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# ACT ETHIOPIA FORUM

Official Periodical E-Booklet of the ACT Ethiopia Forum

## Editorial

We are the ACT Ethiopia Forum - Communicators Community of Practice (AEF-CCoP), AEF member organizations' communications personnel working together. Some of you may know us well, and some of you may have only heard of us. Either way, we are a CoP that is on a mission to deliver a platform for sharing our own experiences when it comes to communication activities and further exchanging information on inter-organisational level. Our CoP is committed to highlighting what AEF member organizations are doing on the ground through AEF's internal and external communication via social media, branding & visibility materials as well as external media engagement.

It is with this spirit that we introduce you to the AEF-periodical e-booklet, that will be published every four months featuring cross-cutting thematic topics such as Gender Justice, Climate Action, Peace Building, Migration et cetera. that are globally relevant to ACT Alliance's interventions.

For our first issue, we have chosen the topic – Climate Action, in line with International Mother Earth Day, which is globally celebrated on April 22nd of every year. Member organizations tell us about their climate-focused interventions that are contributing towards climate justice for our planet – Mother Earth.

This is a very exciting moment for us and are happy that all of you get to be a part of our periodical journey!

On behalf of our CoP, we would like to thank the AEF top leadership and each member organization for your unreserved support as we worked on our first issue. We hope you enjoy reading it! Dive in! ☺

Nebiyat Seifedin and Meron Bailey  
AEF CCoP Chair and Co-Chairpersons

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# Foreword

Dear ACT Ethiopia Forum Members,

With great pleasure, we introduce a new feature of our network: a periodical E-booklet. We wish to thank our Communicators Community of Practice, under the leadership of Nebiyat Seifedin and Meron Bailey, for this great initiative. We are confident that you will find it informative and enriching of our collaboration. We wish you happy reading.

The first edition's theme is **Climate Action**, commemorating International Mother Earth Day, celebrated on April 22, 2023. This year's theme is 'Invest in Our Planet.' It highlights the need to invest in our planet for the sake of our environment and our future.

Climate action is part of the ACT Alliance's work for climate justice. "ACT is contributing to the full, inclusive, and ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement and achievement of the sustainability principle underpinning the SDGs while leveraging the experiences, programmes, and evidence of the communities with which it works to influence transformational change for a just transition to more sustainable systems and structures.

"This year's theme is 'Invest in Our Planet.' It highlights the need to invest in our planet for the sake of our environment and our future."



## Priorities

- Avert, minimise, and address **loss and damage**
- Build community resilience through **national and community-level adaptation**
- Promote a fair transformation of economies, development plans, policies, and practices, to promote a **low-carbon development** where nobody is left behind
- Provide **climate finance and capacity building** for the most vulnerable within and across countries and communities
- Integrate **human rights frameworks and gender justice**, and faith-based values promoting protection and participation of the most vulnerable." (<https://actalliance.org/climatejustice>)

For the AEF leadership,  
Christoph Schneider-Yattara, Convener & Yilikal Shiferaw, Co-Convener





# Preface

Dear ACT Ethiopia Forum Colleagues,

ACT Alliance considers climate change as a threat to the whole creation. As a faith based alliance, we believe that we, as humans, have been given the responsibility to care for creation and it is a task we must shoulder with great seriousness.

ACT climate change advocacy and campaign work is grounded in Christian faith and the firm belief that the life of every person has an intrinsic value and that every life is God-given and should be upheld and lived in dignity.

"We believe that we, as humans, have been given the responsibility to care for creation"



Our work is grounded in God's bias towards the poor and oppressed and therefore, poor and marginalized populations are at the centre of our work. ACT will work together with churches and other ecumenical actors to ensure that their moral and ethical voice is heard.

The climate change work of ACT Alliance follows a rights-based approach, thus supporting and amplifying the voice of women, men and communities in pursuing their rights and in their efforts to hold their local and national authorities accountable. Equity, human rights and gender justice, as well as transparency and accountability of action and support are key pillars of our advocacy and campaign work.



