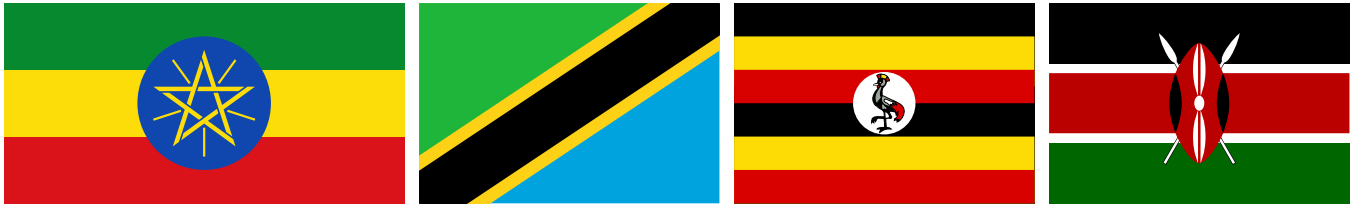


# The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



## Spring 2024 Professional Fellow



### **Mohammed Abiye** **Betriework**

**Legal Consultant and Attorney at Law**  
**Ethiopian Ministry of Justice**

*“Through this Fellowship, I hope to become a better disability rights activist in my community and a versatile global citizen as a result of the knowledge and experiences I gain from the diversified and multi-cultural heritages of the USA.”*

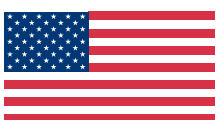
Mohammed is a public prosecutor for the Ethiopian Ministry of Justice. In his role, he is responsible for representing vulnerable groups, providing technical assistance to various federal government institutions, and offering legal support on disability issues to various civil society organizations, such as the Ethiopian Lawyers with Disabilities Association (ELDA), the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association (EWDNA), and the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind (ENAB).

Additionally, he provides free legal services to people in need residing in Dire Dawa. Previously, Mohammed worked as a Disability Advisor at the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD). He graduated from Addis Ababa University with a bachelor’s degree in law and has over 11 years of experience in disability rights activism.

Acknowledging significant challenges in employment for people with disabilities, Mohammed’s follow-on project seeks to remove barriers to inclusion in technical and vocational training institutes (TVETs), ensuring everyone has equal chances for skill development and improved livelihoods.

Collaborating with two TVETs, Dire Dawa and Ethio-Italy, Mohammed is determined to bridge accessibility gaps and align these institutes with the needs of the diverse communities they serve. He will take a multifaceted approach, including a thorough assessment of the barriers that hinder the enrollment of students with disabilities at these colleges with input gathered through surveys and interviews from various key stakeholders and groups. From the assessment results, Mohammed will create guidelines with actionable steps to pilot at these TVET colleges.

In addition to students and staff, Mohammed will share these guidelines with a broad range of key stakeholders, including representatives from the Dire Dawa Mayor’s Office, the Bureau of Education, the Bureau of Women and Social Affairs, and disabled people’s organizations (DPOs), such as the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association (EWDN), Dire Dawa Branch for feedback and to advocate for their implementation.



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