



CEO's Monthly Message

March 2026

Greetings, colleagues.

I hope and pray that this message finds you all well, wherever you are.

I want to begin by recognizing the remarkable achievement of our DRC team for securing USD 2,695,482. This is truly impressive and stands as a strong testament to your dedication, professionalism, and the high quality of work delivered on the ground. Your efforts continue to strengthen AIRD's visibility and reinforce what we are known for. Let this success encourage all of us to actively assess country, regional, and global funding landscapes, diversify our thematic areas, and be intentional in pursuing funding opportunities while learning from one another.

I also extend my sincere congratulations to the Ethiopia team for being named the lead WASH partner in the Afar Region by UNICEF. This recognition reflects our continued expertise and leadership in this sector. Thank you to the team on the ground for your consistency and commitment.

In the same spirit, I commend the Uganda Country Program for the recognition received for the Kiryandongo warehouse, which has been ranked among the best-performing warehouses by the Head of Supply Management Services. As a result, it has been placed on a reduced verification schedule, moving from seven to four verification activities this year. This is a clear demonstration of excellence, discipline, and strong teamwork.

Looking ahead, AIRD is deliberately expanding its programming and funding base by exploring alternative financing mechanisms, strengthening private-sector engagement, and advancing sustainable social enterprise models. These efforts are aimed at reducing long-term dependence on traditional humanitarian funding while enhancing resilience and impact. Even amid global budget constraints and increasing needs, we are positioning AIRD to play a stronger regional role, champion locall-led development, and deliver end-to-end solutions that uphold dignity, safety, and hope.

Since the country program strategic plans have been finalized, I am confident that these plans will serve as practical and strategic guides, driving meaningful results and significant achievements. I encourage all teams to remain focused and committed as you move into the implementation phase.

Please also join me in warmly welcoming Pascal Mugiraneza, our new Country Program Director for Niger. He brings valuable experience and expertise, and we are confident that he will make a meaningful contribution to the organization.

Finally, I would like to appreciate all teams working under constrained resources. It is encouraging to see that some country programs, even those operating on only three-month budgets, are being extended. This reflects your hard work, resilience, and unwavering commitment to our mission. Let us continue to push forward with determination and purpose.

Thank you all for your dedication.

Fikru Abebe Abebe
CEO