



CRDA NEWSLETTER

CRDA Newsletter—Vol. 2 No. 2

June 2009

Together for a Better Future!

Ministry says Committed to Ensuring Smooth Transition to and Implementation of the New NGO Legislation

Ato Jima Dilbo, Head of Association Registration at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) says his office is committed to ensure smooth transition of the one-year grace period and implementation of the new Charities and Societies legislation ever.

621/2009. This was disclosed in a briefing meeting organized by CRDA on May 6, 2009 at its hall between the MoJ Official and members of the Association to discuss on transition related concerns and lack of clarities on the implementation of the law.

The statement sent by H.E Ato Berhanu Tsegaye, State Minis-

ter of MoJ and read out by Ato Jima Dilbo also indicated that the introduction of the Charity and Societies Legislation has brought members of CRDA and the civil society to the Ministry more closer than ever.

The promulgation of the proclamation enables to have sector focused and more relevant law that better govern the NGO sector with its detail internal affairs. This is a great stride towards transforming and supporting the sector.

Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, Executive Director of CRDA on his part said, since the official publication of the law,

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CRDA Implements New Organizational Structure

Christian Relief and Development Association is implementing a new organizational structure aimed at making the secretariat more lean, efficient, team based and focused on professionalism.

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CRDA About To Finalize Its Second Five Years Strategic Plan

The CRDA Strategic Planning exercise, which was officially launched on December 18, 2008 by forming a Steering Committee consisting of 22 members and an 11-person Technical Task Force is now getting finalized.



Ato Yabowerk Haile, Board Chair Person of CRDA indicated in the launching ceremony that in view of the speedy changes in the sector after the 1997 first SPM document,

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CRDA
Tele 215(0)114390322
Fax 251(0)114393502
P.O. Box 5674
www.crdaethiopia.org

Editor in Chief— Tafese Refera
Lay-out Designer—Tizita Menberu

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CRDA HQ

Ministry Says, Committed to Ensure Smooth Transition to and Implementation ...

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CRDA has been closely consulting with national, faith based and international member NGOs to identify areas of concern in the implementation of the law and transitional related predicaments. Some urgent issues which had direct impact on the daily operation of members were discussed with senior officials of the Ministry and kindly resolved by writing a circular. The importance of such discussion was to proactively work on unresolved situation and concerns which might create ambivalence on adopting individual NGOs to the new law. Dr. Meshesha duly appreciated the Ministry's willingness and Ato Jima's kind cooperation at all times to resolve legislation related problems.

Members of CRDA raised various questions relating to the interpretation of the 30% administrative and 70% project cost in practical application. The difference in interpretation of pro social advocacy and political advocacy matters, issues of punishment and penalties, the role of the would-be agency in supervision or control, the nature of consortiums, efficiency of the agency and the intended on-line registration were discussed.

In his presentation and reaction to the queries, Ato Jima said, basically the new law is intended to fill the inadequacy on the existing law contained in the Civil Code of 1960 & Regulation 321/66. The new proclamation defines the relation between NGOs and their respective sector administrators. While creating transparency and accountability, the new law allows civil societies to engage in income generating activities.

The new law classifies NGOs as Charities and Societies. As indicated in Art. 14:2. a-i & j-n charitable purposes are both developmental and political type. The implication is that political type are allowed only for citizens and with local funding.

Ato Jima said, the circulation sent by the Ministry to various Federal and Regional Government offices had allowed NGOs to pursue their current projects in existing manner until February 2010. In the mean time, the Ministry is working on the remaining tasks that are prerequisite to implement the law. These are establishing the agency, endorsing the regulation, prior plans for re-registration, training relevant government au-

thorities and creating awareness among concerned organs.

The regulation, among others details about registration, about immediate and on-line registration, rules of charity or society, The regulation, among others details about registration, about immediate and on-line registration, rules of charity or society, about immediate and on-line registration, rules of charity or society, formation of consortiums, procedures of merger, division and conversion, renewal of license and registering changes, how to apply for public collection and Income Generating Activities/ (IGA), report and communications etc.

The Head, responding to queries also said, the regulation will further clarify administrative & project costs. The former criminal punishments are avoided and limited to fines. Although the issue is not yet clearly determined, the law is more sensitive toward political affiliated advocacy, which it claims is the exclusive right of citizens. However, pro social advocacy could further be discussed for practical application purposes in the future. As to the agency also two of the members are to be nominated from the civil society.

CRDA members appreciated the Ministry's initiative to take such consultation and requested continuous engagement at least until the agency goes fully operational.

Ato Jima also expressed readiness to closely work and ease up the potential difficulties that may arise in implementing the proclamation.

Series of similar discussions have been held with various CRDA Forums. Among these, the Water and Sanitation Forum (WSF) organized similar meeting on May 11, 2009, the Rural

Development Forum (RDF) organized such a consultative Forum on May 15, 2009, Children and Youth Forum and Gender Forum organized on May 18, 2009 and Urban Development forum organized on May 27, 2009. On majority of the occasions Ato Abadir Mohammed, an official from MoJ gave briefing and explanation. Respective representatives from each forums had voiced their specific areas specific areas of concerns.

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Third IGAD-NGOs/CSOs Regional Steering Committee Meeting Conducted

The third meeting of IGAD-NGOs/CSOs Regional Steering Committee was conducted from 02-03 April 2009 at Jupiter Hotel in Addis Ababa.

The main objective of the series of meetings held by the Regional Steering Committee is to revitalize and strengthen the interface between IGAD-NGOs/CSOs and create enhanced collaboration among NGOs/CSOs in the region and between those NGOs/CSOs and the IGAD secretariat in recognition of the important roles NGOs/CSOs play in addressing the current demands and challenges of peace and sustainable development in the region.

