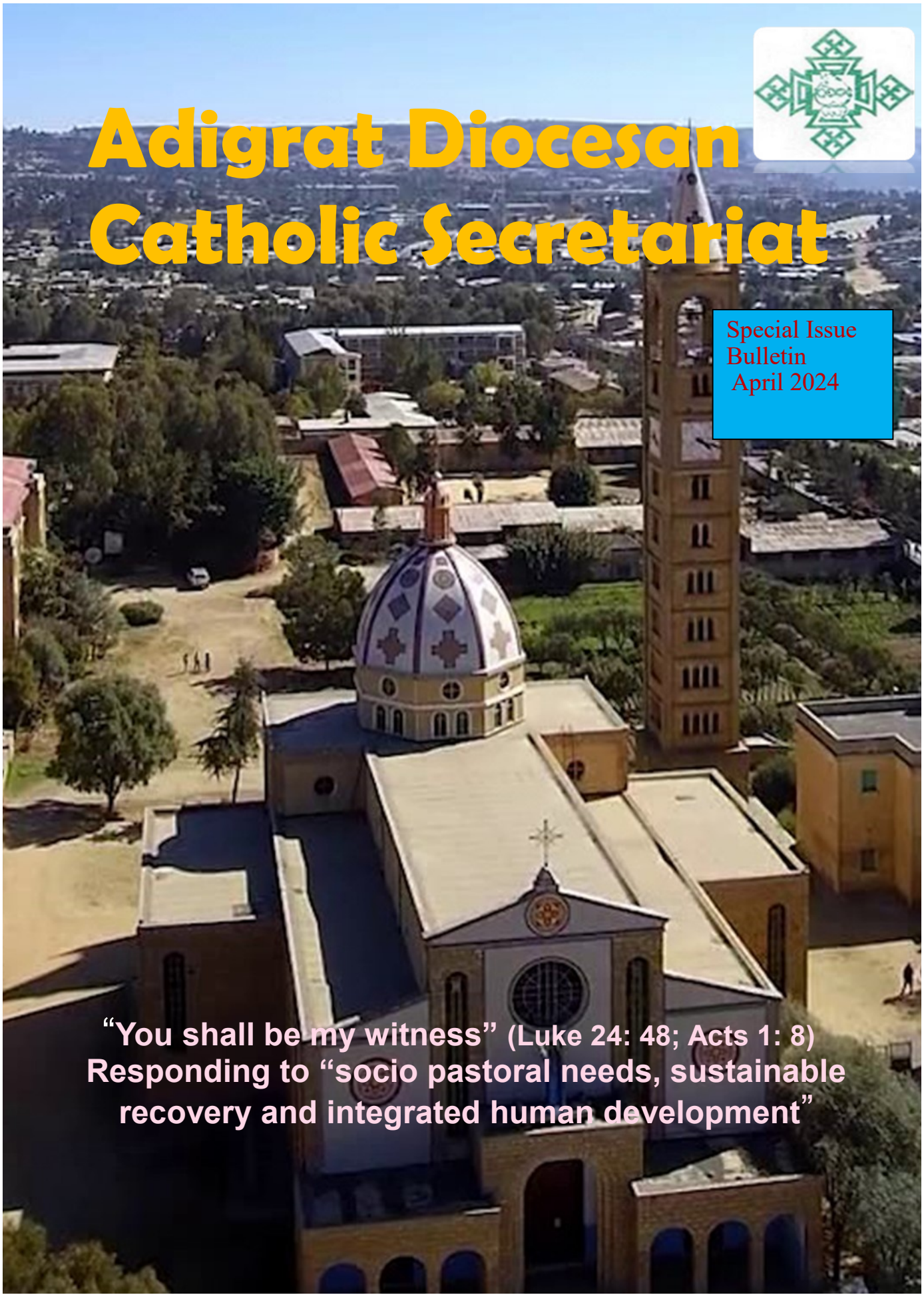


Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat

Special Issue
Bulletin
April 2024

"You shall be my witness" (Luke 24: 48; Acts 1: 8)
Responding to "socio pastoral needs, sustainable recovery and integrated human development"





