

## **International Day of Landmine Ban Treaty Celebrated**

### **On the theme “Please lend me your leg”**

The day was celebrated at Cheshire Services Ethiopia (CSE) - Menagesh Rehabilitation Center with members of board of management of CSE, children under rehabilitation, employees and guests from African Rehabilitation Institute, East African Office (Kenya), on March 27, 2012. Ato Bekele Gonfa, board member of CSE, delivered an opening speech on the objectives of the celebration. He said that the Day has been celebrated since 1999 at international level. The Treaty was initially drafted and signed in 1997 in Ottawa-Canada, by 122 countries and entered into force in 1999. Currently there are 155 that are party to this Treaty. Ethiopia is one of the signatories. The Treaty is formally referred to as the Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti Personnel Mines and their Destruction.

This year the Day was celebrated on the theme “Please lend me your leg”. This is to feel the pain of the victims of landmine and share their emotional feelings. It was underlined that victims of landmine should get adequate rehabilitation services and treatment from both non governmental organization and the government.

The implementation of the Ottawa Treaty is crucial in banning the production, use and transfer of landmine as victims of landmine civilians, children youth, farmers etc. Mr. Joseph, Regional Director for African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) also made a speech on the landmine ban. He stressed that CSE is doing a good work in rehabilitating victims of landmine. Mr. Saifer, CBM International senior livelihood program head made a speech about the role of CBM in providing rehabilitation services to People with disabilities in general and victims of landmine in particular. He added that the employees of CSE shall be strong in their job to make the life of the children brighter.

Finally, Ato Fasil Ayele, Program Coordinator of CSE, said a few words about the commitment of CSE in providing services for victims of landmine. He advised children to protect themselves from the risks of landmine accidents. There was also a photo program with the participants and guests.