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PANE says helping accelerate implementation of MDGs in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, October 1, 2008 (Addis Ababa) - Poverty Action Network of civil society organizations in Ethiopia (PANE) said it has been executing various projects aimed at enhancing efforts of attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). PANE has more than 95 local and international CSOs in its membership list.

The organization called for rich countries to keep their promises of providing assistance to developing countries for effective implementation of the goals.

In its bid to popularize the government's Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP), it published and distributed to 700 woredas across the country an abridged version in five local languages: Amharic, Oromiffa, Tigrigna, Somali and Afari, said Eshetu Bekele, PANE executive director in an exclusive interview with ENA on Wednesday.

The director said PANE has also been organizing workshops to enable the public play active role in poverty reduction activities.

In its program of localizing MDGs, the organization has been assisting development projects in three woredas: Mele of Afar, Tewldere of Amhara , and Yem Special of South Ethiopia Peoples' States. The experience obtained from these woredas would be used as inputs to enhance effective implementation of MDGs in other woredas.

According to Eshetu the overall implementation of MDGs in Ethiopia was encouraging, particularly in universal primary education. There is commendable progress in health sector, in promoting gender equality and empowering women, as well as in ensuring environmental sustainability.

However, he said, a lot remained to be done to attain first goal of MDGs, "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger", which he said was pillar to all goals in the country's circumstance.

The 2008 MDGs campaign which would be held from October 17-19 worldwide will call for developed countries to redouble assistance to developing countries since implementation of MDGs demands huge resource. In 2007, more than 43 million people took part in "Stand up against Poverty" campaign. In Ethiopia over 11,000 people took part in the event. This year campaign will take place under the theme "Stand Up and Take Action". PANE is making preparations to organize the campaign here. Organizing the camping annually will be continued till both leaders of rich countries and developing countries discharge their duties and responsibilities effectively for the success of MDGs, said the director.