

## UPDATE

P.O.BOX 5674, Tel. 251-11- 439 0322, Fax 251-11-439 3502, E-mail: [crda@ethionet.et](mailto:crda@ethionet.et) Web site: <http://www.crdaethiopia.org>

### CRDA Re-opens Regional Liaison Office in Eastern Region

CRDA re-opened its Regional Liaison Office (RLO) in Eastern Regions (Dire Dawa, Harari, Somali, and Afar) on August 2, 2006 in Dire Dawa at a re-launching meeting held in Harar.

CRDA's intention to advance a more enabling working environment for CSOs in general and its members in particular and the move towards expanding services to the people of Ethiopia at large necessitated the re-launching of the Liaison Office in Eastern Region.

At the re-launching meeting representatives of CRDA members and non-member NGOs operating in Dire Dawa Administration; Harari, Somali, and Afar Regional States attended.

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- introduce the newly appointed CRDA Liaison Officer for Eastern Region;
- brief and discuss with participants on the strategic directions of CRDA and its subsequent courses of action; and
- strengthen regional CRDA consortium by selecting and nominating Regional Steering Committee (RSC).

The major roles of the Regional Liaison Office will be to:

- facilitate an enabling environment for NGOs operation in the region;
- facilitate networking and advocacy activities for NGOs operating in the region;
- facilitate a two way information exchange between member organizations and the CRDA Secretariat; and
- serve as CRDA focal point in the region.

To put CRDA members and partners in the driver seat for enhanced involvement in development efforts; participants established a Regional Platform and elected a Steering Committee consisting of seven permanent and two reserve members. The Regional Steering Committee will oversee activities of the Platform; provide strategic leadership and represent CRDA and/or its members as well.

Among members of the Steering Committee, three were selected based on their merit and the remaining four are representatives from each Region.

The members of the Steering Committee are:

1. Harargie Catholic Secretariat
2. Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization
3. Handicap International
4. Afar Mothers and Child Care Organization (from Afar Regional State)
5. Rehabilitation and Development Organization (from Somali Regional State)
6. Forum for the Street Children (from Dire Dawa Administration)
7. Wogayehu Integrated Development Association (from Harari Regional State)

and the reserve members are:

8. Lutheran World Federation
9. SOS Children Village

During its subsequent meeting, the Steering Committee will elect its chair and vice-chairpersons, and CRDA's Zonal Focal Offices.

After the meeting, the team from CRDA Secretariat met with the Food Security Coordination and Disaster Prevention Offices of Dire Dawa Administration, and the Harari Regional State; and introduced the newly appointed Regional Liaison Officer for the Eastern Region and discussed modalities of collaboration.

It is to be recalled that, CRDA opened a new Regional Liaison Office in Amhara Region on July 25, 2006. Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization has kindly offered to host CRDA's office within its premises. Therefore, for those who wish to contact CRDA's Regional Liaison Offices in Amhara Regional State and Eastern Region can do so through the contact address:

1. Ato Mulugeta Worku, Liaison Officer, Amhara Regional State. Telephone: 0911-858239, Bahir Dar.
2. Ato Birhanu Gobena, Liaison Officer for Eastern Region. Telephone: 0915-737212 or 025-1-118986, Dire Dawa.