



Civil Society Fund III



Empowering Citizens for Enhanced
Development and Democracy
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NEWSLETTER

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EU CSF III Programme Bi-Annual Newsletter

The European Union Civil Society Fund III Programme Technical Assistance Unit (TAU) presents the third edition of its bi annual Newsletter. The newsletter highlights major activities in our funded project activities from the grantees and from the TAU.

Have a good read!

Inside this issue

- Civil Society Organizations' mapping study launchespage 1
- Ethiopian Civil Society Organization's weekpage 2
- Resource mobilization training for implementing partnersPage 2
- Establishment of two platforms on peace initiativespage 4
- Business skills training for female prisonerspage 4
- 70 workshops to discuss barriers of women leadershippage 5
- Nursery management and seedling production trainingpage 5
- Making health facilities and schools physically accessible for people with disabilities ...page 6
- Schoolgirls' clubs outreach campaigns on Gender Based Violence (GBV).....page 6
- Labour market assessment to see job opportunities at district levelpage 7
- Material support for vulnerable studentspage 7
- School tutorials for girls to support in their educationpage 8
- Youth organizations' experience sharing visitspage 8
- Rounds of dialogues and discussions for conflict prevention and reconciliationpage 9
- Success storypage 11

Civil Society Organizations' mapping study launches



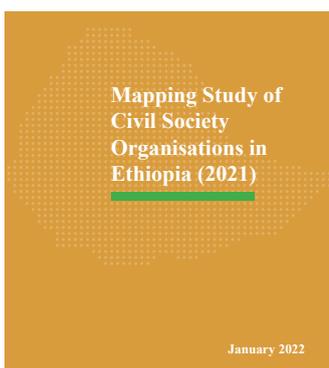
The Mapping Study of Civil Society Organisations in Ethiopia (2021) Report was formally launched at the Hilton Hotel on 30 September 2022. Welcoming and Opening Remarks were made by representatives from the Implementing Agencies and Funding Partners. These included the Team Leader of the TAU, Mr. Andrew Neill; HE Roland Kobia, EU Ambassador; Mr. Netsanet Demewoz, Head of the British Council; Mr. Dan Silvey, of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and Mr. Jima Dilbo Denbel, Director General of ACSO.

Mr. Debebe H/Gabriel, the Team Leader of the CSO Mapping Experts, gave a presentation on the Process and Content of the CSO Mapping Study 2021 Report, while Ms. Tinebeb Birhane, Vice President of ECSOC, presented some reflections on the importance of the Report to the Civil Society sector going forward.

Finally, concluding remarks were provided by the Honorable Dr. Gedion Temothewos, Minister of Justice, before he formally launched the report.

The event was well attended by a wide selection of stakeholders involved in civil society, along with the Vice Minister of State for Peace, and the Vice Minister of State for Women and Social Affairs.

The study was conducted by the European Union Civil Society Fund III (EU-CSF III), the multi-donor supported Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP2), and the Authority for Civil Society Organisations (ACSO). The findings from the study have provided updated, multi-dimensional information on CSOs in Ethiopia operating at national and regional levels. This will assist in subsequent programming by the three partners and other stakeholders.



[Download the study](#)

Ethiopian Civil Society Organization's week

CSOs' week took place under the theme, Proactive for Peace, Democracy and Development, from 30 June to 02 July 2022 at the Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa. EU-CSF III was one of the sponsors of the event, which was jointly organised by ACSO and ECSOC. Various programmes depicting the theme of this year's exhibition were held during the three days, including a panel discussion and exhibition.

The objectives of the event were to promote the activities of CSOs in Ethiopia and enhance their endeavour in enhancing the development of the nation in all aspects. A three-day workshop, organized as part of the exhibition was opened in the presence of senior government officials, representatives of the Civil Society Organizations and other pertinent partners.

The TAU maintained a stall at the exhibition to promote the achievements of CSOs and the programme, as did several CSF-III grantees. At the opening ceremony, the TAU (and EUD) were presented with Contribution



Wards by the Minister of Justice for their outstanding support to ECSOC.

