

Ethiopia

In solidarity for peace

In Southern Ethiopia, thousands of people have been displaced by ethnic tensions. Catholic Relief Services is addressing their immediate needs—such as health, nutrition, sanitation and shelter—and is working with the Ethiopian Catholic Church to help address the root causes of the tension and to foster peace and reconciliation.



The forum brought together religious leaders; government representatives; and traditional, youth and women's leaders. *Photo by Terhas Clark/CRS*

On November 22, 2018, the Ethiopian Catholic Church and CRS hosted a peace forum entitled “Collaborative Action for Sustainable Peace” in Dila Town in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ Region. The forum brought together over 100 people—including religious leaders, government representatives and community members—to reflect on the causes of the tensions, and to identify ways they could collaborate to ensure peace in the community. Read more about the [peacebuilding forum](#).

“Conflict is inevitable, but the way we deal with it is the important thing.” – Cardinal Berhaneyesus



Five more years

The first phase of the 5-year USAID-funded Farmer-to-Farmer, or F2F, activity, saw 10,255 Ethiopian farmers improve their agricultural productivity, access new markets and learn ways to conserve natural resources.

Representatives of USAID, Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource, agriculturalists, microfinance and research institutions, private enterprises, farmers' cooperatives, and the Peace Corps celebrated the launch of the second phase of the F2F in Addis Ababa on November 1, 2018. Stephen Morin, Chief of the Office of Economic Growth and Transformation for USAID in Ethiopia, was the keynote speaker, and Esayas Lemma Hayi, director of the Crop Development Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, made the closing speech.

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Agronomist Haldeman Murphy, volunteers with F2F to work with farmers in Abaya District. *Photo by Biruk Tesfaye/CRS*

FIVE MORE YEARS OF FARMER-TO-FARMER

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The second phase of F2F will run through 2023, bringing 120 experts from the United States to provide technical support to farmers, cooperatives, private enterprises, government and nonprofit organizations. It aims to generate inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth to sustainably reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' regions. The activity will expand markets and trade by broadening the participation of farmers and private enterprises in existing markets as producers and providers. It will also strive to enhance resilience to shocks such as droughts, that adversely affect livelihoods, by conserving the natural resource base that these farmers rely on.



Stephen Morin, Chief of the Office of Economic Growth and Transformation for USAID in Ethiopia, making his keynote speech at the F2F program launch. Photo by Emily Keast for CRS

Ripple effect of quality gender programming

CRS Ethiopia is recognized by the East Africa Regional Office (EARO) for its best practice in gender inclusion in the country program's operational and program structures.

CRS Ethiopia's gender unit was tasked with organizing and hosting a 3-day EARO Gender Community of Practice workshop, which saw 20 participants from Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and the United States gather to learn about approaches to gender inclusion, and develop strategies

to effectively embed gender into programs and operational structures in their CPs.

CRS Ethiopia takes a multipronged approach to mainstreaming gender in all aspects of the country program. It has institutionalized a CP gender strategy and gender-human resources action plan, and

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made gender a primary component of the monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) unit.

It also registers female graduates from universities in Addis Ababa and the regions as potential candidates for apprenticeships, to empower them to gain work experience to become more marketable in the job market. They enhance their education through practical assignments, while supporting the work of CRS projects. In December, 15 recent graduates joined as the second cohort of the apprenticeship program.



Staff participate in interactive activities to learn how power dynamics and abuse of power can lead to gender-based violence, and what measures they can take to prevent and respond to such instances. Photo by Bethlehem Melese/CRS

In December, CRS Ethiopia's gender unit launched a series of interactive educational activities to commemorate the UN-recognized '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' to raise awareness on GBV. On the 16th day, all staff participated in a session on power dynamics and how abuse of power can lead gender-based violence. Staff were informed of what measures they can take to prevent and respond to such instances.