# Member's Column

## #ClimateActionNow

### Bread for the World

Year after year, the average global temperature reaches new record levels, and CO2 emissions worldwide are higher than ever. The necessary 1.5-degree limit set in Paris can only be adhered to when the international community finally takes the Paris climate agreement seriously. The central concern of Bread for the World's climate policy work is to mitigate climate change and its consequences for humans and nature. Bread for the World (globally as well as in Ethiopia) focuses on the situation of the disadvantaged and particularly vulnerable population. This is why we support and demand:

- human rights-based responses to climate-related risks and loss and damage,
- adaptation to climate change,
- low-carbon development, climate and resource protection

In Ethiopia, BftW supports projects that strengthen the affected population's resilience in the face of extreme weather. For instance, enhancing the capacity of smallholder farmers on how to adapt their cultivation methods and which crops are more robust and better able to withstand drought.



### Christian Aid

Christian Aid Ethiopia is actively involved in climate change adaptation and sustainable renewable energy sectors, particularly in solar and hydro energy. One of its flagship projects is the Pico hydro project, which aims to provide electricity access to 669 households (with a population of approximately 4,500), of which 62% are females and children. The emphasis is on providing access to sustainable renewable energy and rural electrification, with a focus on off-grid energy. Another initiative involves establishing a sustainable, climate-smart, local livestock feed production system that utilizes the water resources of the Omo River for irrigation. Solar-powered irrigation pumps are used as an innovative green technology, offering a low-cost, environmentally friendly alternative to electric irrigation technologies and motor pumps. Christian Aid Ethiopia has also worked on strengthening the public health system's resilience to climate-related emergency diseases and developing climate thresholds for selected communicable emergencies. The early warning systems have been strengthened community and government level structures to enable early response and action.



# Member's Column

## #ClimateActionNow

### Cordaid

Cordaid responds to major climatic and conflict issues through its efforts with the Ethiopia Drought Joint Response (EDJR) and Ethiopian Joint Response (EJR) projects in the Borana zone and Woldiya town, respectively.

The Borana zone is one of the areas harshly hit by the prolonged drought, with many in need of urgent assistance. Cordaid delivered lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance to 350 households in two woredas of Borana zone through the EDJR project, implemented from June - December 2022, to reduce the climate-related vulnerabilities of communities. Similarly, Woldiya town is one of the areas in northern Ethiopia that has faced severe climate crises and conflicts, resulting in a lack of access to clean water, and increased the risk of disease outbreaks.

As part of the EJR project, Cordaid built three water tanks with a capacity of 5000 litters and maintained three non-functional water points damaged by the conflict to increase access to clean water for domestic consumptions, reaching over 20,000 people in each of Woldiya's five kebeles.

“We used to fetch and drink water from the river. It is very polluted and unhealthy for us and our children, it is a major cause for diseases like typhoid.”  
Said Tigist Abera.



### DanChurchAid

DCA takes a climate risk informed approach to programming with the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus as a framework of analysis and action. As part of its new country programme strategy (2022- 2027), DCA gives due emphasis for sustainable and Climate resilient food system focusing on promotion of climate smart agricultural activities such as cultivation of drought resistant nutritious crops, water management and green energy. To support this, DCA engages with the Private Sector to further scale up green job creation through responsible business conduct.

One of our climate change projects, Community led Adaptation for Climate Resilience, and Green Income opportunities in Ethiopia, focuses on mechanisms that integrate the mitigation and adaptation of climate change. The key actions include watershed-based land treatment, capacity building of local climate actors and introduction and promotion of green jobs for women and youth through private sector engagement. The intervention also promotes solar powered irrigation and introduce fuel-efficient stoves and promote coordination between local stakeholders, including initiating policy level dialogue.

# Member's Column

## # Climate Action Now

### Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Service Commission

To minimize the impacts of climate change, EECMY DASSC has incorporated climate change mitigation and adaptation as one of its strategic objectives (SO1.3) “enhance natural resource management, climate change adaptation, and mitigation capacity of the target community” under the Resilience Building Program (RBP) and considered it as one of the cross-cutting issues. Accordingly, the commission has been implementing some standalone Climate Change projects; incorporating the climate components in some projects and mainstreaming Climate in other projects. Accordingly, the commission has been implementing various climate change mitigation and adaptation activities: awareness raising on climate change, environmental protection, and NRM; soil, water, and vegetation conservation through biological and physical means; promotion of participatory forest management (PFM), agroforestry, low external input sustainable agriculture (LEISA); promotion of fuel/energy efficient stoves; reducing the burden on natural resources through promoting alternative income generation activities and diversifying livelihood options. Through all of these efforts, the commission significantly contributed to the reduction of climate change impacts.



### Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission

EOTC DICAC has been working on various projects to minimize the effects of climate change. Gorgo watershed project is one of the climate resilience projects implemented since 2016. The project operates in North Shewa, Amhara region. Before the project, the watershed was bare with scattered shrubs/trees & open for free grazing, resulting in land degradation, poor food production, weak water discharge, and poor livelihoods of communities that depend on land & water resources. Since the project, the community closed the degraded land from human & livestock interference and jointly executed physical and biological SWC activities to restore the land. As a result, the land has been rehabilitated and spring water discharge improved, communities resumed irrigated agriculture, poultry, fish, vegetable and tree seedling production in a very synchronized and sustainable way from upstream to downstream areas of the watershed. Underprivileged women and unemployed youth generated income, ensured climate justice and built climate-resilient communities.





# Member's Column

## #ClimateActionNow

### Norwegian Church Aid

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Ethiopia works with faith-based and resource partner organizations to mobilizes communities as change agents for climate action. The participation of communities takes center-stage in NCA's climate resilience programme. Through a range of climate-smart strategies, NCA mobilizes and builds the capacity of grassroots communities to prepare and respond to climate-related hazards by adapting their farming and diversifying households' livelihood options. NCA also organizes and builds the capacity of faith-actors and community members as key advocates towards duty-bearers for climate policies and their implementation.



### Swiss Church Aid/HEKS

Borana is one of the 20 zones of the Oromia region found in the southern part of Ethiopia. According to a recent survey (Borana zone Finance office, 2023) the total population of Borana is estimated to be 1.7 million, average family size being 6 people per household.

In the last three years, Borena has lost 5 consecutive rainy seasons due to the absence of rainfall in the short rainy seasons of (Hagaya) and (Gana). Communities have never seen destructive drought in the past 40 years. A humanitarian catastrophe is occurring now and assistance is needed for saving lives. Swiss Church Aid has been working on both emergency response and development projects in Borana including cash transfers, emergency seed provision and rehabilitation of range lands on degraded land areas.

Loko Hassan is a 35 year old living in Borana of Moyale Woreda, in a place called Dhawa. Even with her husband present she leads her family of 8 children. One of her children completed 12th grade in 2023 scoring high results on university entrance exams. Unfortunately, he could not afford to go to university because all Loko's 150 cattle were lost due to the current drought. "The drought has made life difficult for my family, and it worries me each day how I will survive", says Loko.

Together with Swiss church Aid and Terpheza development association, Loko has received cash & food aid packages to support the recovery of her family affected by the draught.

# Member's Column

## #ClimateActionNow

### The Lutheran World Federation

Africa contributes less than 4% to greenhouse gas emissions but carries the brunt of adverse climate change effects. The Horn of Africa is a region where these effects are manifested in the frequent and increasingly devastating droughts, killing and displacing many, and decimating livestock. This situation has been aggravated by the countries' low capacity to adapt to climate change. Climate change is a complex issue that requires complex solutions and a multi-faceted response mechanism. Most mitigation and adaptation solutions and risk management strategies are physical in nature, but these should always be complemented by other strategies such as prudent risk taking (livelihoods diversification), risk transfer (access to insurance), and risk retention (saving).

The Gursum Food Security and Livelihoods Project in Oda Santella and Abubaker Sedik Santella kebeles in Gursum woreda, East Hararghe Zone, Oromia Regional State follows the WFP R4 Rural Resilience approach combining risk reduction, risk taking, risk transfer and risk retention activities.

Sheki Kadir Hassan-Mussa, 49 is one of the targeted right holders of the project, a farmer who is also enrolled in the pilot Weather Index Crop Insurance program. In 2021 meher crop season Sheki's maize crop wilted due to drought and was eligible for insurance pay-out. The pay-out is based on an index, such as rainfall, measured at a local weather station or by satellite, rather than based on a consequence of weather, such as a farmer's crop yield. In 2022, Sheki was awarded ETB 3,960 insurance pay-out and was able to recover from his losses which would have otherwise been a total loss without any compensation. This real-life example has planted a seed in the project's participants to buy into the potential of insurance to reduce their risk exposure, and are now willingly saving money to contribute to insurance premiums themselves this year.

