



ACT ETHIOPIA FORUM

Official Periodical E-Booklet of the ACT Ethiopia Forum
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Editorial

Welcome to the second issue of our AEF-periodical e-booklet! We are excited to continue the legacy of our first issue and bring you another edition filled with inspiring stories and valuable insights. As a community of communicators dedicated to fostering collaboration and sharing knowledge, it is our pleasure to present this publication, which explores the theme of Humanitarian Action.

In line with the spirit of World Humanitarian Day, observed on August 19th each year, we aim to shed light on the remarkable efforts of AEF member organizations in addressing humanitarian challenges in Ethiopia. Humanitarian action lies at the core of our collective mission to make a positive impact on the lives of those affected by crises and disasters.

Within these pages, you will find compelling narratives and firsthand accounts that illustrate the dedication of our member organizations. They share their experiences in responding to emergencies, providing life-saving assistance, supporting vulnerable communities, and promoting sustainable solutions in the face of adversity. We believe that by showcasing these stories, we not only celebrate the incredible work being done but also inspire others to join us in our pursuit of a more equitable and compassionate world. The challenges we face may be daunting, but through collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to humanity, we can make a real difference.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the AEF top leadership and each member organization for sharing their stories and supporting us in making the second issue possible. Dive in and let the power of humanitarian action ignite your passion for positive change. We hope you find this issue both informative and inspiring. 😊

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



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Foreword

Dear ACT Ethiopia Forum Members,

ACT Alliance demonstrates its value as the leading faith-based alliance in humanitarian response by working with faith and humanitarian actors at the global, regional, national, and community levels.

ACT harnesses the combined strength of its members in delivering humanitarian response at scale and with considerable reach through joint programming approaches.

We commit to an effective ecumenical response that saves lives and maintains dignity, irrespective of race, gender, belief, nationality, ethnicity, or political persuasion. Humanitarian needs define our priorities and the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence guide our actions. We remain committed to strengthening the resilience of affected communities and to being accountable to people and communities affected by a crisis. The ACT Alliance Secretariat is certified against the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability and is committed to the Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response.

Currently our members are actively undertaking emergency response through an appeal to different conflict and drought affected regions namely Tigray, Amhara, Afar and Oromia. Moreover, our forum has joined to respond to the Sudan crisis with four countries South Sudan, Sudan, Chad, and Egypt.

For the AEF leadership,
Christoph Schneider-Yattara, Convener & Dawit Beza Coordinator



We won't compromise on our principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. We are determined to deliver and stand shoulder to shoulder with the communities we serve, no matter who, no matter where and #NoMatterWhat.
#WorldHumanitarianDay 2023

Member's Column

Christian Aid

In the Ethiopian context where communities are perpetually exposed to the vagaries of man-made and natural disasters and shocks, the Christian Aid country humanitarian program is working towards strengthening vulnerable communities' absorptive capacity to shocks through provision of humanitarian life-saving support and disaster risk reduction interventions. This will have multifaceted benefits in terms of protecting communities' wealth, assets and gains realized.

The Christian Aid Humanitarian program has been implementing multiple projects in four regions (SNNPR, Oromia, Amhara and Afar) in response to multiple hazards: conflict, drought, disease outbreaks and flooding. Among them, Christian Aid, in partnership with CIFA and FIDO has been implementing an integrated Emergency Agriculture, livestock Health, WASH, Health, Nutrition, and protection response to drought affected IDPs and host communities in Kumbi. The project is intended to meet the immediate needs of 81,349 drought affected people.



#NoMatterWhat

Arada Beker's Story

Arada Beker Ahmed, a resident of Kereri kebele in Kumbi woreda, East Hararghe Zone, Oromia region, is a mother of seven children. She and her family are internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by the conflict between the Oromo and Somali ethnic groups and subsequent drought crises. Arada's livelihood, dependent on livestock rearing and limited agriculture, has been greatly impacted by drought and conflict. She has lost most of her livestock and her children have had to drop out of school due to food and water scarcity. Arada is in urgent need of cash, shelter materials, and food items. She recently learned about humanitarian assistance available through government bodies and NGOs, providing hope for accessing healthcare, agricultural support, and improved water supplies. Arada believes this assistance will help sustain her family, recover from past hardships, and build resilience. From this support. "Such kinds of support will enable me to sustain my families' lives and livelihood, recover from the previous tragedy and build our resilience", Arada says.



