



CEO's Message for March

March is here! On the animal planet, it is the month when animals start waking up from their hibernation. If we are to borrow this process, it would mean to us that we are now getting into serious execution as we go about our daily work. The year is going by fast and being aware that we have to move ahead of it by being impactful to the people we serve is very paramount.

I bring you warm greetings from Geneva. I traveled from the 14th to the 18th of March to attend the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) membership day and the annual conference of which AIRD is a member.

The Theme for the annual conference was; “The right time and the right place: Improving access to humanitarian quality funding”. ICVA's Annual Conference brought together Member States, donors, UN agencies, experts, and other stakeholders to share their experiences, lessons learned, challenges, and ways forward around these issues. This provided an opportunity for NGOs to further engage and interact around the theme of improving access to quality funding.

The objectives of the annual conference included; Increasing awareness and establishing a common understanding of the key challenges in humanitarian finance, including the need to look for solutions across the system, increasing funding volume, examining the options for the future of the Grand Bargain, solidifying NGO support for a preferred way forward, discussing the state of the localization agenda, with a particular focus on further joint efforts to ensure effective resources, seeing that support is accessible by local

partners, and supporting peer exchange on NGO efforts to link climate action and financing opportunities to strengthen humanitarian action.

I also took this opportunity to stop over in Ethiopia to catch up with our AIRD programming and staff. I will soon share my report with you all.

This Month, the Director of Programs, Marc Meyer, came on board and we are excited about the knowledge and experience he brings to the entire AIRD fraternity. He will reach out to you at certain points and I encourage you to give him all the support he needs



AIRD Board Retreat and Quarterly Meeting

As a way of looking outward for more funding, we continue to pursue partnerships and collaborations as we plan to expand and do more investments in programming across the Country Offices. The MoU between AIRD and WFP HQ has moved one step further as the draft we shared is currently being reviewed by the legal counsel at WFP HQ in Rome for finalization. Hopefully, both parties shall be signing the agreement soon.

Finally, we just concluded a successful 3 days Board Retreat and Regular Quarterly Board meeting which focussed on defining the business operating model for AIRD and organizational alignment which are elements of the AIRD change journey. The reconceptualization of the Auto Service Center and integrating it into a bigger program i.e. Multipurpose Skills Development was also discussed along with operational and financial performance for the past year 2022 as well the 2023 budget.

This Easter season, I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for the hard work so far that has helped in the implementation of our work across the different Country Programs

As you celebrate Easter this year, may you find happiness and tranquility.

Enjoy the season.

Fikru Abebe Abebe