The IGAD-NGOs/CSOs Forum was established in July 2003 in recognition of the wide range of experience and resources that the various Civil Societies in the region have and which would put them in a position to make valuable contributions to IGAD, thereby enhancing its capacity meant for affirmative efforts in the region.

The forum is also a creation as a result of the commitment on the part of IGAD member states not only to involve but also to enhance the participation of NGOs/CSOs in addressing the challenges of sustainable development and economic integration in the region by ensuring the link between governments and the people of the region.

It has also been further stated that the forum should also be seen as a platform for exchange of information, experience, best practices and cross fertilization of ideas on areas of common regional concern and ongoing regional as well as national programs and projects.

On this meeting, a study conducted to identify mechanisms for strengthening of the IGAD-NGOs/CSOs forum was presented and deliberated up on by the participants; followed by presentations by representatives of member states to the steering committee.

Recommendations as to future directions of the forum were forwarded by the participants in anticipation of further reinforcing the links and networking among the NGOs/CSOs and between IGAD and the NGOs/CSOs.

CRDA, which is Co-chair of the Regional Steering Committee, NGO representatives of selected thematic areas from Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Somalia. Representatives of AUC, EAC, ECA, IGAD and COMESA in charge of Civil Society Organizations have also attended the meeting.

CRDA, which is a member of the Regional Steering Committee, was represented on the meeting by its Membership and Networking Development Core Team Director, Ato Regassa Aboma and Ato Kifle Mariam Gebre Wold, Special Advisor to the Executive Director.

GO-NGO Forum Established in Dire Dawa

A joint forum of Governmental Organizations (GOs) and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) was established in Dire Dawa City Administration on 14th of May 2009.

The purpose of establishing the GO-NGO forum is to ensure a tangible partnership between the two organs and create utmost integration and collaboration in their concerted effort toward sustainable development and poverty reduction.

The forum is also aimed at ensuring an enabling environment for about 28 CRDA member organizations and other CSOs operating in the City Administration.

The meeting was attended by about 60 participants both from governmental and non governmental organizations, out of which, on the NGO side, participants had to do all with CRDA member organizations.

The meeting was winded up after deliberating on fundamental issues pertaining to the areas of operation of GOs and NGOs, establishing of the GO-NGO Forum and with the formation of a steering committee comprising of 11 organizations to lead the forum.

The steering committee is expected to draft the guidelines of the Forum and CRDA, which acted as the initiator of the forum, has been given the responsibility of leading the drafting of the ToR and related by laws.





CRDA About To Finalize Its Second ...

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enactment of new legislation and emergence of new challenges, the CRDA's strategic plan will be a decisive tool to determine the way forwards.

Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, Executive Director of CRDA had also noted, along with several reform and revitalization tasks, the Strategic Plan is one of the fundamental aspects of the desired change process, which would address several key policy and strategic decisions. He said, such a comprehensive strategic repositioning has long been sought by all partners, and corollary reform, restructuring and reinvigoration efforts are already being taken care of and a concept paper covering the whole scenario had been prepared side by side.

The Technical Task Force established from staff had been working literature review, environmental scanning and preliminary SWOT analysis from

December 19, 2008 onwards. The Task Force has also prepared and disseminated 100 questionnaires to donors, 11 questionnaires to government offices, 15 questionnaires to donor partners and 17 questionnaires to similar federal and regional CSO/NGO Networks as of March 24, 2009.

The Technical Task Force had further conducted Focus Group Discussions and key informant interviews with concerned regional and government Offices, with members of CRDA Forum, CRDA's Regional Liaison Offices, NGO networks and the staff.

After a Focus Group Discussion with Board Members and a membership envisioning conference to determine the vision-mission and values of the association, the first draft is expected to be availed for all stakeholders in a month's time.

The Water Channel launched an Enhanced Website

The new version of www.thewaterchannel.tv was launched on June 2nd, 2009. The Water Channel is a dedicated web-based video channel on water. It wants to be a main repository for video material on water and a main support and medium in promoting better water management.

The Water Channel now contains over 150 water related videos with new material coming in daily. The new version has several improved features and much more functions including improved uploading services, several technical improvements and news feed subscription.

The Water Channel has been around for two months and has welcomed over 3500 unique visitors on a good upward curve.

The founders are currently inviting interested parties to take a look and send them feedback.

Panel Discussion on CSO/NGO Ethics Held

A panel discussion on the promotion of ethical governance in the NGO sector through the enforcement of NGOs Code of Conduct, hosted by CRDA, has been held on 12 June 2009, at CRDA conference center.

The discussion was aimed at addressing problems pertaining to the enforcement mechanism of the NGO Code of Conduct,

which was developed some ten years back by concerned organizations who wanted to see a transparent and accountable NGOs sector in Ethiopia. As such, the purpose of the panel

discussion was to address the problem by way of brainstorming concerned members on possible measures or actions that may be taken to come up with practical and effective enforcement mechanisms for the Code of Conduct.

The increased importance of NGOs/CSOs in Ethiopia which necessarily entails an increased responsibility on their part as well as the quest for building greater support, credibility and authority in their activity were among the major points stated as the rationale for self regulation in the sector. The code, no matter how important it is for the proper functioning of the sector and its healthy relationship with the government, would be left ineffective without the necessary enforcement mechanism.

To that effect two papers entitled, "Assessment of the Code of Conduct for NGOs in Ethiopia and How to Develop Effective Enforcement Mechanisms" and, "the relevance of the NGOs Code of Conduct in Ethiopia in Establishing an Effective Government-NGO Partnership" were presented by Ato Debebe H/Gebriel, a legal consultant, and Dr. Solomon Berhe from Addis Ababa BoFED respectively and discussed upon by the participants.

