

**Meaza Zerihun Demissie** is an Associate Program Manager at the U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation (CRDF) in Arlington, Virginia. She works on scientific capacity building in Russia and the south Caucasus, and on expanding CRDF's university-based research programs in the developing world. Prior to joining CRDF in 2008, she was a Project Assistant at Bread for the World Institute, which provides policy analysis on hunger and strategies to end it.

Ms. Zerihun Demissie was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia and a Master of Public Administration (non-profit Management concentration) from Southern University, Louisiana, USA. She is a Ph.D. candidate in International Economic Development at the University of Southern Mississippi, USA. Currently, she is completing her dissertation on "*The 'Natural Resource Curse' and Economic Growth & Development in Sub-Saharan Africa*". Ms. Demissie speaks native Amharic, fluent English, some French, and beginning Spanish and Russian.