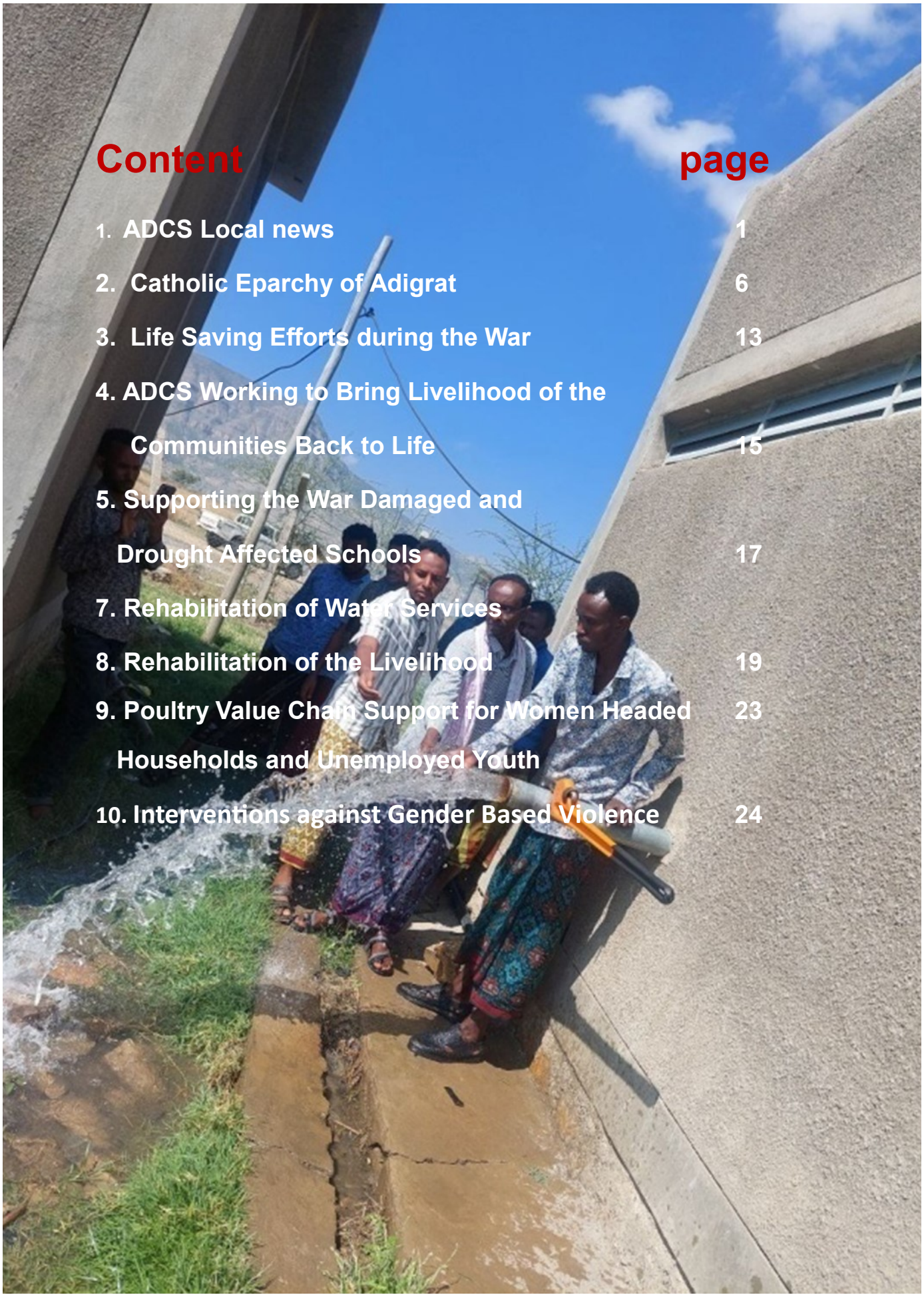
Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat is working to rehabilitate livelihoods of the war affected communities











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Message of Bishop Tesfaselassie Medhin for the Briefing Magazine of the Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat Greetings and blessings from the Catholic Diocese of Adigrat in Tigray! As Bishop of this resilient community, I am honoured to present to you the remarkable multi-faceted activities and programs of the Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat (ADCS). Our dedicated team has been tirelessly involved in various areas such as pastoral care, social outreach, development initiatives, emergency relief, food security and environmental care programs, climate justice, youth employment and migration mitigation, Justice and Peace building programmes, promoting social cohesion, ecumenical and Inter-religious dialogue, Psychosocial and trauma healing services, etc. programmes. Through it all, the Catholic Church has stood steadfast before, during and after the devastating war was unleashed by allied forces from within and outside the country on Tigray decimating its population by a total siege and blockage from every kind of basic services, being a voice for the voiceless, extending a helping hand to those most in need and embodying the values of compassion and service. Our commitment to serving the community knows no bounds, and we are humbled to witness the positive impact of our efforts on the lives of our fellow brothers and sisters, be it Tigrayan or from other regions or nations. Join us as we continue our journey of faith, hope, and solidarity, guided by the principles of love and justice. Together, let us strive to build a brighter future for all, grounded in the spirit of unity and compassion. Thank you for your continued collaboration and support, and may the light of peace illuminate our path forward. I wish you all, far and near, A Blessed Easter

+Abune Tesfaselassie Medhin (Bishop of Adigrat Eparchy)



Catholic **social teaching urges concern for the human needs and care of nature. Jesus Christ, whom the Church holds as its founder, clearly stated in Matthew 25 "for I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink. … whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me". Hence, Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat Pastoral, Social and Development Activities Coordinating Office of the Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat has been working towards the Integral Human development since the day of its foundation.**

Over the last few decades ADCS has implemented hundreds of successful social service and development activities aimed at addressing the basic social and development needs of the vulnerable communities. Along the whole time of the war, ADCS has made relentless efforts to save lives of the war affected communities by implementing more than 46 emergency projects.

Currently, ADCS is working by focusing on the emergency, rehabilitation of social services and livelihood by collaborating with the long-established and new partners. Nevertheless, the situation of the population in general and the IDPs in particular demonstrates the need for a robust international response. It has been over a year and half since peace was declared between the Federal Ethiopia Government and authorities in the Tigray region. Yet at a time when the region should be recovering, people remain in crisis. Widespread hunger is gripping a portion of the population, including the most vulnerable. The situation in Tigray serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for improved responses and solutions to internal displacement caused by both conflict and climate-related issues. Hence, ADCS calls on the international communities to take action to alleviate the suffering of Tigray's population and prevent further destabilization of the region.

I would like to use this opportunity to extend my gratitude for our partners. Your contribution has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve – thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your donation shows that you truly care about our cause and the work we do.

I wish you happy Easter !!