The panel discussion is expected to enhance awareness of members about the NGO Code of Conduct and its importance. Experiences of other NGO networks outside of Ethiopia were also raised and discussed up on to draw important lessons that could be adopted for the NGO sector in Ethiopia. Participants have also forwarded some practical recommendations on how to enforce the code within the NGO sector.

About 40 participants invited from member organizations have attended the panel discussion.



CRDA Implements New Organizational ...

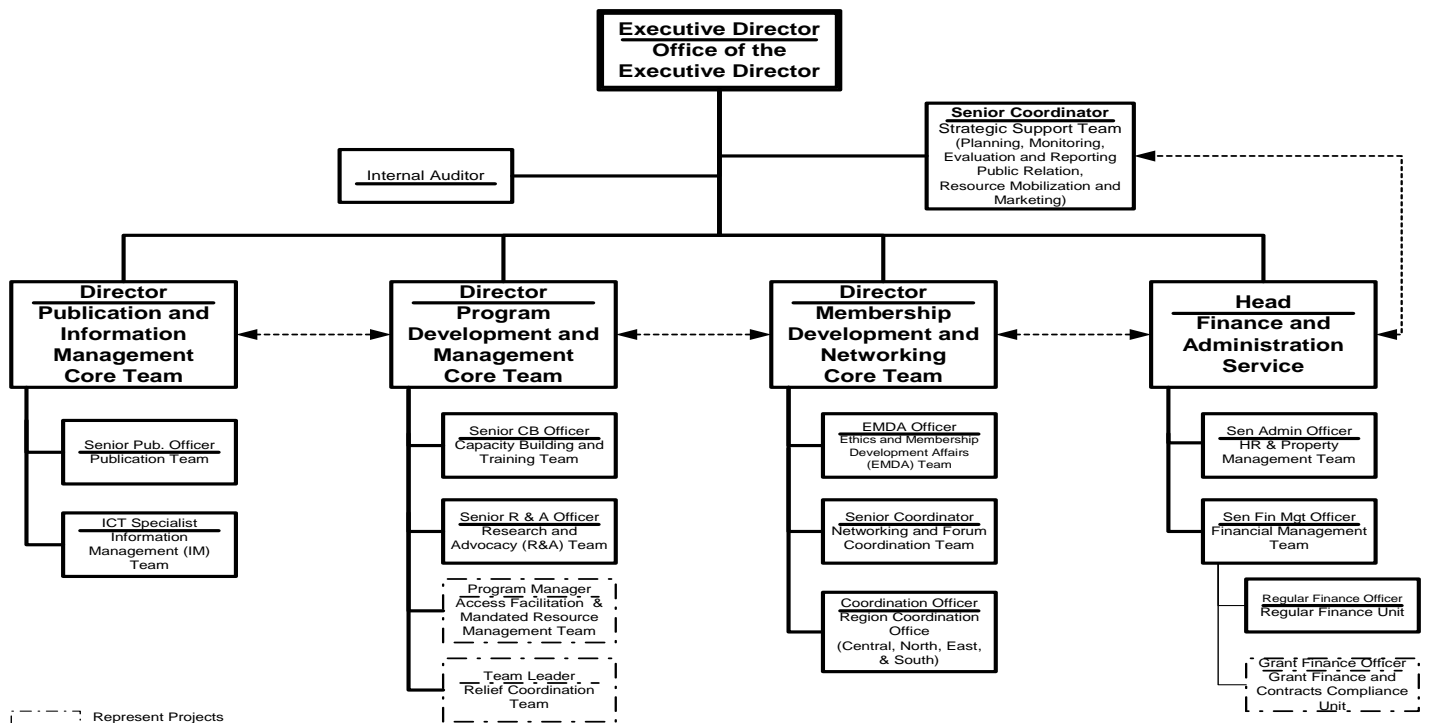
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In a series of meetings organized from December 5, 2008 onwards, Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, Executive Director of CRDA says, the new organizational set up would be of paramount importance to shaping CRDA's future as it allows the organization to keep pace with sectoral dynamics, members' expectations and its strategic interests. He said, "Should CRDA provide efficient and effective services to its members and uphold its commitment for the primacy of pro-poor societal agenda, it has to adjust itself to the existing reality." He added, such an organizational restructuring with radical reform style was long sought since 2004 by all stakeholders to ensure its sustainability and dynamism to efficiently serve its members.

The structuring process was duly approved by the CRDA Board and carried out by in-a house human resource benchmarking other's experience and identifying the current needs of the sector and the members.

The briefing given by members of the in-house Restructuring Committee indicated that the structure accommodates 44 positions with 58 post in the first round. Depending on the nature of its need the second round could require more posts. The new structure capitalizes on professional qualifications to enhance professional and revitalization of the Association.

The New Organizational Chart of the CRDA Secretariat



Preparations to Organize National NGOs/CSOs Good Practice Workshop Underway

CRDA, in collaboration with Freidrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation, is preparing to organize a CSOs/NGOs good practice workshop in which senior government officials, donors, important personalities and media partake in August or September 2009.

The Publication and Information Management Core Team, in collaboration with Joint Poverty Alleviation Programs under the

mandate of resource management, had documented 10 CRDA members and 32 Sida, Irish Aid and Packard sub grantees' good practices from September to December 2008 traveling to different parts of the country.

The good practices are now produced in DVD format and ready for public viewing and distribution. The documentation and production of good

practices of NGOs/CSOs is intended to showcase the actual contribution of NGOs/CSOs to the national development endeavor, share experience among actors of the sector, encourage scaling up of successful projects by government partners and incite the public to emulate them in its locality.

