

Overseas Work

ASSOCIATION OF CIVIL SOCIETIES OF TIGRAY (ACSOT)

C4SC was invited by many NGOs in the Tigray Regional state of Ethiopia to help them establish an umbrella organisation. As a result, on January 26, 2007, we founded ACSOT and since then we have been contributing to the association's capacity building which now has an office in Mekele (capital City of Tigray) and employs 4 members of staff.



WELFARE FOR THE STREET MOTHERS AND CHILDREN ORGANISATION (WESMCO)

WeSMCO is an indigenous, non-governmental, non-profit making, humanitarian organization established in 1997 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by a group of dedicated individuals from diverse social, economic and religious backgrounds. The organisation is officially recognized and registered at the Ministry of Justice under the registration number 268. It is directly accountable to the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency of Ethiopia.

WeSMCO works in collaboration with various governmental and non-governmental organizations and is an active member of:

- Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA)
- Consortium for Reproductive Health Association (CORHA)
- Network of Ethiopian Women's Associations (NEWA)

It is administered by the Management Board which reports to the General Assembly - the governing body. The top management team led by the Director General controls the overall activities of the organization. The organisation has enthusiastic staff executing its programs.

In 2006, C4SC signed a memorandum of understanding with WeSMCO, a well recognised and reputable NGOs in Ethiopia. Since then we have been developing projects in Ethiopia. Although our application for financial assistance from various UK based funders for joint projects hasn't been successful, we have been contributing to some of WeSMCO's work; this includes helping in project design, sharing our experience of good governance, equal opportunity and project management, monitoring and evaluation. We also help the organisation by linking them to volunteer professional advisors e.g. Medical doctors, agrarians and educational psychologists.



COMMUNITIES *for* SOCIAL CHANGE

C4SC's VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Our goals for the future are first and foremost to build C4SC's capacity as an organisation and to increase the working hours of the existing part-time staff.

Scotland

We aim to build on the work that we have been doing by identifying new gaps and trying to bring the diverse community together. Recently we have been approached by grassroots community organisations in Scotland to look into the possibility of C4SC becoming an umbrella organisation for the many grassroots community organisations. We will investigate this and respond to it.

Overseas

We would like to create a platform that would reconcile the skills and resources of Diaspora professional communities residing in richer western industrial countries with the needs of their country of origin. In particular we would like to build the capacity of many NGOs in developing countries.

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The Scottish Government



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COMMUNITIES *for* SOCIAL CHANGE

ORGANISATIONAL
REVIEW 2009





BACKGROUND

Communities for Social Change (C4SC) is a Private Company limited by Guarantee, registered with Companies House (under the CA 1985) with a remit to work throughout the UK and globally.

UK REMIT

C4SC works with individuals and communities to help them:

- Recognise and affirm 'Diversity & Difference' in wider contemporary society
- Value beliefs and experiences that local people share in common
- Work together to improve their local communities and environment
- Ensure that everyone has 'equality of opportunity' to develop their potential
- Fight for 'Social Injustice' in social, economic and political life.

GLOBAL REMIT

C4SC plays a role in supporting countries in the developing world, by promoting good community practices and sharing professional skills, through:

Collaborative working with local governments and NGOs to reach people in great need in Africa, Asia and South America, initially in East & North Africa, the Indian subcontinent and Brazil.

Enabling partner agencies and local professionals to ensure that citizens' needs and ambitions are met, their rights to live with dignity and free from fear are achieved.

Developing strategies that focus on the causes of poverty and demographic change, to tackle some of the root causes of social exclusion and injustice within communities



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

C4SC is managed by a Board of Directors composed of five members, three are male and two are female. Currently, the Board and the work of the organisation are supported by a part-time administrator, a part-time project worker and a part-time executive director.

ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE BEEN EXECUTED RECENTLY

Work in Scotland

SMARTER AND BETTER INFORMED COMMUNITIES PROJECT

This project was funded by the Scottish Government's Equality Unit and the Big Lottery Awards for All. It worked with people from minority ethnic and white communities from Greater Pilton and Craigmillar. These areas consist of the majority indigenous white families but also residents from the Turkish, Kurdish, Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, Polish, Afro Caribbean and Chinese communities with many more moving into the area.

The project encouraged participants to look at what they have in common and how they can work together to strengthen their communities and make their environments better places to in. Through confidence building training, educational seminars and social events, the project encouraged people to learn about the history of their local area, the people who live there, and how they can work together.

Through the work of this project, C4SC has promoted the positive aspects of the local areas and the changes that people are making to their own lives, and the lives around them. We have worked together with local communities for an inclusive society because we believe that diversity and inclusion can be fostered by knowing one another and each other's cultures, thereby promoting social harmony and improving the lives of the most disadvantaged people.

A vast number of meetings have taken place with various community organisations on possible ways towards establishing C4SC's aims. Many local community groups meet up on a regular basis and have expressed an interest in establishing links with C4SC in order to encourage community cohesion with other cultures and nationalities.



JOINT GALA DAY IN CRAIGMILLAR

A very successful joint gala day venture with Hunters Hall Housing Association was organised in July 2008. C4SC took part by organising traditional henna painting, Indian dancing, Arabic belly dancing and African drumming. Crowds, who came from all parts of Edinburgh, mainly from Greater Pilton and Craigmillar, thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment and good contacts were also made on the day. A number of youths who attended the gala day whole heartedly took part in getting henna painting applied and they all said that it was a new learning experience for them that broke barriers in getting to know and respecting each other.

INFORMATION DAY IN CRAIGMILLAR

C4SC organised a very successful information/open day with 12 organisations taking part in the event. It was a good opportunity for networking with the organisations. Numerous people attended the event which they found very useful as a way of obtaining various forms of information that often available but scattered and which people have difficulty of obtaining in order to help them to access available public services.



All in all we have reached **185 people** and **12 organisations** through the **Smarter and Better Informed Communities Project**.