Aba Abraha Hagos

Diocesan Director

ADCS Local News

ADCS is Maintaining War Damaged Water Schemes in Different Woredas

Over the past four years, ADCS has been undertaking a number of emergency water services and water facilities' rehabilitation activities in different Woredas of the region. In Nebelet town of Central Tigray Zone, ADCS has undertaken major maintenance on one of the town's water sources systems by replacing damaged water pipe lines. Furthermore, the CRS/USAID-BHA supported project constructed three new water distribution points and offered expensive maintenance kits for the town's water service authority. The project has also implemented similar maintenance activities in Adi Daro, Seyemti Adiyabo, Emba Seneyti, Irob and Gule Mekada Weredas. Similarly, ADCS Mekele Branch in collaboration with CRS/USAID-BHA has implemented significant water scheme maintenance in different Tabias of Abala Wereda, Zone 2 of Afar Region, specifically Erebti, Haridan, Gelaeso and Abala town by installing new water lines, solar panels, generators and by constructing water distribution points and cattle troughs. The rehabilitation activities in all areas especially in Afar have played lifesaving role.



Water distribution point constructed ADC-CRS, Abala, Zone 2, Afar Region

Rehabilitation of 8 war Damaged Schools and School Feeding for 255 Drought Affected Schools

During the second half of 2023, ADCS implemented 36 million Birr school maintenance activities through the CRS Ethiopia and UN OCHA support. The two projects have undertaken major and medium rehabilitation works on 8 war damaged schools found in Freweyni, Edaga Hamus, Adigrat, Gule Mekada and Irob Weredas. Along with the maintenance work, the projects provided trainings on trauma healing, GBV prevention, accelerated learning and supported scholastic materials for students.

Handover of the maintained schools was colorfully celebrated in the beginning of the new year in the presence of His Excellency bishop Tesfasilasie Medhin, religious leaders, partner organizations, Wereda government officials, school communities, residents and local community. In other news, ADCS and Daughters of Charity(DOC) in partnership with CNEWA and Mary's Meals International are implementing school feeding program in 255 schools found in draught affected Weresas of Tigray. In this programme, DOC takes a greater share by continuously expanding its programme to more vulnerable schools, Hence DOC plans to reach 212 schools due of May 2024. Similarly, ADCS in collaboration with Manos Unidas and private individuals offered scholastic materials to 5098 needy students.



New Block constructed at Awo, Irob Wereda

War Affected Communities Provided with House Fixing and Household Materials

During the final quarter of 2023, CRS Ethiopia — supported project of ADCS has provided house fixing materials and cash to 995 needy persons and household materials for additional 700 needy persons from 5 Weredas of Tigray: Adi Daaro, Seyemti Adiyabo, Emba Seneyti, Irob and Gule Mekada. In Shire and Adigrat towns, the project has offered 6 month '- house rent payment for 918 conflict-displaced persons. Including the water facilities' maintenance work, the overall project activities carried out in all target areas worth 36 ETB million birr (approximately 6,428,58.00 USD).



House fixing and household materials distribution at Nebelet, Emba Seneyti

ADCS Providing Continues TOT Training on Trauma Healing and Peace Building

Through the support of EU Trust Fund, ADCS has provided a number of TOT training on trauma healing, peace building and social cohesion since 2023. In March 2024, "Stability and Socio Economic Development for the Vulnerable and Marginalized Communities" project has provided TOT training on peace building and social cohesion for 30 participants from ADCS staff and for selected catholic fathers and nuns serving in Adigrat. Again in the beginning of April 2023, the project has provided TOT training on trauma healing in Adigrat for other 30 people. Last year, the project provided bible based trauma healing on continues bases for different pastoral actors of the Eparchy and ADCS staff. The TOT trainees are expected to provide similar training for different sections of the community in those targeted Weredas of the project. Before the war, EU Trust Fund had been working with ADCS's Peace and Justice Service towards peace building and social cohesion by undertaking multiple activities in collaboration with different local actors.

Before the Tigray conflict, the project implemented various peace building activities including awareness raising for different sections of the community, training for those who directly participate in reconciliation and other peace building works. In addition to awareness raising and peace education, the project has reconciled a number of dispute cases by facilitating traditional conflict resolution methods. The project has also implemented peace building activities in schools by establishing peace clubs, giving education for students and teachers and establishing peace parks and planting peace trees.



Peace Building and Social Cohesion Training. Major Seminary, Adigrat

Poultry Chicken Provided to 1005 Unemployed Youth and Women Head Households in Four Woredas

ADCS is collaborating with CST-EU Trust Fund through "Stability and Socio-economic Development for Vulnerable and Marginalized Communities" project to support the livelihood of 1005 unemployed youth and women headed households from four Woredas of Eastern Tigray Zone namely Adigrat, Irob, Zalanbesa and Gulemekada. Under this project, each program participant received 20 poultry chicken, 20 kg of poultry feed, poultry feeder and drinker after getting trauma healing and psycho-social support as well as poultry production and management trainings. The wider objective of the project is to strengthen poultry value chain by providing financial, material and technical support for more actors, such as egg and chicken producers, feed suppliers, veterinarians, egg collectors, whole sellers and retailers in the target Woredas.



