



The Ethiopian Federal Charities and Societies Forum (EFCSF)

Update

October, 2014

I) Introduction:

The various Consortiums and Networks of Charities and Societies Organizations (ChSOs), conscious of the need to reinvigorate their collaborative engagement, coordination, partnerships, networking as well as strengthening their solidarity, collective voice and action, have established the Ethiopian Federal Charities and Societies Forum (EFCSF) in May 2013.

The EFCSF is a non-partisan, independent, inclusive and voluntary forum and its scope is at Federal and regional level with a focus on legal, institutional and operational issues and processes that commonly concern the Charities and Societies sector in Ethiopia. Since its establishment, the EFCSF has been implementing various initiatives in accordance with the Annual Action Plan (AAP), which was presented and approved by the first General Assembly (GA) held in February 2014. The AAP was divided into the following four main pillars:

- ***Promotion, Accountability, Partnership and Collaborative Engagement.***
- ***Research, Constructive Dialogue and Representation.***
- ***Resource Mobilization.***
- ***Develop and establish the Federal Forum's institutional and operational frameworks, including the Forum's secretariat.***

The Executive Committee and Secretariat of the Federal Forum strives to provide information and updates to its members, stakeholders and supporters, through publications and Newsletters. This update is intended to provide information highlighting the main initiatives and activities undertaken and progresses made by the Federal Forum since the first GA meeting.

After having its GA meeting in Feb. 2013 the Executive Committee of the Forum which is composed of seven in number was working different activities like developing proposals, partnerships, and its first news letter and distributing it to its members, partners, donors, government bodies, and other stake holders via soft and hard copy, and developing the content and design of the Forum's website. Here comes with this the update next to the newsletter.

II) Main Activities Undertaken and Progresses Made:

- In October 2014, the Executive Committee of the Federal Forum met with the Director General, Ato Meseret Gebremariam, and the new Deputy Director General, Wro. Fentaye Gezahegn, of the Charities and Societies Agency (ChSA). One of the main issues raised and discussed at the meeting was follow-up on progress regarding amendments to the Capacity Building and Transport sections of 70/30 directive, following the reviews and recommendations made by the technical working groups established earlier by the Civil Society Sector Working Group (CSSWG). The Director General of ChSA explained that the Agency is working on the amendments and will try to finalize and issue it as soon as finalized. The importance of the active participation of the ChSO sector in the process of developing the next Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP2) was raised and discussed, and the Agency expressed its willingness to facilitate this with the relevant government bodies.

- The First Newsletter of the Federal Forum has been published and widely disseminated. The Newsletter, among other components, included the Statute and Annual Action Plan (AAP) of the Federal Forum as well as deliberations of the Establishment and First General Assembly (GA) meetings.
- The Executive Committee of the Federal Forum had meetings with various donor partners, government bodies and ChSO networks where presentations were made, pertinent issues and concerns raised and discussions held in order to create shared understanding of the objectives, purposes and relevance of the sector having common voice and in this context the role of the Forum. The meetings held include DFATD/Embassy of Canada, USAID, European Union, CSSG, BINGO, CANGO, and HINGO and others.
- The Federal forum was invited to the annual work plan development workshop of the CSSG and two members of the Executive Committee and the Forum Coordinator have actively participated. The Federal Forum would like to thank all members of the CSSG for inviting the Forum to this important workshop.
- Planning and preparation to hold the second General Assembly (GA) meeting of the Federal Forum are underway. The GA meeting is planned to be held on 14th November in Addis Ababa and invitations with detail program and information are being sent out to all members and other stakeholder participants.
- The development of the Federal Forum's website is at its final stage and it is planned to be launched at the third General Assembly (GA) meeting.
- In early November 2014, the committee established by Consortiums and Networks of ChSOs, and chaired by CCRDA, to organize a visit to the Grand Renaissance Electric Power Dam (GREPD) met at the Federal Forum's Secretariat Office and discussed plans. The committee planned a first round five days joint visit by representatives of ChSO Consortiums and Networks and leadership members of the Charities and Societies Agency (ChSA) to tentatively take place from 21st to 25th November 2014.
- The structure of the Federal Forum includes three Sub Committees namely, 1) Promotion and Accountability, 2) Partnership and Collaborative Engagement and 3) Research and Dialogue, with each Sub-Committee comprising of five members elected by the General Assembly. On 31st October 2014, members of the three Sub-Committees met at the Secretariat Office of the Forum. Updates on initiatives and activities undertaken and progresses made in line with the Annual Action Plan (AAP) was presented by the Chairperson of the Forum, discussions on the roles and responsibilities of respective Sub-Committee discussed, and each Sub-Committee has elected its Chairperson and Secretary. Members of each Sub-Committee are as follows:

Promotion and Accountability:

Name	Organization
1, Ato Ismael Ali, Subcommittee Chairperson	Afar pastoralist Forum
2, W/ro Saba G/medhin, Subcommittee, Secretary	NEWA
3, Ato GebrayTeshome	FENAPD
4, Ato AychalimGoshu	CCRDA
5, AtoTarekegnAbduljebar	Ethiopian Youth Federation

Partnership and Collaborative Engagement:

Name	Organization
1, Ato Ephrem Birhanu Subcommittee Chairperson	ENCDC
2, AtoTewodros Belay, Subcommittee, Secretary	CoYDoE
3, Ato MuktarAliye	Ethiopian Youth Network Harar Branch
4, Ato Wondu Bekele,	OVC Network Ethiopia
5, W/ro Fatuma Jemal	NOSP

Research and Dialogue:

Name	Organization
1, Ato Getu Mulatu	NOVIB
2, Ato Yakob Ahmed	PDN
3, Ato YfokireTefera, Assistant Professor	OSHPA-E
4, Ato Biruk Kebede	NaPAN
5, W/ro BlenAsrat	Ethiopian Women Federation



*Sub-Committees for Research and Dialogue
In discussion of is activities*



*Sub-Committees in discussion with the Executive
Committee*

- A one year project proposal has been developed by the Executive Committee of the Federal Forum, submitted to and received funding amounting € 75,000 from the multi donor financed Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) as a modality contributed by Irish Aid led donor group like Canadian Embassy, UK aid, Royal Norwegian Embassy, The Kingdom of Netherlands, Sweden Embassy, and European Union. The European Commission (EC) has also pledged a financial support of €10,000 to the Federal Forum. The financial support provided by both the CSSP and EC will significantly strengthen the capacity of the Federal Forum enabling it to implement crucial priority initiatives and activities. The Executive Committee of the Federal Forum would like to express its appreciation and thank the CSSP and all its donors, and the European Commission.
- With a temporary office space provided by Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Ethiopia, the Secretariat of the Federal Forum has been established and became functional since July 2014. After serving voluntarily for six months, Ato Tigabu Haile has been appointed as the Forum Coordinator/Head of Secretariat Office by the Executive Committee of the Federal Forum. Wrt. Ayelech Tibebu has also been recruited as Program Assistant and joined the Secretariat Office in October 2014.

III) Main Plans for the Next Three Months:

- To hold the second General Assembly (GA) meeting on 14th November 2014 in Addis Ababa. Including presenting amendments to the Capacity Building and Transport sections of the 70/30 directive.
- The Executive Committee and Secretariat of the Federal Forum to organize and hold introductory constructive dialogue conferences with ChSOs, donors, government organizations and stakeholders in all Regional States and City Administrations.
- Finalize, launch and maintain an up-to-date website of the Federal Forum.
- Start collection and compilation the database for the profile of ChSOs, Consortiums and Networks of ChSOs operating at Federal level in Ethiopia.