As part of the workshop preparation, a task-force drawn from co-opted member organizations and CRDA staff has formally commenced background preparation on June 9, 2009. Such an image-building task is expected to continue annually.



EANNASO Regional Meeting Conducted

Eastern Africa National Networks of Aids Service Organizations (EANNASO) regional meeting has been conducted from 11th -13th May, 2009 at Kampla, Uganda, followed by an explorative partnership visit to Institute of Development Research Canada (IDRC) Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa and Health Link World Wide Africa Office, from 14th-15th May 2009 at Nairobi, Kenya.

The specific objectives of the meeting were containing the spread of HIV and AIDS and tackling its social and economic effects at regional level through enhanced partnership, experience sharing and collaboration. It is expected that exercising this general objective will result in, among others, enhance knowledge and experience sharing among network members in the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the global fund program implementation. It is also expected to build consensus on future outlooks and approaches of

CSO representation, law reform process relating to HIV and AIDS at country level and enhanced inter/ intra network learning on vital issues such as decentralized service delivery and decision making.

CRDA, which is one of the members of the governing Board of EANNASO, in addition to its being a regular member of the forum, has participated on the meeting through its Executive Director, Dr Meshesha Shewarega.

The main focus of the meeting was on the Global Fund (GF) processes and practical sharing of experience on the CSOs response to HIV and AIDS, it was conducted in two consecutive sessions. The first session, which discussed up on the overall affairs of the forum including its future affairs and directions involved mainly head of agencies, government officials, CMM members and national coordinators. Accordingly, the CRDA

Executive Director, Dr Meshesha Shewarega and EIFDDA Executive Director, Ato Jihad Qenno, attended the first sessions where as the partnership visit from 14th-15th May 2009 was attended by CRDA HIV and AIDS Forum coordinator, Ato Semu Ketema.

The regional network has been striving to emerge as an important actor in the realm of capacity building and serving as a regional forum in enhancing dialogue, experience sharing, collective learning, and collective voice. CRDA's participation is intended to boost the image and visibility of CRDA at the sub regional level as well as forging alliance for better coherence, harmonization and coordination of the HIV and AIDS response of the CSOs in the respective member countries.

Cooperation Agreement Signed Between CRDA and Helvetas Ethiopia.

A cooperation agreement to financially assist the project entitled Promoting Membership Quality and Enhancing Forums' Engagement in the CRDA has been signed for an amount of ETB 400,000 between CRDA and Helvetas Ethiopia on 29 May 2009. The project agreement, which will be put in to operation for



about seven months beginning from June 2009 to 31 December 2009, has a general objective of contributing to enhanced role and performance of NGOs in Ethiopia in their efforts towards

reducing poverty and effecting sustainable development by way of awareness raising workshops on the NGO code of conduct to CRDA members and provision of capacity building support to the various forums.

Furthermore improved practice of CRDA member organizations in self regulatory exercises, transparency and accountability within the frame work of adherence to the NGO Code of Conduct as well as strong and efficient involvement of NGO/CSO forums in constructive dialogue among themselves and with the government are ultimate results expected to be achieved up on proper implementation of the strategies designed for the project activities.

Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, CRDA Executive Director, said, up on signing of the agreement that CRDA is grateful for having the opportunity to implement this vital project jointly with Helvetas Ethiopia.

Helvetas Ethiopia Program Director, Mr. Marcus Ischer, who signed the agreement on the side of Helvetas, on his part stated, CRDA is one of the pioneer NGOs engaged in coordinating and leading Civil Societies for long and as such Helvetas Ethiopia is also pleased to work with it.



The Implications of the New Charities & Societies Legislation on NGOs and CSOs & Possible Coping Mechanisms

Rapid Assessment Report *By Membership Development and Networking Core Team/MDNCT/CRDA*

I-Background, Objectives and Methodology:

The Charities and Societies Proclamation was endorsed by the House of People's Representatives (The Parliament) on January 6, 2009. The legislation is expected to regulate all domestic and international civil society organizations and NGOs Operating in the country. CRDA, in close collaboration with the Civil Society Task Force for the Creation of Enabling Environment, had been endeavoring to ameliorate the provisions and stipulations of the draft law. Series of consultations and meetings with the concerned government organs including Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Prime Minister and other line ministries CRDA's members are held. CRDA's members are engaged in multi-sectoral integrated development oriented activities. Hence they could be directly affected by the Legislation. CRDA has made discussion with CSOs/NGOs, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for possible amendments on the draft legislation. Even though many comments were incorporated, the legislation has been endorsed maintaining some concerning provisions. With this background, this study attempted to identify the possible implications of the Charities and Societies Proclamation on the overall functioning of CRDA's member organizations and NGOs in general and propose possible coping mechanisms.

Both primary and secondary data were used for this study. While the primary data were collected from CRDA member organizations, the secondary sources of data include the Charities and Societies Proclamation and other pertinent published and unpublished documents and electronic source. It also tries to identify the intended. The study attempted to collect data and feedbacks relating to organizations operating in regional areas in accordance with (Article 3 Sub. Art. 1(a)), organizational engagement thematic areas (Article 2 Sub A. 3), budget and the sources of fund (Article 2 Sub A. 3). It also tries to identify the intended categorical entity for re-registration of the organizations (Article 15 Sub A. 1), implications of the Civil Society Proclamation (CSP) on the organizations (Article 88) and on possible coping mechanisms. Questionnaires were prepared and distributed to concerned NGOs/CSOs, out of which a total of 127 member organizations filled and returned. For the study, SPSS for Windows (version-15) was employed to analyze the collected data.

II-Result and Discussions:

Of the total respondents of the three membership category, about 60% were International Secular Organizations, 22 are International Secular and the remaining 18 % were faith based (which includes both local and international faith based organizations).