Poultry destruction, Adigrat

Vulnerable Groups in two Zones supported with Cash for Food and Cash for work

Adigrat Diocesan Catholic secretariat Shire Branch in partnership with Caritas Spain supported 800 vulnerable IDPs from Central Adiyabo and Seyemti Adiyabo Weredas with 10,000 ETB each during the past four months. Objective of the support is to help vulnerable IDPs returning back to their home without returnee package to buy some food reserve for the first few weeks At home. ADCS has also launch new project that include cash for work and livelihood rehabilitation activities. Caritas Switzerland supported project entitled "Recovery of Livelihood for Smallholder In Eastern Tigray Zone" will implement water and soil conservation, rehabilitation of irrigation structures, provision of small water pumps, and supporting income generation activities such as poultry husbandry.

The project is expected to implement activities that cost 23 million ETB up to August 2024. Under the cash for work, poultry farming and irrigation components, the direct beneficiaries number 1331 HHs whereas number of indirect beneficiaries of the project closes to 19 thousand individuals.



Cash for food for IDPs at Seyemti Adiabo Woreda, North Western Zone of Tigray

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Vision Statement

Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat (ADCS) envisions a vibrant and Self Reliant Diocese Community whose material, spiritual and socio cultural needs are attained.

Mission Statement

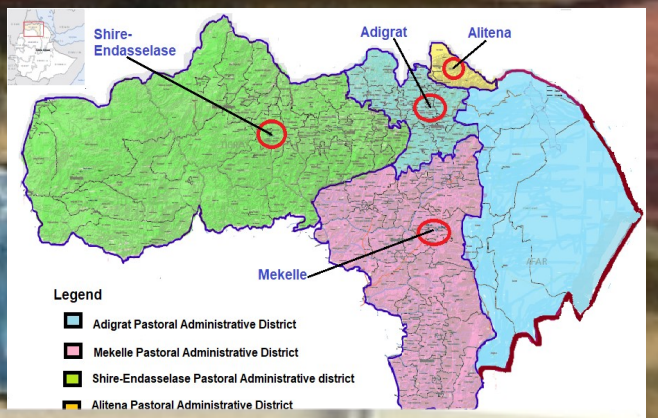
Inspired by the word of God "You shall be my witness" (Acts 1:18), ADCS is a nonprofit organization established to respond to the material, spiritual and social needs of all people in the diocese, transforming lives holistically and sustainably-regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, religion and race.

Core Values

- **Dignity of the human person**
- **Faithfulness to catholic iden tity and witness**
- **Preferential option for the poor**
- **Solidarity**
- **Stewardship**
- **Subsidiarity**
- **Respect for the common good**
- **Integrity of creation**
- **Justice and peace**

Motto

"You shall be my witness" (Luke 24: 48; Acts 1:8)
Responding to "socio pastor needs, sustainable recovery and





Thematic Areas of ADCS

- Catechesis, holistic faith formation and evangelization
- Worship, liturgy and the sacraments
- Laity, family and life enhancement
- Youth, young adults and children formation
- Vocations and ongoing formation
- Advance integral human development
- Justice and peace, ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue
- Mass media and communication
- Capacity building, self-reliance and sustainable services
- Health and HIVAIDS service improved and Epidemic curved through prevention , protection , rehabilitation, reinforcing awareness raising and education on health
- Improve livelihoods and food security through building Households' and communities' resilience capacity
- Enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation systems and practices
- Women empowerment and social rehabilitation
- Water sanitation and hygiene
- Emergency and humanitarian response programs
- Youth empowerment and reducing unsafe migration by developing and implementing various projects aiming at improving youth employment and education
- Gender, population and other cross cutting issues
- Enhancing coordination and building institutional capacity by updating working system and introducing new systems
- Strengthening organizational learning and action research in programming
- Strengthening of the existing partnership and exploring potential partnership

Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat

It has been nearly two centuries since saint Justin de Jacobis set foot in Adwa - 29th Octobers, 1839 (Tiqimti 19, 1832 EC) as the Prefect Apostolic of the newly erected Apostolic Prefecture of Abyssinia. Since that time, first as a prefecture, then as a Vicariate of Abyssinia, and later as an Eparchy, the Catholic Church has experienced harassment and confinement, but also life and growth. The Eparchy was erected by the Apostolic Constitution "Quod Venerabilis " of pope Paul VI on February 20, 1961(13 Lekatit 1953 EC). Territorial Jurisdiction of the Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat covers the whole Tigray and Zone 2 (Kilbet Rasu) of Afar Region. Hence, ECC-ADCS has legal organizational personality to undertake social and development works derived from both the Church's principles and values, and are well elaborated in Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat's (ECS`s) constitution and statute of the Social and Development Commission of the Secretariat at Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat, a branch office of ECS, coordinates all pastoral, social, development, justice and peace activities of the Eparchy through the main office based in Adigrat and sub -branch offices based in Mekelle and Shire-Endasilase as well as through 12 Catholic congregations working in the Eparchy.

During its six decades of endeavor, ADCS has accumulated an impressive capacity in the delivery of diversified pastoral and social services and implementing food security, integrated rural development, integrated watershed management and different income generation projects within complex contexts in different parts of Tigray and Kilbet Rasu of Afar region.

All ADCS projects are designed on the bases of the priority needs of the communities it serves and the organizational values throughout the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages. Besides, ADCS works



Among the earliest Lazarist missionaries and students, Alitena, Irob

in close relation and collaboration with governmental and non governmental partners. The social and development interventions focus on the poorest of the poor, vulnerable and support their empowerment for self-reliance guided and inspired by Gospel values and Catholic Social Teachings. A key element in ADCS's success has always been and continues to be the close relationship built up with the communities and their substantial level of participation at all levels of the development programs.