Member's Column

Cordaid

One of the places most impacted by the recent conflict in Tigray is the Woldia and Kobo administrations. To safeguard their existence and to save their lives, the majority of residents in this area moved to Dessie town and other nearby towns. Food insecurity increased as families fled their homes and crops. They become unable to restore their livelihood and self-esteem in the foreseeable. As most of the WASH infrastructures were damaged, inadequate WASH services become a public health risk affecting Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and children under 5 disproportionately.

Ethiopia Joint Response (EJR) is a humanitarian aid project implemented from Jan 2022 to Dec 2023. The project directly targets 60,100 individuals while indirectly and directly so far, we have reached 121,035 people in Woldia and Kobo towns, North Wollo Zone, Amhara region. The main objective of the Ethiopia Joint response (EJR) is to alleviate human suffering and restore their livelihood and dignity through provision of food security and Livelihood, WASH, and Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) interventions for conflict affected communities residing in kobo and Woldia administration.

“It relieves much burden of our women, they used to travel long distances to fetch water.”

-Gebeyew Nega, Beneficiary

The project directly and indirectly targets a total of 121,035(64,763 females) people who reside in five and six kebeles of Woldia and Kobo Administration respectively. To this effect, Cordaid with its local partner ECC SDCO planned to provide multi-sectoral services that focus on reinstating the recovery and resilience efforts of the affected community in Kobo and Woldia Administration, North Wollo Zone, Amhara region.

The project strives towards achieving improved food security of vulnerable households. The project also works towards improving access to clean and safe water supply and ensure and promote better hygiene and sanitation by the end of 2023.

Donor & Funding

Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA)
€ 1,848,054

Implementation

Cordaid

Partners

Ethiopia Catholic Church Social and
Development
Commission (ECC SDCO)

#NoMatterWhat



Member's Column

DanChurchAid

Ethiopia faces many humanitarian difficulties. Amongst others, intercommunal violence-induced displacement and related protection needs, widespread food insecurity and malnutrition due to the recurrent droughts affecting up to 20 million people, and disease outbreaks due to poor WASH facilities in IDP sites and in communities impacted by droughts and floods. Ethiopia is the second largest refugee-hosting country in Africa with close to 1 million refugees from South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, and Somalia. Furthermore, more than 4.5 million IDPs and returnees are in need of assistance out of which 30 percent are in acute need.

All of DCA's focus areas including Gambella, Waghimra, low land Bale, Borena and Afar have high risks of natural and man-made disasters such as drought, flash flooding, and conflicts. DCA works with three thematic pillars: Saving Lives, Building Resilience and Fighting Extreme Inequalities. DCA's humanitarian emergency responses come under the first pillar - Saving Lives - by responding to the emergent humanitarian needs of disaster affected households with a timely and appropriate response.

DCA's emergency humanitarian responses are highly complemented by longer-term development interventions as DCA works across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to bring about sustainability and social cohesion. As part of its new country programme strategy (2022- 2027), DCA gives due emphasis for a continuum of interventions from emergency response to addressing the root causes through climate smart development and peace building interventions.



#NoMatterWhat

DCA's emergency humanitarian responses include:

- Multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to cover the multiple immediate needs and deter households from selling their ration (if any) and assets.
- Provision of Fresh food items such as fish, meat, vegetables, and fruit through E-voucher to increase access to fresh food and reduce the individual intake gap both in terms of kcal and diversity.
- Provision of Shelter and non-food items (NFIs)
- Provision of Small ruminant/goat restocking
- Emergency agricultural support to farmers
- Formation and strengthening of Self-Help Group (SHG)
- Protection, psycho-social support and GBV

