

Biography of Michael McKennett

Head of Office, Catholic Relief Services

Michael McKennett has worked for the last 25 years in human rights, community mobilization, human resource development and the development of employment opportunities for vulnerable populations. For the last 10 years, Mr. McKennett has been working in Eastern Europe. Most recently, he has been the Head of Office for Catholic Relief Services in the Republic of Moldova and the Project Director for the Moldova Employment & Training Alliance – a four-year TIP-funded project designed to mitigate the effects of human trafficking on young, rural women through the creation of innovative public/private partnerships and community alliances with businesses, local government, faith-based organizations and NGOs. The META program – co-funded by the US Government and Catholic Relief Services -- has provided thousands of opportunities for livelihoods and hope for young women living in extreme poverty, helping them to transition themselves out of poverty to more durable lifestyles.

Prior to his work in Eastern Europe, Mr. McKennett worked in Alaska and New England, more notably as the Director of the State of Alaska Equal Opportunity Programs and as member of the Board for the Northwest Coalition against Malicious Harassment.

Mr. McKennett is a graduate of the University of Oregon and the School for International Training with degrees in intercultural relations and international management. He lives with his wife and three children in Chisinau, Moldov.