ADCS and catholic religious congregations provide a wide-range of pastoral, social, livelihood and humanitarian services through their regular institutions including 53 schools (teaching from Kindergarten to College level), 5 health institutions, women's promotion centres, street children centres, care and support providing centres set up in different parts of the eparchy as well as through different projects.

A pioneer of modern education in Ethiopia, the Eparchy has been providing the service for more than 178 years. Throughout those years, Catholic Church administered schools have remained as a preferential option for children from low income families. Catholic academic institutions serving needy communities in rural and urban parts of Tigray have built their reputation on the quality of their education. In addition to the academic education, the schools are teaching moral education that enables the students to be conscious of their behaviour whether in the classroom or at home, among their parent, relatives or friends.



Elementary school constructed by ADCS in partnership with Butterfly Foundation, Daya, Irob

Furthermore, the schools teach the students the value of hard work, personal responsibility, respect and connectedness to nature.

In water service, ADCS has constructed hundreds of water schemes that address a dire need of potable water for communities living inaccessible rural PAs, drought affected and arid areas of the Eparch such as Saasi, Irob and Abala Wereda. Hygiene and sanitation necessities have been provided as integral part of all water service development projects of ADCS. Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat covers areas whose dominant topography is escarp mountains and ragged terrains, such as the Weredas in Eastern Zone of Tigray. Modern transportation is still inaccessible in major parts of these Weredas and many rural parts of Tigray. In response to this problem, the church has been making great efforts to create road access for needy communities living in remote and in accessible PAs of Irob, Saasi, Gule Mekad and in some Weredas of South Eastern Tigray Zone. In this regard, the Zalanbes-Alitena rural road constructed in 1960s is of the earliest and highly beneficial road construction activity of the Church. Since then, Catholic Church has implemented several rural road construction and maintenance projects by using intensive human labor as a form of cash for work.



Water scheme constructed at Sindadiya, Ganta Afeshum

In health sector, ADCS and Catholic congregations have been implementing a host of endeavors towards the prevention and controlling of common and epidemic health threats, HIV/AIDS, malaria, environmental sanitation and other aspects of health. Before the infliction of war in Tigray, the Church run three health centers, one specialized clinic and one hospital (general hospital) that provide preventive and curative health care services for thousands of needy people each year. The CBHC services provided by these institutions include: health education, growth monitoring and follow up of malnourished children, promotion of hygiene and sanitation, capacity building (training) for community health workers and distribution of mosquito-nets for households in malaria threatened areas.

During the Corona virus outbreak, ADCS and the congregations played highly significant role in controlling the pandemic by sensitizing the communities against the virus and distributing disinfections. In addition to the public social services, the Church provides Care and support for the destitute and underprivileged through Catholic religious congregations and through ADCS projects. In this regard, Catholic religious congregations, such as Mothers of Charity sisters, Daughters of Charity sisters and Africa Missionary fathers had been providing remarkable care and support services through their regular street children and care and support centres established in different parts of the Eparchy. But currently, majority of the centres are either partially incapacitated or totally destroyed and looted during the war.



Medical service at St Ana health center, Edaga Hamus

Daughters of charity sisters and African Missionary fathers had run their own separate street children centers that assist needy children with basic social services such as food, education, medication, sanitation and life skills, vocational training, art training and recreational programs. As the students complete high school, the centers support them with additional skill training, finance and follow up to enable them start their own business based on the availability of budget.

Two of the centers run by African Missionaries in Adwa, Wukro and Adigrat, have been badly damaged and looted during the war.

Mothers of Charity sisters run three care and support centers for destitute people in Adwa, Mekele, and Alamata. The centers provide basic life service for physically and mentally disabled people, people living with chronic illness, elderly poor and those who have no one to take care of them.



Care and service for needy children, Aba Gebremichael project, Mekele



Daughters of Charity in collaboration with Mary's Meals International, School feeding program at Adikeyih, Wejerat

In food security and livelihood development, ADCS has been working persistently since the time of its foundation. ADCS' development projects work with a main objective of ensuring food security at household level.

In agriculture sector, ADCS has implement a number of projects including small scale irrigation, water harvesting system, environmental rehabilitation, animal breeding, home gardening and fruit cultivation.

Water and soil conservation activities implemented in different Weredas of the Eparchy have produced tangible results in the rehabilitation of natural resources and regenerating the ecology. Terraces, check dams and reforestation activates have significantly reduced erosion and increased soil fertility and saturations of riverbanks. Re-greening Africa with Trees and Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Resilience are two exemplary projects implanted in highly drought affected Woredas of Tigray before the war. During the last four and five years prior to the conflict, Re-greening Africa with Trees has implemented extensive re-greening activities in five drought affected Weredas of Eastern Tigray Zone namely Gulomekada, Ganta-Afeshum, Saesie Tsaedemba, Irob and Hawzen. The project afforested about 27,394 ha of land by planting more than 3 million seedlings of different tree species.



Regreening Activity at Waarat, GantaAfeshum, 2017

More than 16 thousand HHs were directly benefited from this project. Around 60.8 hectares of new irrigable land created in Sebeya Tabia of Gulemekada Wereda was distributed to 375 young landless farmers who benefited by cultivating maize, sorghum, fruit and vegetables for their food and green fodder for their animals. Besides, the project distributed 14.75kg of vegetables seeds of gushcard, tomato, carrot and cabbage for 221 farmers. In those sites, the project constructed long cement masonry cannels that let water to the farms. ADCS has also played its role in tackling unregistered migration by implementing different projects that provide skill training, start-up capital and loan to help the vulnerable youth engage in different business enterprises. After getting basic training and startup money, many youth have changed their life by opening pity trade, animal breeding, metal and wood work and similar businesses.



