own organizations, digressing from the central issue. The meeting agreed to redress these pitfalls in the second round encounter and forwarded more workable ideas. The national CSO/NGO Taskforce convened for the same purpose, included CRDA membership comments.

June 2, 2008 from 2:00 Pm to 7:15pm onwards - The proposed second round meeting with H.E. P.M. Ato Melse Zenawi was convened at the Premier's Office meeting hall.

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Emergency Update

DPPA and Humanitarian Partners Declare a 325.25 MT Humanitarian Requirement for 2008

4.6 million People affected by the drought

The Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) and its humanitarian partners declared that the formerly reported 2.2 million needy people in April 2008 is now adjusted into 4.6 million for the second half of 2008 due to the deteriorating drought condition in various parts of the country. The latest figure escalates the net humanitarian requirement up to 325.25 million USD of food and non-food (health and nutrition, water and sanitation and agriculture) requirements.

The Humanitarian Report released by the two shows that DPPA and Partners had conducted a rapid verification assessments and desk review exercise by the multi-agency early warning working group to ascertain the growing humanitarian need in connection with the drought condition in the Belg season of the country.

Of the total 509,916 MT of humanitarian requirement worth 351.36 million USD about 82.93 million USD are already available. Accordingly, the net requirement of food would be 268.4 million USD. Of these net requirement cereals consists of 319,943 MT, oil 8749 MT, pulse 33,303 MT, CSB 29,400 MT).

The non-food aid requirement total amounts Birr 38,672,835 USD for which no reserve is available and totally expected from aid.

According to the report, the major reasons for the escalation of the food requirement were the poor or complete failure of rains of the Belg season in many parts of the Belg producing areas which affected food security. Similarly, in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the country, the failure/poor performance of the rains affected water and pasture availability leading to poor livestock body condition and production. There were reports of livestock deaths in some parts of shortage of resources coupled with incidences of livestock diseases.

Table 1. Summary of the 2008 Humanitarian Assistance Requirement (in USD)

Sector	Total Requirement	Available Resources	Net Requirement
General Ration: gross: 509,916MT; available 118,265 MT; (cereal 319,943 MT, oil 8,749 MT, pulse 33,303 MT, CSB 29,400 MT)	351,361,595	82,930,937	268,430,658
Supplementary food for EOS/TSF: gross 32,800 MT; net 17,750 MT	31,179,247	13,030,942	18,148,755
Food Sub-total	382,540,842	95,961,429	286,579,413
Health and Nutrition	25,193,850	-	25,193,850
Water and Sanitation	6,558,306	-	6,558,306
Agriculture	6,920,679	-	6,920,679
Non-food sub-total	38,672,835	-	38,672,835
GRAND TOTAL	421,213,677	95,961,429	325,252,248

Region wise, SNNP constitutes 1.34 million, Oromia 2.04 million, Somali 1.02 million and Amhara 815,630 of the total 4,617,301 beneficiaries of relief food.

Region	Recommended Beneficiaries	Cereal (MT)	Oil (MT)	Pulse (MT)	CSB (MT)	Total Food (MT)
Tigray	310,000	27,900	837	2,790	2,930	34,457
Amhara	815,630	73,406	2,202	7,341	7,708	90,657
Oromia	1,045,191	89,874	2,696	8,987	9,437	110,994
Somali	1,025,030	92,253	2,768	9,225	9,687	113,932
Gambella	66,500	5,985	179	598	628	7,391
B.Gumuz	10,700	963	29	96	101	1,189
Harrari	3,200	288	9	29	30	355
SNNP	1,341,050	120,695	3,621	12,069	12,673	149,058
Afar*	199,290	0	0	0	1,883	1,883
GRAND TOTAL	4,617,301	411,363	12,340	41,136	45,076	509,917

In the emergency water and sanitation program the revised net requirement for all the water source disinfection in all regions, treatment of drought related impacts in Afar, SNNP and Somali regions as well as providing the potential impacts of flooding in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, Somali, SNNPR, Dire Dawa and Tigray amounts 6,558,306 USD.

The agricultural requirement in animal health services, crop seed supply and related operational costs are estimated to sum up 6,920,679 USD.

The full text of the report is available at CRDA's website www.crdaethiopia.org.

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DPPA Renews three years Operational Agreement with CRDA

In accordance with the request of CRDA, the FDRE Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) disclosed in a letter addressed to CRDA on June 30, 2008 that it has renewed the three years Operational Agreement with Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) for the coming three years.