Resource mobilization training for implementing partners

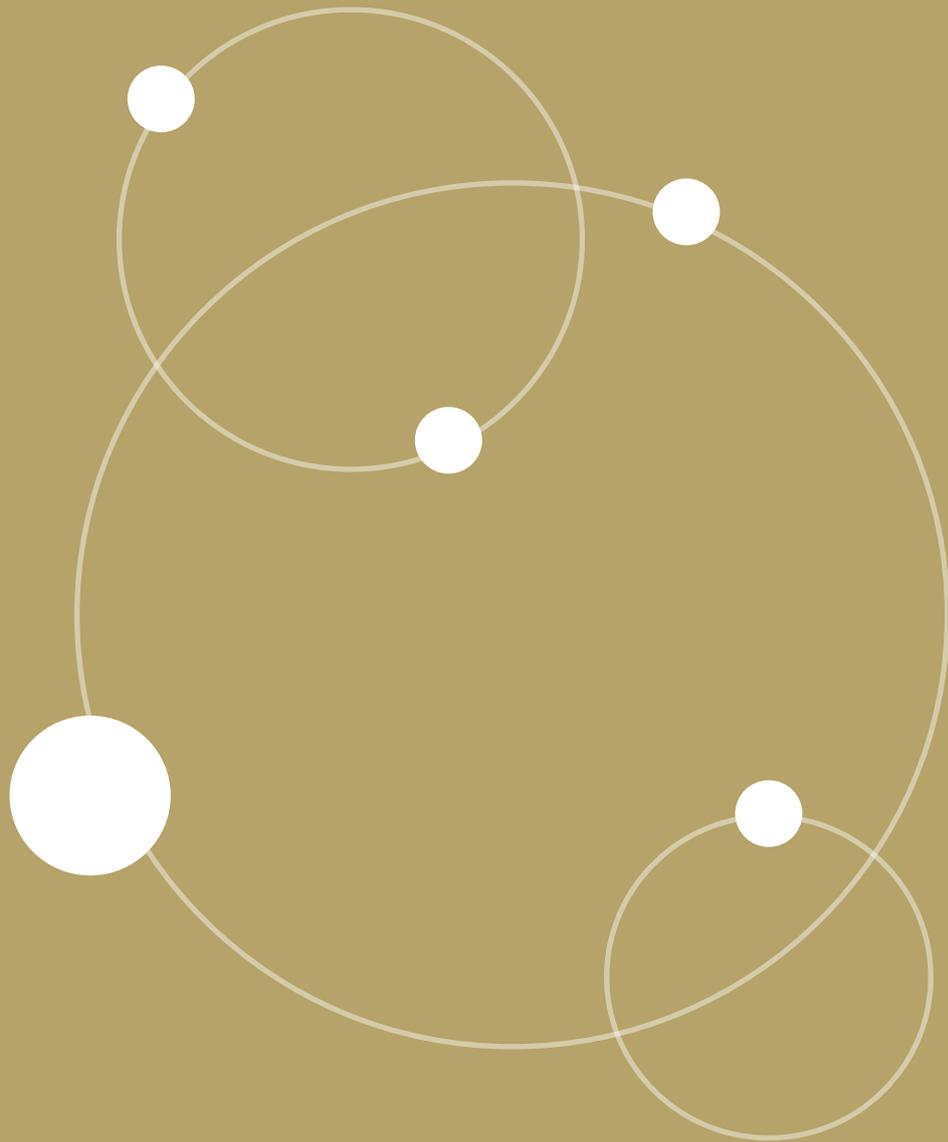
Resource Mobilization (RM) training was organized (in two rounds) with the objective of building the capacity of various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who are partners of the EU-CSF III programme. A total of 33 participants from 32 organizations participated in the 2, two and a half days' training sessions.

During training the participants learned about concepts of resource mobilization and enhanced their capacities on the development of a resource mobilization strategy. It also helped them on how to mobilize more resources for their organizations from international and local (domestic) sources of funding.