Hagos Kahsay, irrigation beneficiary at Sebeya,



LibanosLemlem, loan beneficiary, Gulemekada, 2018

Life Saving Efforts during the War



The bloody war erupted in November 2020 has claimed lives of thousands of civilians and seriously aggravated the country's already disastrous humanitarian situation. The socio economic infrastructure including health care facilities, schools, and water facilities are devastated in this war. Public and individual properties have been looted and destroyed; millions are displaced and civilians have been exposed to death, detention, abduction and all forms of human rights violations and suffering. 88.3% of education facilities and 86% of health facilities are devastated and 71% of medical equipment have remained nonfunctional. Besides, more than 70% of WaSH facilities are damaged leaving limited access to potable water supply for IDPs and host communities. Natural shocks of locust infestation, successive droughts, COVID-19 occurred previous to the Tigray conflict have caused a total humanitarian peril in Tigray. The socio-economy of the region flattened leaving the society to depend totally on humanitarian assistance.

War damage assessment conducted on Catholic .institutions of the Eparchy in March 2023 shows a loss close to 2.14 billion EBT (USD 43,196, 544.00). This figure doesn't include the loss that has occurred in areas currently occupied by Eretria and Amhara forces.



Destroyed by artillery shelling: DOC hospital at Alitena, Irob, 2023

The siege and services and communication blackout has almost totally halted ADCS's and the congregations' social and development services for many months during the conflict. Throughout that period, the Eparchy has made repeated attempt to make the humanitarian peril known to the world and save lives. In this regard, His Excellency Abune Tesfasilasie Medihin, Bishop of the Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat has played significant role by writing repeated appeals and by voicing the situation to international communities. Small emergency projects and humanitarian supports gained through this effort have played an outstanding role of lifesaving. Up to July 2023, ADCS in collaboration with 13 international partners and 2 private associations has implemented 46 emergency response projects in 26 Weredas of Tigray.

The projects have attempted to address priority needs of the IDPs and host communities by distributing emergency food and nonfood items, cash, shelter, WaSh and health services, care and support for GBV survivals. Pastoral ministry of ADCS has also played its role by facilitating prayer and fundraising occasions and providing psychological support for needy people. In addition to water tracking services, the projects have maintained a number of water schemes, dug new water wells, constructed water distribution points and installed plastic water tankers in IDP centers. During the Ethiopian rainy seasons of 2022 and 2023 ADCS's Emergency response programs have distributed improved wheat and vegetable seeds in Gule Mekada, and Irob Weredas.



Water tracking service at Adigrat, 2022

ADCS Working to Bring the Communities Back to Life



Poultry distribution by CST-EUTF in Adigrat,

The Pretoria agreement has undeniably ensured cease fire and this situation in turn has created a sense of security for communities living outside those areas still occupied by armed forces. Nevertheless, the community is still suffering from hanger and lack of basic social services. Major social service infrastructures, factories and business are damaged and looted during the war thus they have become nonfunctional.

To take one instance, a recent joint study of Mekele university and Tigray Health Bureau reveals that hunger related mortality has reached 1329 and 11,000 children are diagnosed with acute malnutrition.

To respond to emergency and rehabilitation needs of the communities ADCS is partnering with different Partners. Working towards this goal, ADCS have identified about 6 priority areas of intervention:

- Provide emergency humanitarian assistance and services to vulnerable people (IDPs, host communities, returnees, relocated) and those affected by conflict and natural shocks.
- Support livelihood recovery, climate change adaptation and resilience building of affected communities (returnees, smallholder unemployed youth, and women etc.).
- Improve access to basic social services mainly health care, water, hygiene, sanitation and nutrition.
- Create equitable access to quality education
- Gender empowerment, GBV response and protection
- Trauma healing, peace bulling, social cohesion and stability

Supporting the War Damaged and Drought Affected Schools



Scholastic Materials distribution, Adigrat

Schools in Tigray are severely damaged by war that many schools are still unable to restart their service. Schools that have already started teaching are providing the service under highly unfavorable situation.

And now, drought has become additional challenge especially for those schools located in drought affected Weredas of Tigray.

In response to this situation, ADCS in partnership with CRS and UN OCHA has accomplished 36 million Birr school maintenance projects in 3 towns and 2 rural Woredas of Eastern Tigray Zone : Freweyni, Edaga Hamus, Adigrat: Gulemekada and Irob.

In those targeted schools, ADCS has implemented full construction of 14 classrooms and maintenance of 201 classrooms. Besides, the partnership projects provided scholastic materials for children and stationary materials for teachers in 5 catholic schools and 3 governmental schools. Along with the rehabilitation of schools, the projects have provided trainings on trauma healing, accelerated learning, accelerated school readiness and GBV prevention for 137 participants composed of school teachers, government officials and different sections of the community.

The handover of maintained schools is conducted in January and February 2024. Similarly ADCS in Partnership with Butterfly Foundation is implementing maintenance of schools, distribution of furniture and maintenance of water facilities in four different rural Woredas of Eastern Tigray Zone: Tsaada Emba, Ganta Afesum, Gulemekada and Irob.

In Ganta Afeshum, Buket primary school is supported with maintenance of 8 broken doors, damaged water facilities and mattresses for preschool children. In Haben Tabia of Gulemekada Woreda, the project has undertaken different rehabilitation activities, including maintenance of water pumps, doors, windows and a purchase of 120 student benches and blackboards.