As indicated in Table 1, the sampled respondent organizations are carrying out various development activities in more than one or different regions of the country. This indicated that 70% of the total respondents are directly affected by article 3 sub article 1(a) of the proclamation.

Table 1: Respondent Organizations Operating in Regional Area

Attributes	Number of Organizations	Percentage of Orgs.
One Region	38	29.92
Three Regions	27	21.26
Two Regions	25	19.69
More than Five Regions	19	14.96
Four Regions	12	9.45
Five Regions	6	4.72
Total	127	100

CRDA and its member organizations are carrying out multisectoral integrated development oriented activities to contribute and play significant role for poverty reduction strategy of the country and this is a variable related with Article 2 Sub A. 3 of the legislation (See Table2).

Table 2: Respondent Organizations Engagement Area

The organizational engagement area	Percentage of Orgs.
Health	64.5
Education	58.1
Capacity building	48.4
Community empowerment	46
Water and Sanitation	45.2
Children development	45.2
Agriculture (crop production, animal husbandry, irrigation, watershed management)	38.7

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The Implications of the New Charities & Societies ...

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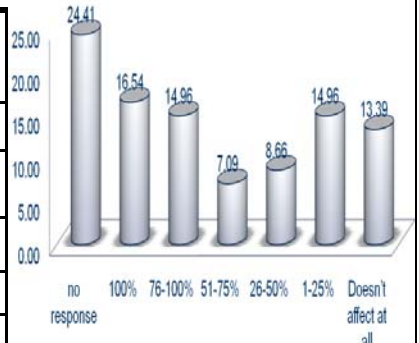
Besides, they are conducting different development activities such as cooperatives promotion, advocacy of equality of gender, micro-finance, emergency relief, promotion of rights of the children, support to people with physical disabilities, Promotion of good governance, Productive safety net, housing development, promotion of rights of the disabled, advancement of human and democratic rights, promotion of conflict resolution and reconciliation, promotion of equality of religion etc.

Organizational budget refers to the budget source of the organization in relation to domestic or external source and this variable is related with Article 2 Sub A. 3 of the proclamation. The sampled organizations budget that they obtain from external sources of fund is indicated in Table 3. The result indicates that only 2% of 127 NGOs generate +10% income from local source.

Table3: Organizations' sources of fund (*Article 2 Sub A. 3*)

Attributes	Number of Orgs.	Percentage of Orgs.
100% budget from foreign source	67	52.76
91-100% budget from foreign source	37	29.13
81-90% budget from foreign source	8	6.30
61-70% budget from foreign source	5	3.94
None the budget is from foreign source	3	2.36
71-80% budget from foreign source	2	1.57
51-60% budget from foreign source	2	1.57
11-20% budget from foreign source	1	0.79
10% budget from foreign source	1	0.79
1- 10% budget from foreign source	1	0.79
Total	127	100

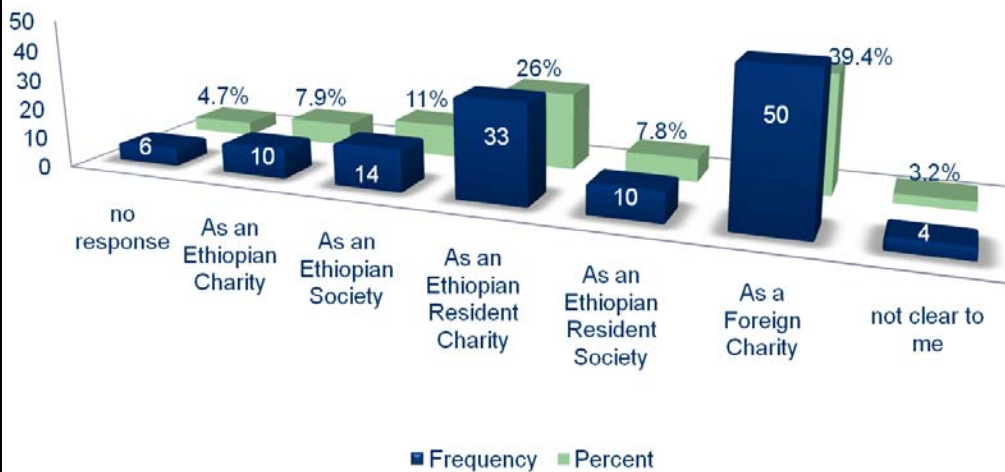
Chart 2: The Implications of CSP on the local secular organizations (Article 88 => 70/30)



This study tried to examine possible coping mechanisms that CSOs/NGOs and/or CRDA should take so as to strengthen CSOs/NGOs and keep on their operation in a sustainable manner. The sampled organizations were asked to elicit their coping mechanisms in relation to the CSP. Basically the questionnaire was designed in such a way that it enables to collect data on the organization's coping mechanism regarding the CSP. Thus, this study found out that, about 45 percent of the total sampled organizations didn't respond (probably not yet decided) and 13 percent reported that they do not have any coping mechanism. On the other hand, the remaining secular respondent organizations indicated that they intend to design new strategy, limit themselves to few particular development activities, work with government organizations at all level, consult similar organizations on the issue and revisit their organization strategic plan.

According to the Charities and Societies Proclamation Number 621/2009, all CSOs are expected to be re-registered and will be governed by the regulation of CSP (Article 15 Sub A. 1). The result of the study is presented in Figure 1.

Chart 1: The organizations intended new categorical entity registration of the organizations



We also asked if Article 88 of the Charities and Societies Proclamation /CSP/ which delimits the 70% for direct project cost and 30% for administration would by any means affect the smooth operation of their organizations. In this study, majority of the sampled organizations reported that their programs and/or projects will be negatively affected by the CSP law. Many, however, noted it is the interpretation of 'administrative cost' that troubles them. The results is as follows :-

In the same way, sampled organizations were asked to suggest what CRDA should further do with regard to the CSP.