The agreement is renewed with an amendment on Article IV of the operational agreement as of June 16, 2008 in which DPPA allowed CRDA to open bank account at any private bank with prior notification and consent of the agency. It reserved its authority to inspect CRDA's bank account operation anytime needed. On the amended article, DPPA has also informed CRDA to declare all its bank account numbers that were already opened in state and/or private owned banks within a month time from the date of signing this agreement.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Meshesa Shewarega, the Director of CRDA and Ato Asfaw Mekuria, Head of NGO's Coordination Team in DPPA. ★★★



New CRDA Members' Profile

Bmereaf Kidusan Yekidanemheret Hulegeb Senay Mahiber



It is an indigenous religious organization that contributes to poverty reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention and control through care and support programme for bed-ridden patients and orphans, reunification programme for street children, skill training for youth, assistance to victims of disaster situations

It joined CRDA to share experience.

Contact
Lique Tigu. Bahi. G/ Meskel H/Meskel
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Brooke Hospital for Animals (BHA)

It is an international secular working animals for the Ethiopian poorest community particularly in SNNPR, Amhara, Oromia and Eastern Regions. It joined CRDA to actively participate in its Forums to gain and share experiences and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



healthy working animals for the world's poorest communities

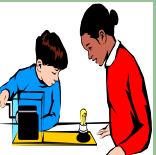
Child Centred Development Ethiopia



CCD is an indigenous Secular NGO organized to improve the life of marginalized children and women through the provision of education and health services in Amhara Regional State, Gojjam. It joined CRDA to collectively learn, share experience and knowledge with members of the different Forums.

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Fax: 011 2 59 16 04
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

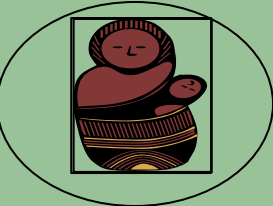
Child Hope



It is an indigenous secular organization engaged in providing education and training programmes in Oromia Region. It aims to contribute to the development of needy and vulnerable children and youth through the provision of health service. It joined CRDA to work with other networks and share available facilities.

Contact
Samuel Meja
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P.O.Box 8895
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Child of Present, a Man of Tomorrow Organization



It is indigenous Secular NGO organized to alleviate the wide spread socio-economic problems of marginalised women and children in Amhara Regional State, Dessie. It joined CRDA to network and share experience in development and improve our capacities in management.

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Dessie

Available at CRDA Resource Center

Building Businesses with Small Producers: Successful Business Development Services in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Edited by Sunita Kapila and Donald Mead, ISBN. 185-339-494-7, 2002. Donated by Book Aid International.

The research discussed in this book makes an important contribution to the ongoing debate regarding market and demand-based provision of non-financial services to small and micro entrepreneurs and businesses in Southern countries. This debate has been influenced by successes achieved in commercializing and broadening the reach of micro credit programmes. The analysis presented here reminds us to provide effective assistance to small producers, business development services often need to be provided in a multi-faced and flexible manner.

How to Make Poverty History: the central role of local organizations in meeting the MDGs.

Edited by Tom Bigg & David Satterthwaite, ISBN. 1-84369-561-8, 2005. Donated by Book Aid International.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has an expanded vision of poverty reduction and pro-poor growth, one that vigorously places human development at the center of social and economic progress in all countries. The MDGs also recognize the importance of creating a global partnership for change, as high-income nations must reform their domestic and international policies related to agriculture, trade, and sustainable development; enhance the effectiveness of their aid programmes; and help poor countries to reduce their debt burdens.

The Human Rights of Street and Working Children: A practical manual for advocates.

By Iain Byrne, ISBN. 1-85339-449-1, 1998. Donated by Book Aid International

The manual, which presents information in an accessible question-and-answer format, is divided into three sections for ease of reference. The first section defines substantive right-survival, fair treatment, and empowerment. The second section provides practical guidelines on how to use regional and international human rights systems such as the Inter-American Commission in Human Rights, or the UN Committee on Torture. The third and last section contains a comprehensive list of human rights documents with tables by country detailing the status and the stage in the implementation process of each convention.

Just One Planet: Poverty, Justice and Climate Change

By D. Mark Smith, ISBN. 185339-643-5, 2006.

The impacts of climate change are being felt all around the world and as they become more damaging and widespread, it is the 2.7 billion people in the world who live on less than \$2 a day who will be hit first and hardest. Just One Planet is essential reading for anyone who wants to get behind the scare stories to reach a well-informed and detailed understanding of climate change, and to find out what action needs to be taken, now. This book also provides an indispensable reference for NGOs, Government policy advisors, researchers, students, and specialists in the areas of Development, Climate, and Environmental Studies.