Inauguration at maintained school, Awo, Irob



Daughters of Charity in collaboration with Mary's Meals International, School feeding program at Adikeyih, Wejerat

The project has also carried out similar water facility maintenance for two schools in Irob and Tsaa-dimba Weredas. The maintenance carried out in Irob Wereda included construction of two new class-rooms for store and library service. To help the drought affected stu-dents stay at school, ADCS and Daughters of Charity Sisters in partnership with CNEWA and Mary's Meals International are im-plementing school feeding program in 255 schools located in drought affected Weredas of Tigray. The provision of biscuits and energy meals will significantly help the student stay at school during the coming few months. ADCS in collaboration with Manos Unidas and private individu-als has supported 5098 needy stu-dents from 24 schools with scho-lastic materials: exercise book, pen and pencil. ADCS is also playing its part in reducing the economic bur-den of the youth by capacitating unemployed youth with various skills training and creating job op-portunities. Accordingly, at the end of January 2024, UNICEF supported project of ADCS has graduated 184 youth trained in garment work, so-lar maintenance, automotive, wood and metal work in Adwa.



ADCS and CRS management team visiting school maintenance at Beati, Adigrat

Rehabilitation of Water Services

Water tracking service delivered by ADCS in different IDP centers and host communities had saved many lives during the war. The service was delivered in all major IDP hosting towns of Tigray. The organization has also maintained hundreds of water schemes, provided maintenance kits, constructed water distribution points and installed plastic tankers in IDP centers and for war affected rural and urban communities as one part of the emergency response. Along with this, ADCS provided hygiene and sanitation items, water treatments, and held sessions to raise awareness about hygiene and sanitation norms for the communities. Maintenance of Adigrat town water supply system is one of ADCS's notable works implemented since the beginning the conflict. Through UNICEF support, the project has brought one of the main water supply systems back to service after conducting major maintenance on water power-house and water pipe lines.

The maintenance has played great role in reducing water scarcity problem in the town. Similar maintenance activities were carried out in other parts of Tigray, in partnership with CRS, Ferester Foundation, UNICEF and Caritas Switzerland.



Water power house maintenance in Adigrat,

In Nnebelet town of Embaseneyti Woreda, ADCS in partnership with CRS has maintained the water supply system of the town, constructed three new water distribution points and offered highly valuable maintenance kits in the beginning of the New Year. As all water supply sources in the town had been damaged, the population had been suffering from scarcity of water and exposed to water born diseases. Head of Embaseneyti Wereda administration and residents express their appreciation for the ADCS-CRS project.

In Kelbati Rasu of Afar regional State, ADCS Mekele branch has been implementing crucial water facilities rehabilitation since last year.

The project donated by CRS-Ethiopia and funded by USAID/ BHA is conducting water system maintenance, installation of over 12 KM water pipe lines, generators, solar power, water distribution points and cattle troughs in Erebti, Haridan, Gelaeso and Abaala town of Abala Wereda.





Maintained Water service at, Haridan, Abala Wereda of Zone 2 Afar region



to ensure sustainability of the water services, the project has also offered water facility maintenance and water quality testing kits and relevant training. As the communities in this part of the region are also war affected, the project has provided the IDPs with shelter kits, nonfood items and implemented various WaSH activities. Over the past several years, the branch office has been implementing similar emergency and livelihood projects in Abala rural Wereda and three other Weredas of Zone 2 namely Kuneba, Erebti, and Abala town. Maintained water services in Abala Wereda were visited by CRS and ADCS senior management , high government officials of Afar region, community members and media in December 2023.



Rehabilitation of the Livelihood

Early recovery projects of ADCS have been providing house repairing materials, household items, agricultural tools and seed, small ruminants and poultry for the returnees and communities who lost their assets during the war.

"Responding to the impact of Conflict in Tigray" is one of the CRS-supported projects of ADCS working in this area of intervention. ADCS main branch and Shire branch office are implementing different early recovery activities in 7 Weredas of Tigrayn namely Adidaaro, Seyemti Adiyabo, Emba Seneyti, Shire, Endasilasie, Irob, Gulo Mekada and Adigrat. The 36 million project that ended in the turn of the New Year has provided basic house fixing and household materials and cash for skilled labor for 995 most vulnerable persons and household materials for other 700 needy people. The project has also offered 6 month - house rent cash for 918 conflict-displaced persons staying in Adigrat and Shire towns.



House fixing materials distribution, Nebelet, Embaseneyti

Poultry Value Chain Support for Women Headed Households and Unemployed youth

Before the war, poultry breeding had been one of the fast growing business in Tigray. Women households and low income families had been specially benefiting from this business. According to the 2023 study of Tigray Institute of Policy Studies, 81% of smallholder households lost their crop followed by livestock 75% and farm tools 48%. In response to this situation, ADCS has partnered with CST-Ethiopia first to provide trauma healing and poultry management training and then to provide needy women HHs and unemployed youth with poultry chicken, poultry feed, poultry feeder and drinker materials.

Under this project, 1005 WHHs and unemployed youth from four Weredas of Eastern Tigray Zone, Irob, Gulemekada, Adigrat and selected Zalanbesa IDPs have become beneficiary. Overall plan of the project is to create poultry value chain that involves chicken growers, poultry veterinarians, whole sellers, retailers and processors. After the distribution, the project intends to give financial, material and technical support to poultry veterinarians and other partners in this value chain. During the Ethiopian rainy season of 2022 and 2023, the project distributed wheat and vegetable seeds and agricultural tools to around 3000 needy farmers in Irob and Gulemekada Weredas.