The training methodology was interactive, and the training content was disseminated through practical

and relatable experiences to ensure that all participants understood and were able to seek clarification. The delivery of the training content was through power point presentations, group discussions and one on one support sessions with the participants. Group discussions kept the forum open for feedback, queries and suggestions. The classroom-based discussions and interactive sessions were further reinforced through a resource mobilization (RM) manual that has been distributed to the participants to support them with their day-to-day implementation of RM activities. The training sessions concluded with participants conducting an evaluation of the entire training and the issuing of certificates to the participants by TAU representatives.

GRANTEES' CORNER



Project activities from our grantees



Establishment of two platforms on peace initiatives



Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations (CCRDA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Peace (MoP) organised two-session platforms on peace initiatives to develop roadmaps for community engagement in Moyale area, Oromia Region. More than 90 (12 women) representatives comprising influential figures from among the community, the Woreda Peace and Administration Office, and Peace Committees attended the platform.

The platform engaged communities in the two woredas to jointly identify customary strategies to ensure long lasting peace and coexistence in their localities. Community Early Warning Response (CEWR) committees and focal persons participated in implementation of the strategy in all neighbouring kebeles. As part of this effort, the project successfully

introduced the CEWR system and built the capacities and awareness of the committees and focal persons so they can gather, organize and analyse conflict-related data, and become involved in the final response and report process.

The two-session platform consisted of an orientation and revitalization to empower focal persons and CEWR committee members to jointly plan and implement strategies to ensure lasting peace and coexistence among the two communities.

The project, “*Enhance a bottom-up policy engagement of citizens and CSOs to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development*” is being implemented by CCRDA and its partners in Amhara, Somali and Oromia regions.

Business skills training for female prisoners

The “*Promoting Human Rights Based Approach towards Vulnerable Groups in Prisons in Ethiopia*” project has been implemented by Center for Justice (CJ) and its partners, with the main aim of increasing demand and support for the promotion and protection of the human rights of prisoners in Amhara, Oromia and Federal prisons.

The project has provided business skills training for 2,105 vulnerable groups of prisoners, including 500 women and girl prisoners; 1,500 youth prisoners; 90

prisoners living with HIV AIDS, and 15 prisoners with disabilities. The training was provided for three days at Kaliti, Adama, Bahirdar and Debrebirhan prisons. It aims to create awareness around positive self-image, and how to exercise the prisoners’ rights for self-development. The training also covered business skills, including self-employment, personal initiative, identifying business opportunities, goal setting, time management skills and other related topics.

70 workshops to discuss barriers of women leadership

Center of Concern and its partners are implementing a women's empowerment project entitled, “*Enhancing Participation of Women in Politics and Governance in SNNPRS*”. The intervention recognizes that in order to ensure all rounded development in the country, it is imperative to bring women to leadership and decision-making positions. Unless the political, social and economic participation of women (who make up more than 50% of the population) is enhanced, full development will not be achieved.

A total of 70 workshops were organized across all project intervention areas for women, youth and men to discuss the issues and to increase awareness of the community on women's access to decision-making positions. The workshops covered various aspects of major barriers that hinder women in becoming leaders in politics and governance structures. Possible solutions to overcome the challenges on the ground and recommendations to improve the situation were also identified.



At the end of the session, participants pledged to put into practice the knowledge acquired from the workshop and to be models within their communities in promoting women's rights to be in leadership positions.

Nursery management and seedling production training



DGMDA and its partner, VIS, are implementing a project to build pastoralists' resilience to climate change. The project focusses on Bolele and Gogti kebeles of Harawa Woreda, and Armo and Kebrinuno Kebeles of Fafan Zone in Somali Regional State.

Recently, a three-day workshop was organised on nursery site management and seedling production for 100 nursery cooperative members. Nursery sites have already been established and beneficiary youth

were selected in collaboration with local government officials and community members. The training covered basic knowledge and skills development, and involved practical demonstrations on seedling and fodder production.

Making health facilities and schools physically accessible for people with disabilities



The Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD) and its partners are working on the rights of people with disability under its nationwide EU-CSF III project entitled Disability Rights for Increased Voice and Empowerment (DRIVE) in Ethiopia.

