

An e-newsletter  
to facilitate networking and information exchange among CSOs and researchers

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# FSS' Book Launch

FSS held a book launch workshop on April 18, 2013 at the Dessalegn Hotel. The book titled



'Food Security, Safety Nets and Social Protection in Ethiopia, eds. Dessalegn Rahmato, Alula Pankhurst and Jan-Gerrit van Uffelen. This volume is one of the first comprehensive studies on food security, safety nets and social protection in Ethiopia. In particular, it provides new insights about the challenges and opportunities the productive safety net

programme is facing in the country. Dr Alula Pankhurst, one of the editors, gave a short briefing about the genesis of the book. Accordingly, the book is a product of a trilateral cooperation of Wageningen University Disaster Studies and Bahir Dar University Department of Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Development and Forum for Social Studies (FSS). Many of the essays in this volume were derived from extended empirical studies. Participants underscored the significance of the book



in providing policy insights for both the Ethiopian government and its development partners.

The book launch was attended by government officials, members of the diplomatic community, representatives of intentional organizations working on food security issues, FSS members and other invited guests.



## ***FSS conducted two validation workshops on CSO participatory capacity assessment report***

FSS is currently implementing a CSO capacity development project. The project is supported by the multi-donor funded Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP). The project aims at enhancing the capacities of 23 selected CSOs operating in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) and Benishangul-Gumuz Regional States. In order to identify the capacity needs of the target CSOs, FSS has undertaken a participatory capacity assessment study. FSS organized a validation workshop on the assessment report in Hawassa (June 26, 2013) and in Assosa (July 10, 2013). The validation workshops were attended by the representatives of the target CSOs and CSSP staff.



## ***Validation workshop on the FSS-Atos study on the role of CSOs in supporting the elderly and people with disabilities***

This research was undertaken by a team of researchers including Dr Gebre Yintso, Ato Abebe Gebre-Medhin and Ato Merhatsdik Mekonnen. The research report identified the nature and level of CSOs engagement with the elderly and people with disabilities. It also discussed the challenges and opportunities that the elderly and people with disability face when they establish civil society organizations to support themselves. The research, moreover, studied strengths and weaknesses of government

policies regarding the elderly and people with disabilities. The validation workshop for this research was held on March 14, 2013 at the Dessalegn Hotel. The validation workshop was attended by officials of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, FSS members, representatives of several CSOs working on issues of the elderly and people with disabilities and representatives of bilateral and multilateral donors.

## ***A validation workshop on a research monograph and documentary film on charcoal Production, consumption and its environmental impact in Ethiopia***

FSS held a validation workshop on June 28, 2013 on the research on charcoal production, marketing and consumption in Ethiopia. The main focus of both the research monograph and the documentary was studying the environmental, social and economic impacts of charcoal making and consumption in Ethiopia. The researchers, Dr Melaku Bekele and Ato Zenebe Girmay both from the Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, presented their findings. One of the main findings of the study was the lack of specific policies and institutions that could help regulate the charcoal industry in the country. Moreover, the documentary film made on the same subject was screened to the audience. Two discussants: Dr Alemu Gezahenge and Dr Habtemariam Kassa gave their reaction to the research





monograph. The participants drawn relevant government departments including the Ministry of Agriculture, CSOs working on environment, scholars and practitio-

ners provided their inputs for the research monograph and the documentary.



***FSS' Youth and Development Dialogue series has continued in the period March 2013 to August 2013. In this period, the following workshops were held:  
Youth and Voluntarism in Ethiopia***

FSS conducted the sixth of its Public Dialogue Series on the general theme of Youth and Development on Friday, April 26, 2013 at Ghion Hotel. The specific topic of the public dialogue of the day was "Youth Voluntarism in Ethiopia"

This session in the public dialogue series was jointly organized by FSS and Talent Youth Association (TaYA). A large number of invited participants drawn from different segments of the society (government institutions, civic society organizations, youth associations, academia and FSS members) attended the public dialogue.



Ato Wubeshet W/Mariam, Country Director of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Ethiopia, presented a research pa-

per titled "Youth Voluntarism in Ethiopia". In his presentation, Ato Wubeshet discussed about the multidimensional benefits of voluntarism to socio-economic development of countries like Ethiopia. He emphasized the importance of creating awareness about voluntarism among the youth and the need for coordinated mobilization. Following the presentation, the discussant, Ato Sintayehu Demeke from Addis Ababa Women, Children and Youth Affairs Bureau, gave critical comments on the presentation.

After the presentation of the discussant, the floor was opened for discussion. Some of the key comments that were raised during the discussion include: lack of clarity on the criteria of recruitment for voluntary services, the inconsistency and seasonality of activities, the issue of certification of voluntary services and the benefits involved and the decline in the participation of the youth in traditional neighbourhood self-help associations and community activities.

### ***Ethiopian Labour Migration to South Africa and the Middle East***

The seventh series of the ongoing Youth and Development Dialogue series was held on Friday, June 21, 2013 at Ghion Hotel under the theme 'Ethiopian labor migration to South Africa and the Middle East'. About 75 participants drawn from different segments of the society, including represen-

tatives from government institutions, civic society organizations, youth associations, private individuals, academia and members of the FSS, attended the public dialogue.



A research paper titled: “Assessment of Ethiopian Labour Migration and Human Trafficking to the Middle East and South Africa” was presented by Dr Asnake Kefale and Dr Zerihun Mohammed, Senior Researchers at the FSS. The researchers explained the rationale of the research, its objectives and what it aims to achieve.