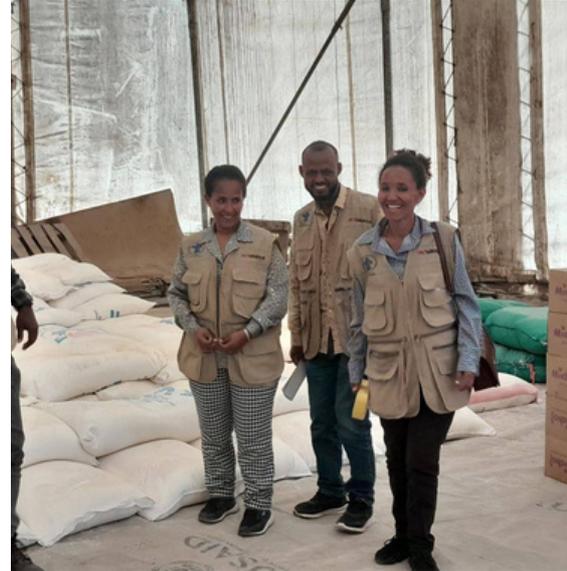


Member's Column

Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Service Commission

Ethiopia has been experiencing natural and man-made hazards. Climate change-induced drought, flood, locust infestation, and landslides are some of the natural hazards. Recently, the people are also facing widespread conflict and war across the country. These hazards created huge internal displacement, loss of human life, loss of assets, physical and psychological trauma that entails humanitarian crises. Therefore, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY DASSC), established in 2000, considered Humanitarian Response and Peacebuilding Program as one of its four core Program Priorities within its Strategic Plan. Gender, Climate Change, Peace, Advocacy, and Digitalization are Crosscutting.

As stipulated in the SP (22/26), the Goal of the Humanitarian Response and Peacebuilding Program is: “to increase impact to save lives, alleviate human suffering, uphold dignity, peacebuilding and strengthen the well-being, confidence, and resilience of crisis-affected target communities”.



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EECMY DASSC is aware of the increasing complexity of the crisis requiring coherence and complementarity across the humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, and MHPSS nexus. The Program has four main components, namely Emergency Response, Rehabilitation, Peacebuilding, and Refugee/Migration and Human Trafficking. Under these components, out of the organization's annual budget of 1.15 billion ETB on average, Humanitarian Response and Peacebuilding Program Utilize 500 million ETB to address 1.3 million people out of which 638,584 i.e., 50% are female across the country. The entire Humanitarian activities are conducted through the lens of Humanitarian Principles, Do No Harm (DNH), conflict sensitivity, Social Cohesion, and building sustainable peace".

"Serving the Whole Person"

Member's Column

Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission

The recent conflict in Ethiopia affected all spheres of life and the economy. Thousands of people were in crisis and faced long-term food insecurity. Since 2021, EOC-DICAC has provided food and non-food items for people affected by the conflict in Tigray, Amhara, and Benshangul Gumze Regions. In addition, improved seeds and construction materials that help for rehabilitation and house restoration were distributed.

Humanitarian Assistance Data

2021:

💰 108,187,596 Birr

👥 104,090 people

2022:

💰 194,873.184 Birr

👥 113,173 people

2023:

💰 144,484.8 Birr

👥 255,189 people will be addressed

#NoMatterWhat

Yalemwork & Aster's Story

Yalemwork and Aster have been neighbors for the past 30 years. They were homeless after their house was destroyed during the conflict and slept on the floor of St. Amanuel church. Yalemwork and Aster received mattress and blanket through EOTC-DICAC and ACT Alliance emergency response intervention in North Shewa Zone. It is unbelievable how grateful they were for receiving a mattress and blanket to sleep on. They said now we can spend a peaceful night with comfort.



Member's Column

Hungarian Interchurch Aid

HIA has contributed in multi-sectoral humanitarian and development programs to the battle against climate change and poverty in Ethiopia since 2011. HIA's projects focused on supporting the poorest population groups by providing education and adequate food, hygiene and water supply.

In collaboration with local implementing partners, we installed well and water pumps within the WASH element to retrieve clean water.

We contributed to improving quality education by facilitating teaching-learning materials, providing vocational training and creating access to a safe learning environment.

Our sustainable agriculture programs enhance livelihood and food security while considering the needs of the indigent local communities. Within the agriculture component, we distributed drought-tolerant seeds and farm animals, provided farming tools and fishing nets. The business development activities, such as the formation of fishery groups and cooperative women's groups responsible for grinding mills, are widely relevant for promoting small-scale business development in the rural community, as well as supporting women to become more economically and socially active.

In order to improve the livelihoods of unemployed youth, we provided marketable vocational training that skilled them to produce leather goods. Another objective was to raise awareness of general social welfare and well-being among the local youth through community programmes and sporting events.

As part of our health component, HIA's projects aimed to build capacity and develop the infrastructure and facilities of Sidhafaghe Health Centre to ensure quality health service.

Besides development programmes, HIA provides humanitarian support to the survivors severely affected by the conflicts in Tigray and to the refugees from Sudan by providing food assistance.