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The Implications of the New Charities & Societies ...

Accordingly, the sampled organizations suggested that CRDA should lobby and further discuss with the relevant government bodies, help member organizations in local fund raising and income generation activities and work together with member organizations so as to search alternative solutions.

III-Recommendations

As a secretariat, CRDA will firstly be expected to give possible coping mechanisms for itself and as an umbrella organization it is expected to do guide its members through a coping up mechanisms. One of the guiding processes could be investigating international experience, further analyze the provisions of the proclamation and finally suggest possible solutions. As a coping mechanism member organizations on their side should make important evaluation and revisiting their establishment document, area of intervention, and make readjustment on their mandate in accordance with the new proclamation and should conduct non prohibited activities such as policy analysis and research, engage in participatory action research, sectoral advocacy etc., Member organizations better capitalize service delivery approach, capacity development issues, develop specific strategies in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and partners. They should also give emphasis to current issues such as HIV/AIDS, climate change and adaptation of agriculture related issues. Member organizations should be able to mobilize and generate resources from the local sources and should clearly understand and internalize the new charity categories so as to smoothly determine and re-register in one of the new categories. As a secretariat CRDA should go for series of further discussions and lobbying with the agency so as to strengthen and create harmonious relationship among all stakeholders, government bodies, partners and foreign donors.

Cont'd from p.9. Furthermore, it should lobby with relevant government bodies so that the implementation of the new proclamation can be unproblematic. It also needs to help member organizations in local fund- raising and income generation activities as per the legislation and better establish an ad-hoc task force that can develop better coping mechanisms and specific strategies in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, partners and foreign donors. From the international experience point of view the association should discuss with other countries' umbrella organizations and share their experience. Adopting lesson from CSOs/NGOs of other countries like Russia, India and Zimbabwe, CRDA should apply user-friendly and diplomatic languages as much as possible during lobbying and discussion with the relevant government bodies so that it can easily convince the relevant government bodies, as the experience in Namibia show. CRDA better establish development of a partnership policy between the Agency and CSOs so that there would be a room for review of the current laws and regulations. CRDA needs to harmonize and consolidate existing laws regulating civic organizations and should play important role for the formulation of transparent registration process, enhance transparency and accountability, and improve coordination among its member organizations, in most instances. In this case, it is not the legislation itself that is causing the greatest difficulties but actually the implementation of the legislation. Thus, CRDA should closely work with the agency to find alternative ways and determine certain specific standards of supervision and monitory of NGOs. Specific standards for the laws dealing with supervision and monitoring of such standards could include audits, management reporting requirements and other disclosure. Thus CRDA should play an important role so as to make the transition simple and the implementation easy to adhere to the legislation.

Emergency Update

The Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) within the FDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development had disclosed on 30 January 2009 that 4.9 million people need emergency assistance in 2009.

As per the findings of Government and Humanitarian Partners joint needs assessment conducted in November/ December 2008, out of the total 4.9 million needy populations 68% are from Somali, SNNP and Amharic Regions.

Whereas the total net food requirement is reported to be 450,611MT valued at approximately USD 389,327,904 a total of USD 38,866,337 is also required for non-food needs interventions in the areas of health and nutrition, water and environmental sanitation as well as agriculture and livestock.

In addition, 30,327MT of supplementary food valued at USD 26, 202, 528 is required to address special needs of 1.2 million mothers and children in the affected areas. This brings the overall food and non food requirement in 2009 to USD 454.3 million.

There are reports that the government and its humanitarian partners are planning to conduct "Belg" season assessment in all "Belg" producing and pastoralist areas of the country, in the month of June 2009, with the purpose of revising the number of population needing emergency assistance that has been fixed in January based up on the long "Meher" season assessment findings. Accordingly the next emergency update is expected in July 2009.



Collaboration Agreement Signed Between CRDA and Water Aid

A collaboration agreement relating to the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) Governance and Transparency Fund for an amount of 106,500 Pound Sterling has been signed between CRDA and Water Aid.

The grant is generally intended for developing Southern Civil Society, and specifically for enhancing CRDA Water and Sanitation Forum (WSF) and its member's advocacy in water and sanitation areas. The project will stay effective for a period of five years starting from 1 April 2009 to 30 September 2013.

According to the statements in the project agreement, considerable improvement in the level of awareness of Water and Sanitation Forum (WSF) members regarding WASH, increased skills of

WSF and WSF members to negotiate, analyze, document and communicate with the concerned NGO/GO on WASH policy issues, enhanced level of WSF generated information to influence decision making by WASH actors and policy makers are among the major expected outcomes of the project.

The agreement was signed by the Executive Director, Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, on the part of CRDA and by the WaterAid-Ethiopia Country Representative Mrs. Sarina Prabasi on the other side.

Africa Rikai, a Japanese NGO Celebrates Cultural Day, with Karrayu Students

"Understanding Africa" and currently operating on education in various parts of the country, organized a colorful Cultural Day Celebration of Karrayu Oromos in cooperation with Gudina Tumsa Foundation at Dandi Gudina Secondary School in Metehara on June 13, 2009. The program was organized to incite community dialogue and youth educational enrollment. Various cultural songs, educational dramas, fashion show, and epic recitals of love and patriotism were presented by students of the school.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E Mr. Kinichi Komano, Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia said, the celebration of the event, the musical and dramatic performances of the students are quite a concrete reflections of the rich Karrayu Oromos culture.