ECDD advocates that the built environment should be barrier-free and adapted to fulfill the needs of all people equally. Indeed, it argues that the needs of the disabled coincide with those of the majority, and all people are at ease with them. As such, planning for the majority implies planning for people with varying abilities and disabilities. In the construction of buildings and public places it is therefore important that design provisions or measures should be taken to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities.

ECDD has undertaken physical modifications to selected health facilities, schools, and TVETs to make them accessible to people with disabilities. The modifications were made to six buildings in SNNPR in consultation with the respective institutions' management. The physical alterations included the construction of ramps and the adaptation of toilets, etc.



Schoolgirls' clubs outreach campaigns on Gender Based



Ethiopian Institute of Peace (EIP) in collaboration with its partners is implementing a project to promote and ensure peaceful coexistence and social cohesion among communities, and the respect for rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities in the Lower Omo Valley.

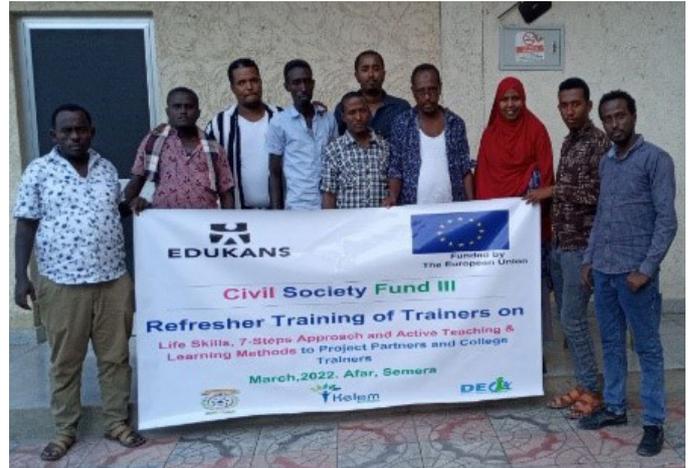
One of the interventions required is support for school Girls' club members through training on the rights of children and women and on the concept of HTPs and GBV. More than 100 girls' club members (female students from seven schools) have received such training, and have been introduced to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Following the support provided by the project the girls' club members have conducted campaigns in their respective towns. The Gosha Shada High School girls conducted a campaign at a marketplace where they were able to reach 250 people. The Girazmach Adnew Garsho High School girls have also conducted a campaign in parallel with Key Afer town's cleaning campaign, addressing more than 150 people. Similarly, the girls of Millennium High School girls conducted outreach as a side event during a meeting at Dimeka town attended by 270 people.

Labour market assessment to see job opportunities at district level

Kelem Ethiopia and its partners are implementing a project in three Districts of Afar Region, designed to strengthen pastoralists' livelihoods, resilience and adaption to villagization. As part of the Action, they have conducted a Labour market survey to identify employment and income earning opportunities as well as training needs in the community. The study also assessed the capacity of TVET institutions and the skills training they offer, and the demands of potential employers in the area.

The study revealed that TVETs' graduates lack the soft skills crucial for employability. It also showed that there is a huge mismatch between the demands of employers and the labour skills available, and low opportunity for small business. According to the assessment report, technical skills, start-up capital and market linkages are very important for businesses to be competitive in the market and to be successful. Training providers in the target areas were assessed in terms of their capacities regarding manpower, types of training offered, connections/partnership with potential local employers and the training tools/materials and machinery available. Three potential



TVET institutions (1 polytechnic college and 2 agricultural TVET colleges) in the target areas were identified.

Based on the labour market assessment findings, the TVET trainers developed a short term skills training curriculum and a validation workshop was organized. All stakeholders including the regional TVET directorate who participated in the workshop approved the curriculum as per the national standard.

Material support for vulnerable students

The EU funded, “*Make Her Voice Heard: Empowering Women and Girls to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence in three Regions of Ethiopia*” project, supports the efforts to empower women and girls in Ethiopia to address and prevent violence and become advocates of change. It is implemented by the Organization for Social Services, Health and Development (OSSHD) with its partner in Amhara, Oromia, and Gambella regional states.