In their presentation, the speakers emphasized the need for policy oriented and empirically based research to breach the polarized negative and positive views that prevail in the country regarding labour migration in the country. The researchers by using empirical insights derived from a fieldwork conducted in different localities that are affected

by labour migration to the Middle East and South Africa and by using statistical information from government departments examined the history of labour migration; the various push and pull factors; the negative and positive outcomes of labour migration and the growing menace that illegal trafficking is creating at individual, familial, community and national levels. The research paper also considered the existing legal and institutional framework in the management of labour migration and government efforts in combating illegal trafficking. In doing so, the researchers elaborated the challenges that threaten government policy of managed and regulated labour migration. These include: mistaken/erroneous attitudes among individuals and the society at large about the advantages of working outside of the country; the fraudulent practices of dealers; peer and family pressures and others. Based on their findings, the researchers suggested certain strategic directions and made policy recommendations that could help to improve the regulation and management of labour migration.

Following the presentation, two discussants -- W/ro Makda Getachew, from International Labour Organization (ILO) and Ato Sintayehu Demeke, from the Addis Ababa Women, Children and Youth Affairs Bureau, gave their comments and inputs.

After the comments of the discussants, the floor was opened for discussion. The participants also appreciated the importance of the issues covered in the study and provided inputs to the dialogue on migration.



**Happy Ethiopian New Year!**



## *Public dialogue Series on Urban Service Delivery in Ethiopia/Addis Ababa\**

FSS' public dialogue series on urban service delivery in Ethiopia/Addis Ababa has also continued in the period between March 2013 and August 2013. The fifth session in this series was held on Friday, August 2, 2013 at the Ghion Hotel. The topic of the discussion was the 'provi-



sion of health services in Addis Ababa'. Professor Getinet Mitiku from the Addis Ababa University Health Sciences College presented a research paper. His presentation focussed on policy and institutional problems in the provision of health services in Addis Ababa. He also discussed problems in public-private partnership in the provision of health services in the city.

The discussant was Ato Atkilt Assefa who is a manager of



a private consultancy company working on issues of service delivery and ethics. He was formerly Deputy Commissioner of the Federal Civil Service Commission. The forum was well attended. Since there were representatives from the Addis Ababa Health Bureau and from Sub-City health offices; private health providers, government and non-government hospitals and clinics and other professionals in the health sector, there was a lively debate on the findings of the paper.

\* FSS wishes to express appreciation to the British Embassy in Addis Ababa for funding the dialogue series.



## FSS to get own Headquarters

As part of its plans to ensure the sustainability of its services, policy research, public dialogue and outreach, FSS is planning to build its own headquarters.

FSS currently spends an exorbitant sum on payment of rentals. The planned construction of the HQ is believed to help to significantly reduce its administrative cost.

The new building to be built around Menelik II Memorial Hospital in the Arada Sub-City would also make FSS and its library more accessible to graduate program students in the various faculties of the Addis Ababa University notably, the College of Social Sciences, College of Law and the Faculty of Business and Economics.

The architectural design of the building has already been prepared by a local consulting firm Fasil Ghiorgis Consult, and the first phase of the construction will begin within a few months.

## New Acquisitions

- ◎ Birhanu Biazin Temesgen (2012) *Rainwater harvesting for dryland agriculture in the Rift Valley of Ethiopia*. Wageningen: Wageningen University.
- ◎ Eriksson, Mikael and Gelot Linnea (2013) *The African Union in Light of the Arab Revolts : An appraisal of the foreign Policy and security objectives of South Africa, Ethiopia and Algeria*. Uppsala: The Nordic Africa Institute.
- ◎ Ethiopian Economic Association (2013) *Proceedings of the Fourth Regional Conference of the Amhara Regional State Economic Development*. Addis Ababa
- ◎ Ethiopian Economic Association (2013) *Proceedings of the Tenth International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy*. Addis Ababa.
- ◎ Ethiopian Economic Association (2013) *Report on the Ethiopian Economy*. Addis Ababa
- ◎ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and World Bank Group Finance and Private sector ( 2012) Ministry of Culture and Tourism. *Ethiopia's Tourism Sector: Strategic Paths to Competitiveness and job creation*. Addis Ababa
- ◎ Getnet Tizazu Fetene and Rahel Mesfin (2013) *Antiretroviral Treatment in Sub-Saharan Africa Challenges and Prospects*. Addis Ababa: OSSREA
- ◎ Hedberg, Inga and Persson, Eva (2011) *The Ethiopian Flora Project 1980-2009: Exploration, collaboration, inspiration . Uppsala*: Uppsala University.
- ◎ King, Kenneth (2013) *China's Aid and Soft Power in Africa: The Case of Education and Training*. Woodbridge: James Currey.
- ◎ Martin, William G.(2013) *South Africa and the World Economy Remarking Race, state and Region*. Woodbridge: University of Rochester Press
- ◎ Southall, Roger (2013) *Liberation Movements in Power : Party and state in South Africa*. Woodbridge: James Currey.
- ◎ The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (2010) *National Rice Research and Development Strategy of Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa
- ◎ Ydlibi May (2006) *With Ethiopian Rulers: A Biography of Hasib Ydlibi*. Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University Press.

## Latest Publications from FSS