As indicated in the dramas, however, the cultural tenets and beliefs are constantly challenged and threatened by the negative impact of modernization. Japan is one of countries which loyally conserves its heritage but is still quite advanced in technological developments. The best way to conserve culture and still ensure modern progress is through education. That is why JICA, Africa Nikai and Japanese NGOs, who serves as ambassador of the Japanese people concentrates efforts on such valuable projects.

Ato Tariku Amenu, Head of Metehara Town Education Office, said such a liberty of cultural expression, and modernization of the people were the prime objectives for which millions of martyrs gave their life. Accordingly, he said, the town's education office will keep on standing by such culturally rooted and still creative educational and developmental endeavors.

Ms. Shirotori Kurumi, Director of African Rikai, also told CRDA that in cooperation with Guddina Tumsa Foundation, Africa Nikai has been supporting Dandi Gudina School for the past four years. So far, the project has managed to establish block of pedagogical center, give local scholarship to Karrayu girls, support various environmental projects, skill sharing programs and others. The organization of such culturally oriented events, essay contest has helped draw youngsters to school. Ms. Shirotori says, this year alone 200 more students were enrolled in the school.

Gudina Tumsa Foundation is a CRDA member organization engaged in vary wide range of poverty alleviation programs in Karrayu nomadic areas and other places. Africa Rikai is a Japanese NGO engaged in peace and environment protection. As part of its Africa programs it is implementing "School for Everybody Project" in Ethiopia.

CRDA-Sida Supported Program Extended for the 2nd time

The CRDA-Sida joint poverty alleviation grant arrangement focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention and Environment Protection and providing support for 22 indigenous CSOs/NGOS is renewed for the second time for 2009 with an outlay of 10 million Swedish Kronor with the grant agreement signed between CRDA and Sida on May 15, 2009.

The renewal agreement is particularly aimed at scaling up the already on-going projects in the previous phases in various parts of the country.

The program has been under implementation with fundamental objectives of supporting and augmenting Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in applying efforts in control and prevention of HIV/AIDS, enhance their contribution in the area of environmental protection and development as well as build the overall capacity of CSOs with special emphasis on

22 indigenous NGOs that are involved in implementing the CRDA-Sida Supported Program, 12 are working on HIV/AIDS prevention and development.

The CRDA-Sida Supported Program was started in October 2004 and stayed for a period of three years, up to end of September 2007, which constitute the main period. Then it was extended for the first time from October 2007 to end of December 2008 and the currently running extension period is the second one.

The agreement for the extension of the program was signed by Ato Abebe Bekele, the incumbent Acting Executive Director of CRDA and Mr. Abdi Foam on the part of Sida.



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 signatory 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 as 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 transparency, accountability and efficiency among member NGOs and the public at large. Accordingly, seminar topics, news

paper 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, 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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CRDA and South BoFED signed MOU, Executive Director Visited Projects in SNNPR

Christian Relief & Development Association and Bureau of Finance & Economic Development of SNNPR signed a Memorandum of Understanding /MoU/ in Hadassah on June 4, 2009 to promote integrated PHE knowledge, skills and practice in the five zones of the region.

The MoU stipulates that collaboration and mutual support, joint monitoring and evaluation of the program implementation according to the funding agreements signed between the nine implementing local NGOs and CRDA being based on national PASDEP provisions.

The Executive Director of CRDA, Dr Meshesha Shewarega and the Head of BoFED/SNNPR, Ato Bargude Banacha signed the MoU on behalf their respective organizations in presence of representatives of the Project implementing partners, SEPDA, IMPACT, experts and officials of the two organizations.

According to the MoU, CRDA is also obligated to provide backstopping services on top of the financial support to the implementing NGOs. The regional BoFED and other local line government offices will support and collaborate with implementing organizations in accessing government facilities such as health institutions, schools, and staff during capacity building and community mobilization endeavors in the course of project life.

The resource of 1 million USD (Birr10 million) secured from the US based charity organization, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, is budgeted for the promotion of integrated Population, Health and Environment /PHE/ combined approach in the populous zones of Gurage, Hadya, Kambata Silte and Wolayta Zones.

CRDA secured the fund for 3 years,(2009-2011) to be implemented by local NGOs operating in the stated zones in collaboration with zonal administration, community organizations and other stakeholders and line offices among in-school youth and out of school youth. The project will benefit over 3 million people directly and indirectly through awareness creation, skills development and practice in population, health promotion and environment protection and development.

After signing the MoU, Ato Bargude Banacha expressed his appreciations to CRDA and its member NGOs to work in the region in collaboration with local government and people in line with the policies of the Federal and regional governments. The CRDA Director also thanked Ato Bargude Banacha, his office and the staff of BoFED for their unswerving support to CRDA's Regional Liaison Office in matters related to NGO networking and operational environment. CRDA is committed to mobilize its member organizations to work with



Dr Meshesha Shewarega Signing the Memorandum of understanding in Hadassah

all governmental bodies and beneficiaries according to the law of the land; CRDA has about 21 ongoing projects in the region with outlay of over Birr 11.93 million secured from IrishAid, Packard foundation and Sida being implemented by 21 NGOs.

On the way the Executive Director and Director of Program Development & Management Core Team visited the CRDA/IA projects in the South Ethiopia under Evangelical Churches Alliances, Dawn of Hope and the Wolayta Development Association in Hadassah, Wolayta Sodo and Arba Minch.