Poultry distribution at Mezabir Gulemekada, 2024

Interventions against Gender Based Violence

CST Ethiopia is also supporting GBV project that is implementing a wide-range of activities in 10 urban and rural Wereda of South Eastern and Eastern Zones of Tigray.

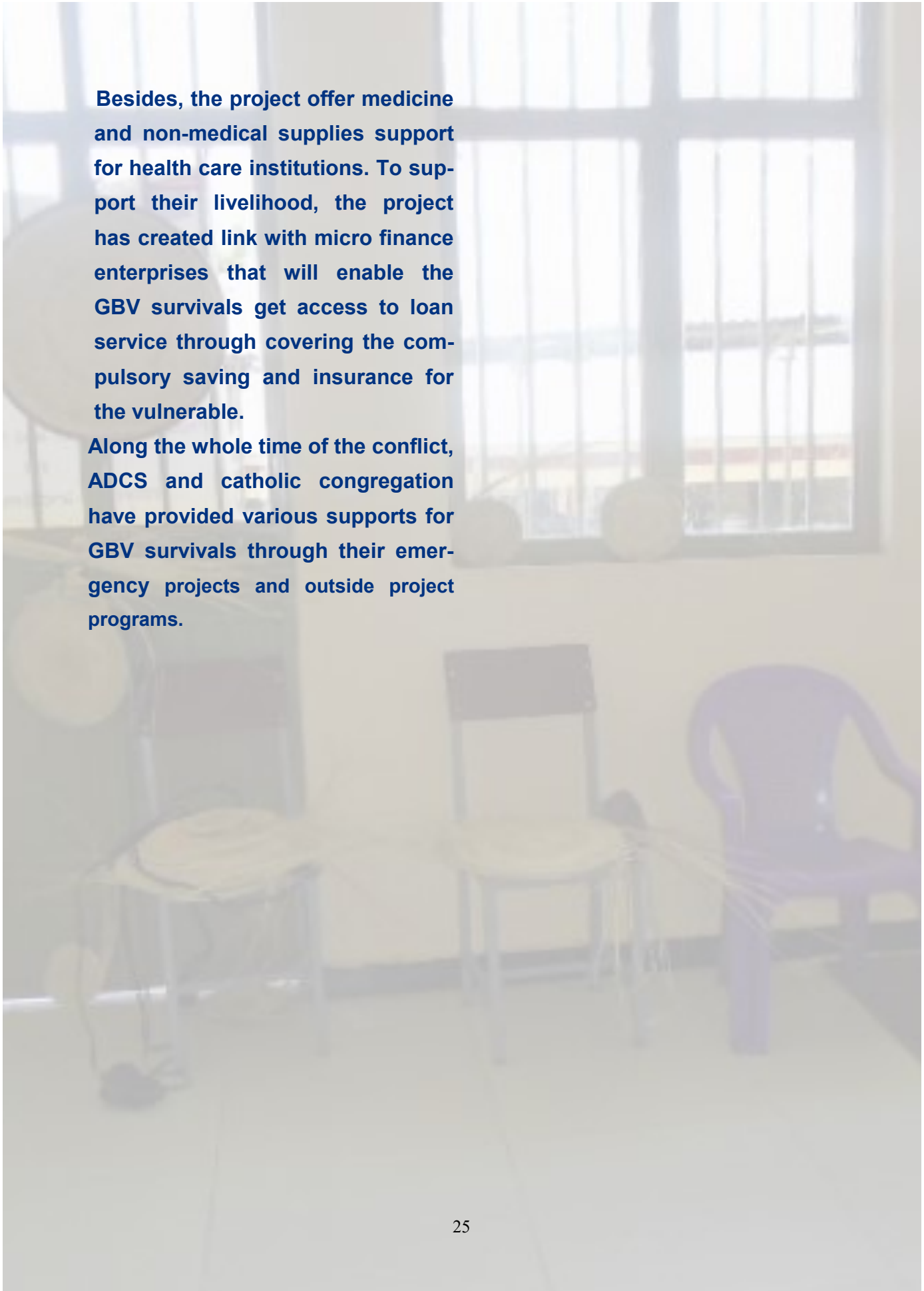
The project entitled "strengthening survival centered responses: holistic, comprehensive survival-centered GBV in emergencies programming in Tigray:" is providing various support for vulnerable women and girls including GBV survivals, implementing GBV risk mitigation activities and also providing support for health service faculties and GBV related service providers.

The project has established 10 women and girls safe space centers (one in each project Wereda) which provide different services for the vulnerable women and girls and GBV survivals. Through these centers, ADCS main office in-Adigrat and Mekele branch offices provide psycho social support, GBV case management, cash for referral and emergency services, livelihood support, dignity kits and recreational programs.

To prevent GBV at the grassroots level, the project provide GBV awareness raising sessions for community members, health service providers and legal service providers. Under this component, the project has also established information kiosks at relevant spots.



Embroidery products by vulnerable women and girls including GBV survivals at Safe Space Center, Wukro



Besides, the project offer medicine and non-medical supplies support for health care institutions. To support their livelihood, the project has created link with micro finance enterprises that will enable the GBV survivals get access to loan service through covering the compulsory saving and insurance for the vulnerable.

Along the whole time of the conflict, ADCS and catholic congregation have provided various supports for GBV survivals through their emergency projects and outside project programs.