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What has Been COC Doing so Far?

As you may remember, CRDA newsletter published about Code Observance Committee (COC) and its importance. In this edition we focus on what COC has been doing so far

The COC has been engaged in various activities since its establishment and specifically in resolving various complaints from member NGOs and three employees from donors against some NGOs.

Being the setting up of its office, the recruitment of the Director, and familiarizing itself with the workings of its member NGOs, the COC has been busy leading the revision of the NGO Code of Conduct that was originally endorsed by 165 member NGOs in 1999. Accordingly, the COC

proposed their revision that improved some of the limiting provisions of the code and got approval in the general meeting of the member NGOs in 2005. The revised Code of Conduct is believed to strengthen the effort towards making NGOs operation in Ethiopia live up to the expectation of the public and the government. The COC considers this one of its major achievements.

In addition, the COC wrote a proposal aimed at increasing the visibility of the committee itself and the various exemplary activities and projects carried out by NGOs working in the different parts of the country. The proposal identified themes and formats to popularize the ideas of trans-

parency, accountability and efficiency among member NGOs and the public at large. Accordingly, seminar topics, newspaper and magazine articles, artistic presentations and electronic media coverage issues were suggested, and a request was put to potential partners for funding. Unfortunately, however, no financial assistance has been secured to cover the cost of the public activities planned. Despite this, however, the COC is trying its level best to make a meaningful contribution to the NGO community by being their partner in the joint effort to get them rid of corruption, mismanagement and inefficiency. It is also serving as the link between the NGOs and their beneficiaries, keeping a

watchful eye to regulate their relationship in a very impartial way. Moreover, it has managed to make its presence felt through some of the measures it has taken to publicize its experience and to mediate between NGOs and their disaffected clientele. Accordingly, it has looked into some cases that have been lodged with it and has passed decisions it considers are fair. It has also put on a drama that depicts the undesirable nature of corruption and mismanagement. The Director has also visited many NGO Offices and project sites to learn about their activities first hand.

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Chronology of Events ...

Cont'd from p. 7

constituency, strategic matters, and dwelt little on particular issues. However, some points become quite clearer.

The issue of classifying NGOs on their funding sources, the prohibition of foreign or foreign funded NGOs (for + 10%) from local politics and advocacy as well as administrative measures for such NGOs in irreversible position of the government.

June 16, 2008 - In response to the Civil Society with Prime Minister's discussion the CSO/NGO Adhoc Taskforce submitted its third round comments for revision.

June 20, 2008 - After mid of June 2008 Ministry of Justice released the revised version of the draft Charities and Societies proclamation. (*see news on P. 2*)

June 25 - The CSO/NGO Adhoc Taskforce submitted additional ten pages fourth round comments consisting of 35 points to further refine the draft law.

★★★

CRDA's Membership Assembly

Cont'd from p.4

Charities and societies is not cleared out. He said, these comments have already been communicated to the Ministry of Justice in the Fourth Round Comments of the CSO Task Force.

Ato Regassa disclosed that the CSO Task Force has planned to organize a national conference on ways of improving and further refining the revised draft legislation in mid September 2008.

The conference is planned to bring government bodies, representatives of the CSO sector, the international donor communities together and discuss thoroughly on the matter before its ratification at the parliament.

Ato Yabowerk Haile, Chairperson of the current Board called on members to make active participation and notable contribution towards the success of CRDA's objectives and the civil society transformation in Ethiopia especially in view of the present and emerging challenges of the CSO sector.

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CRDA Reinvigorating ...

Cont'd from p.3

This guideline will help to clearly frame the relationship between the CRDA and its Regional Liaison Offices.

It also increases the geographical coverage of some of the RLOs: For example, the RLO in Amhara Region has been reformed into the North RLO by increasing its coverage of the Tigray Region.

In a related manner, meetings were also held on June 23, 2008 between the RLO Coordinators and the CRDA Director to explore opportunities of engagement in the regions and discuss on how to further strengthen the RLOs

2. Creation of GO-NGO Platforms

Government – NGO platforms are now under formation at the regional levels through the RLOs starting from the first week of August 2008. The purpose of these platforms is to build working relationships between regional governments and NGOs operating in the regions, and facilitating the smooth operation of NGOs/CSOs in the regions.

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