One of the Action's activities involves the distribution of sanitary supplies, educational materials and school bags to more than 1900 vulnerable female students. By providing clean sanitation facilities and free menstrual hygiene products, the project is helping girls remain in school during their menstrual periods.



Empowering girls to attend school and removing barriers to their education is a huge step in fighting gender inequality.

School tutorials for girls to support in their education



Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium with its partners is implementing an EU-CSF III funded project entitled, “*Service Delivery Improvement and Citizens’ Engagement for Development and Democratization (SDICE4DaD)*”. This intervention aims to improve the effectiveness of service delivery mechanisms and to empower citizens to claim their basic rights.

Under the project, after class tutorial support was provided for female students in Fentale, Meiso, Amibara and Awash Fentale woredas of Oromia and Afar regions, in collaboration with the districts’

education offices and the schools. The tutorials were given for three months in English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

Girls who receive an education are less likely to marry at early age and are more likely to lead healthy, productive lives. Thus, investing in girls’ education and educating females can transform local communities, and ultimately reduce gender inequality and enhance the economy of the country.

Youth organizations’ experience sharing visits

The Wolaitta Development Association (WODA) and its partners are implementing the EU-CSF III project entitled, “*Building Resilience and Opportunities for Youth*” in three selected districts of Wolaitta Zone of SNNPR.

WODA has strengthened a total of 30 Youth-led CSOs and 3 networks of Youth CSOs in Damote Weyde, Damote Gale and Sodo Zuria districts of Wolaitta Zone. The youth CSOs were capacitated on a rights-based approach for demanding their rights and to be able to advocate for the proper implementation of the National Youth policy. As a result, they have been lobbying duty-bearers to provide for their entitlements.

WODA organized 18 experience sharing and learning visits for representatives of the successful Youth Association members and Youth Network leaders.



A total of 250 (121 males and 129 female) youths, including 20 (8 females and 12 male) persons with disabilities, participated in the exchange visits to show the best youth led service provision practices. Most recently, a visit was organised to one of the model youth centres in Sodo Town, established by the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA). This centre provides various youth-friendly and community-driven services to the community in general and to the youth in particular. The exposure and learning gained

from the visit has helped the youth CSO leaders to better understand and adopt technical know-how in policy dialogue; community serving and volunteerism; peace-building and conflict resolution, as well as being active citizens in their localities. The Youth Led CSO leaders have been inspired by the achievements of the Youth Centre they visited and are motivated to adopt and to cascade similar best practices to their members and their Youth CSO structures.

Rounds of dialogues and discussions for conflict prevention and reconciliation



Two round discussions were held to among communities and different interest groups on conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace building of Metekel and Assosa Zones in Assosa town. The meeting organized to contribute for the efforts on increasing awareness and capacity of different social groups on the rule of law, respect for diversity, and peaceful co-existence. It also supports the rights of all people and the promotion and protection of the human rights of social minorities.

The participants recommended the ways to solve conflicts in the region and share responsibilities and agreed to work closely with the community to implement indigenous justice system. During the discussions 158 (F24) representatives from government stakeholders, religious leaders, youth association, women association, higher learning institutes, CSOs’ network, Branch office of Human Rights Commission, Branch office of Ombudsman, and Media Agencies participated.

Boro-Shinasha Development Association has been implementing the EU CSF III project entitled “Safeguarding the human right of social minorities in Benishangul Gumuz Region” in 6 woredas of Metekel and Assosa Zones to contribute to secure the human rights of social minorities.



**Learn about our projects from our
beneficiaries**

My life is like a river



Tarikua

The story of Tarikua, one of the beneficiaries of the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions' (CETU) project aimed at promoting decent domestic work in Ethiopia, and defending the rights of Domestic Workers.

I have five siblings (4 brothers and a sister). When I was a kid, my father died and my mother had lots of problems raising us on her main income source of farming. When I was 12 years old, I decided to leave my family and my village in Soddo, to help them economically and lighten my mother's duties.