#NoMatterWhat



Member's Column

International Orthodox Christian Charities

IOCC has been active in Ethiopia since 2003 providing humanitarian and development assistance throughout the country. During the past two years, IOCC has expanded programs to serve more people amid the effects of conflict, a five-year drought, the covid pandemic, and a once-in-a-decade locust infestation. Worst affected are households that were already struggling before these disasters hit.

Health and nutrition support for mothers and children—including malnutrition screening, diagnosis, and treatment—and emergency food support for families in need have been key to helping people survive and recover. IOCC has also improved access to safe, clean water for thousands of people in rural areas, supporting better health and overall quality of life.

IOCC has helped rural households get the food they needed to feed their families in the short term, while also supplying seeds and training to support successful new crops.

#NoMatterWhat

Expanding access to safe water in rural and conflict-affected parts of Ethiopia is just one way IOCC is serving people in need amid complex crises.



Member's Column

Norwegian Church Aid

Our goal: Save lives, alleviate human suffering, and strengthen the resilience of crisis-affected communities

In 2022, NCA Ethiopia served 575,626 people directly in emergencies.

We responded to emergencies across 30 districts in Tigray, Amhara, Somali, and Gambella Regions in 2022.

According to the Humanitarian Response Plan issued in November 2022, more than 20 million women, men, and children were estimated to require urgent assistance.

We continued to build on and scale up our emergency assistance and geographic presence, acquiring funding from different donor sources. We coordinated with our field offices and partners and offered a comprehensive, multi-sectoral response on water, sanitation, and hygiene; protection against gender-based violence; livelihoods; and nutrition/food assistance.

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Some key results:

- 99,646 Affected people accessed safe/treated drinking water
- 62,297 People accessed WASH non-food items
- 72,110 people accessed household latrines fitted with hand-washing devices at Jewi Refugee Camp.
- 36,971 kg of discarded plastic bottles, jerrycans, and metal scraps were collected at Jewi Refugee Camp and the host community.



Member's Column

Swiss Church Aid/HEKS-EPER

Halima Mohamed is a mother of 5 children living in Hudet woreda, Southern Somali Region. She earns a small income from daily labour work and receives occasional support from her community and from the local government. Access to clean water has been very challenging for Halima's family during the years of recent drought.

"We used to collect water from wells and ponds located 5 km away. We used water, which was not safe, for our daily consumption. This was our best choice for survival". Halima would send her daughters to collect water, so that she could manage her household and take care of her newborn. This meant that her daughters could not attend school on a regular basis. "I was worried about their future, that they will end up like me, staying home, with no income and being dependent on others". Also, the lack of access to clean drinking water for her family affected the health of her children, as they were continuously ill.



#NoMatterWhat



Access to clean drinking water in Somali Region benefits women and girls.

Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER), with support from Kerk in Actie through the ACT Alliance Drought Appeal, implemented an emergency drought response project in Hudet woreda to improve access to safe water by rehabilitating a traditional well which had been non-functional for the previous five years, due to a technical problem with the generator. HEKS/EPER has upgraded the system by installing six solar panels that run a submersible pump. Also, 50 meters of pipelines were repaired to improve water distribution. Now the well is benefiting an estimated 5,280 people in the community. Halima's family is one of the households that benefit from this intervention, as she is now able to fetch water in her neighbourhood easily and within close distance to her home. "Now I can keep

my children healthy, we drink clean water which is enough for all our basic demands. I don't need to keep my girls at home anymore to support me with the housework. They started going to the local school, which gave me so much relief, now am seeing a brighter future for me and my children."

Member's Column

The Lutheran World Federation

People and animals bend side by side to get water from a seasonal pond in Lancho Lancho Village in AdiHaki Sub City in Mekelle. It is the only water source in the village. When it dries up, River Kokolo that is more than two hours walking distance is the nearest alternative.

“We record five in every ten patients suffering from water borne diseases.” said Mr. Haile Isaias, the Health Supervisor at Mekelle Industrial Park Health Center. This is a direct impact of lack of access to safe water. This is the situation not only the village but Tigray region and Ethiopia. According to UNICEF, 60% to 80% of health problems in Ethiopia are attributable to unsafe water and poor sanitation.

In response, LWF constructed a new water system that has benefitted 13,551 (6,994F, 5,122M) both IDPs and host community. LWF is implementing similar project in different parts of the country.

#NoMatterWhat

Before



After



ACT-Ethiopia Forum