Lemesa Elias, a beneficiary of CRS’ responses for internally displaced people in Deder Town, inspects the recently constructed water point and latrines, which have ramps to improve accessibility. *Photo by Terhas Clark/CRS*

CRS Ethiopia charts new path for disability inclusion

More than 1 billion people globally, including 93 million children, live with a disability, and 80 percent of the world’s disabled people live in developing nations.¹ According to the World Bank, 18 million Ethiopians—17 percent of the population—live with some type of disability, with 95 percent unemployed and excluded from social services, often forcing them to resort to begging to survive.²

18 million

ETHIOPIANS LIVE WITH SOME TYPE OF DISABILITY

CRS Ethiopia recognizes that effective disability mainstreaming means establishing strong partnerships with local disabled people’s organizations, or DPOs. CRS has made disability mainstreaming one of the strategic objectives of the country program.

1. *Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities*. UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development 2018.
 2. Groce N. Kett M. 2013 *The disability and development gap*. Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre working paper series No. 21.

We are building relationships with local DPOs and international institutions that incorporate disability into their programming. As a result, the Federation of Ethiopian National Associations of Persons with Disabilities has recognized CRS Ethiopia’s efforts to support DPOs and promote disability inclusion. As one of the few mainstream nongovernmental organizations prioritizing disability inclusion in Ethiopia, CRS was invited by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, with UNECA Executive Secretary Vera Songwe, on December 3, 2018.

CRS’ Church partners are also mainstreaming disability into their programmatic and operational practices. Harar Catholic Secretariat (HCS) has adopted a twin-track approach to disability inclusion by constructing accessible water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and shelters for displaced people, and also renovating its offices to ensure access for physically disabled people.

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Ermias Sitotaw: Stellar driver!

CRS drivers help deliver life-saving assistance around the world. These committed and qualified staffers make our everyday operations possible.

On September 14, 2018, CRS Ethiopia driver Ermias Sitotaw took first place in the Fleet Forum East and Southern Africa driving challenge. The competition took place in Kenya and included 700 drivers from 13 countries representing such organizations as UNICEF, World Food Program, CRS, World Vision, GOAL, Mercy Corps, Kenya Red Cross, Marie Stopes International and Save the Children.

We could not be more proud of Ermias’ accomplishment!



Ermias Sitotaw (left) receives the winner’s trophy at the Fleet Forum East and Southern Africa driving challenge in Kenya. *Photo courtesy of Fleet Forum*



Success stories



Holistic approach helps displaced people

In Ethiopia, about 2.8 million people have been forced to leave their homes because of conflict. But even when they finally found refuge, there was not always access to sanitation, clean water or privacy. And the children had no school to attend. CRS aims to meet their immediate needs—such as food, water and shelter—and also to restore dignity and encourage social cohesion. [Watch the video to learn more.](#)

Building farmer resilience

Thirteen years ago, Mustefa Hafiz could barely feed himself. Through a CRS watershed management project, he learnt to conserve the soil and prevent flooding. Applying what he learned has dramatically increased his crop production, and he has invested the profits in more land, cattle and fertilizer. He now grows high-yield vegetables. Read [Mustefa's story](#) to learn how CRS helps communities rehabilitate land to increase productivity.

Recovery and resilience for farmers

Nudo Delsebo is used to overcoming challenges. With a physical disability that limited her mobility, she had to work twice as hard as her neighbors to earn the same income from her farm. Following years of drought and a powerful El Nino, CRS and OFDA offered immediate assistance and improved livelihoods. Read [Nudo's story](#) to find out how she was able to increase her grain production from zero to 2,646 pounds.



Water access shifts balance of gender power

Women and girls have been freed from long daily water hauls and now have time for education and business activities thanks to a [CRS project](#) providing access to safe and reliable water by providing water points.

Water is life

Watch [Hajera's story](#) to learn how CRS' water point in Belina is helping transform an entire community.

Pathway to the future

Bedane Hamda has been able to pave the way to a more secure future for himself and his family after graduating from a business skills program where he learned how to develop a small business. Watch [Bedane's story](#).

Embracing opportunity

[Spend a day](#) with Zeineba Markato, an Ethiopian seventh grader. CRS Ethiopia is working with the Church and local partners to provide girls like Zeineba with opportunities to break through barriers and reach their full potential.



CRS Ethiopia

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