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30 New CRDA Members Enrolled in January 2009

No	Organization	Representative	P.O.Box	Telephone No	Fax No	E-mail
1	Access for Change Development and Charity Organization (ADCO) (L)	WZ. Menbere Melake (EX. Director)	20480 code 1000	4-661784/ 0911487883	-	accessforchange@yahoo.com
2	Afro Ethiopia Integrated Development (AID) (L)	Ato Shimeta Ezezew Kassa (G/ Manager)	14096 355 B/DAR	0911862695/ 0918760621/ 058-2203204	-	shimetaezezew@yahoo.com
3	Association for Sustainable Development Alternatives (ASDA) (L)	Ato Takele Teshome (Board Chairman)	101782	6297043/0911697287	4654771	asdaeth@ethionet.et
4	Bethel Orphanage Center (BOC) (L)	Dr.Yigeremu Asfaw (Managing Director)	9011	3206331/ 6530786/ 0911206060/ 0911182864	3495839	bethel.teachosp@ethionet.et
5	Bridge to Israel in Ethiopia (BIE) (I)	Ms. Anna Augstburger (Country Representative)	5755	6181404	6183619	Bridge@ethionet.et
6	CHF Partners in Rural Development (CPRD) (I)	Mr. David Rhody (Country Director) Mr. Saifiso Kilabo (Prog. Coordinator)	1551 code 1250	3726341/42	3726343	chfpartners@ethionet.et drhody@chf-partners.ca dirhody@ethionet.et
7	Developing the Family Together (DFT) (L)	Wz. Kidist Belete (Executive Director)	81233	6552976/ 1245726 0911406747	-	dft@ethionet.et
8	Eneredada Elder People Association (EEPA) (L)	Ato Imran Abubeker (Project Manager)	29303	1570921/0910371407	1572972	eepasso@ethionet.et
9	Envision Beyond Basic-needs Association (EBBA)(L)	Ato Alemu Asana Dowa (Board V/Chairperson & Fund Raising)	002 code 1032	4196748/ 0911602169	4197232	ebba@ethionet.et
10	Eshet Children and Youth Unity Association Ethiopia (ECYUA)(L)	Ato Dawit Negussu Retta (Executive Director)	56411	0911405506/ 0911484666	-	ecyuaethiopia@yahoo.com dawitnegussu@yahoo.com
11	Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization (EGC/DWO) (L)	Ato Baynesagne Berhia (Development Director)	28683	4663721/0911452953	4663399	egc@ethionet.et
12	Ethiopian Volunteer Media Professionals Against AIDS (EVMPA)(L)	Ato Sisay Abebe (Executive Director)	626 code 1029	5150279/81	-	info@evmpa.org
13	Gaia Association (GAIA)(L)	Ato Milkyas Debebe (Managing Director)	1460 code1250	6183540	6627402	gajaassociation@ethionet.et milkyasd@gmail.com
14	Gurmuu Development Association (Gurmuu)(L)	Ato Ababayehu Jabessa (Managing Director)	28109 code 1000	2771673/1248620/ 0911625503	-	gurmuu@ethionet.et
15	IMPACT Integrated Development (IMPACT) (L)	Hailu Kebede (Dr.) (Executive Director)	19919	6616787/ 0911407332	-	hailu_impact@ethionet.et
16	International Development Enterprises (IDE) (I)	Ato Kebede Ayele (Country Director)	7892	4672906-08	4673341	IDE-Ethiopia@ide.org.et
17	Kambata Tembaro Yellmat Mahiber (KTTM) (L)	Ato Solomon Angoro (Executive Director)	19247	6181604/05/0911687011	-	kembata_development@ethionet.et
18	Mercy Corps Ethiopia (MCE) (I)	Mr.Tom Honsleigh (Country Director)	14319	4169337	4169571	mcooperations@ethionet.et
19	Mesoso HIV Victim Children and Youth Support Organization (MHVCSO) (L)	Wz. Kelemwa Dubale (G/manager)	120553	3715871/0911249012	-	kdubele@yahoo.com
20	New Child Hope Association (NCHA) (L)	Ato Tsegaye Geda (Executive Director)	8994	6533101	4654583	-
21	Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) (I)	Ato Minwagaw Erkie (Acting Resident Representative)	26407 code 1000	4665731/32	4670174	npaid@ethionet.et
22	Rehoboth Yefikir Agelglot (RYA) (L)	W/I Yesli Lemma (Director) Ato Lumba Demissie (Project coordinator)	21008	5546496/0911119331	-	rehotbot.love.2008@yahoo.com
23	Salu Self-Help Blind and Handicapped Association (SSHBHA) (L)	Ato Wondimu Asfaw (G/Manager)	40413	3725811/3724696/3200390 0911215269	3724697	sshbha@ethionet.et
24	Siddartha Development Ethiopia (SDE) (I)	Ato Firehun G/Yohannes (Deputy Country Representative)	1685 code1110 &25676 code 1000	6554255/ 2776132	2776134	siddartha.de@gmail.com siddfde@ethionet.et
25	SOS Addis-Tefetron Bemalimat Bkleten Masweged Mahiber (SOSA) (L)	Wz. Zertihun Berhane (Acting Executive Director)	10633	5518846	5536981	sosaddis@yahoo.com
26	St. Francis Integrated Development Organisation (FIDO) (L)	Ato Zelalem G/Egziabher (Managing Director)	55865	1228614/15/0910077142/ 0911210989	1223267	fido@ethionet.et
27	Talent Youth Association (TaYA) (L)	Ato Ephrem Berhanu (Managing Director)	2460	6185323/6184220 0911688245	6188161	talyou@ethionet.et
28	The Bethany Negash Memorial Foundation (Bethany) (I)	Ato Alemu Yimer (Manager)	1126 code 1250	1577417/1552998	-	snegash@bethanymemorial.org bethany@ethionet.et ayimer@bethanymemorial.org
29	The Development Fund – Norway (DF) (I)	Dr.Jorn Stave (Residence Rep.)	1779 code 1110	6477253-59/61	6477260	df@ethionet.et
30	Vita/RTI (I)	Mr.Oliver Ryan (Country Director)	10744	6186466	6180467	-