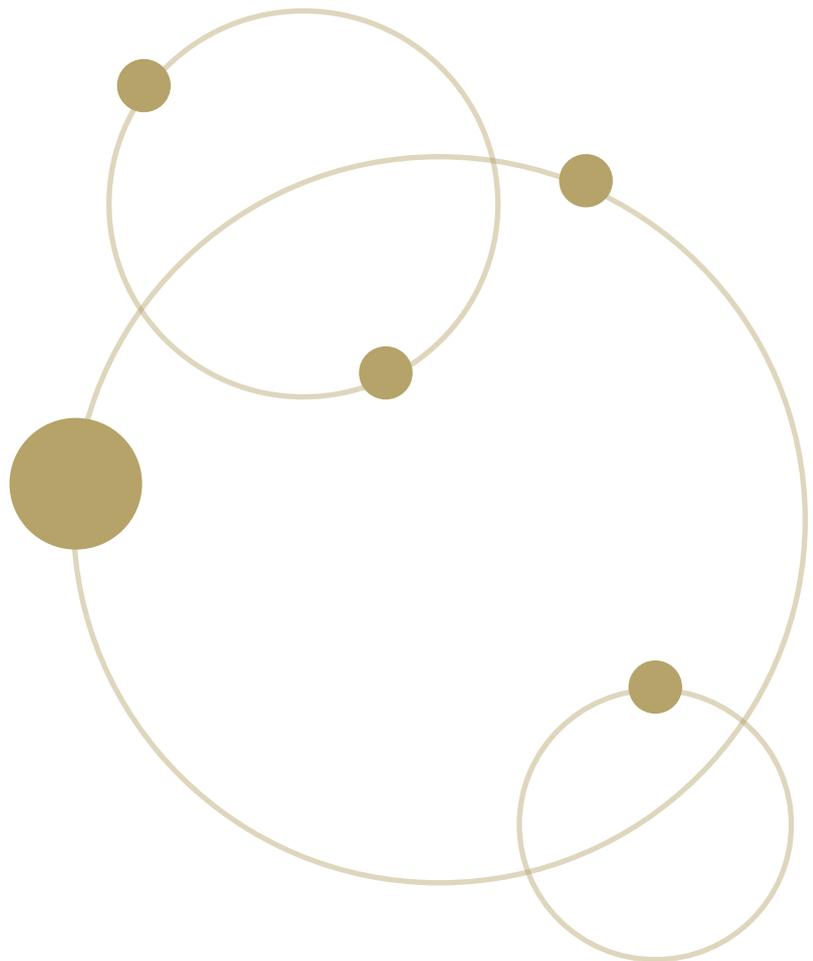
I was hired as a full-time domestic worker in Shashemane, Oromia region, without a proper salary, contract or rights. I decided to move again after the husband of my employer began to abuse me physically.

At that time, I was employed through a broker in Shekiso as a full-time domestic worker, but my salary was only 30 Birr per month. It was not enough to support me let alone help my family. I understood that I needed to reach a better level of education to improve my life.

I moved again to Hawassa. There I faced many difficulties, including divorce and sickness. My employers and neighbours looked down on me as a domestic worker and did not consider me as a human being or respect my human rights. I also faced economic, social, psychological and moral challenges. However, I joined Fitihi "Justice" Domestic Worker (DW) Association in Sidama Region last year. Through the support of this project and the DW Association, I had the opportunity to follow training on the rights of DWs, and life skills.

Before receiving the training and being a member of the Association, I lacked self-confidence and self-esteem. The project and the Association helped me give value to myself, developed my self-confidence and self-esteem, and increased my bargaining and negotiation capacity.

Currently, I am engaged in making Injera and washing clothes as a part-time Domestic Worker. My life is like a river, always moving on. Even if life keeps challenging me, I am hopeful. Since I joined Sidama Region Fitih Domestic Workers' Association, I keep looking for a better future. I am still in training, but my next step is to open a restaurant and to move on further



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