



UNITED NATIONS  
ETHIOPIA



# United Nations Ethiopia Annual Results Report

**2020/2022**

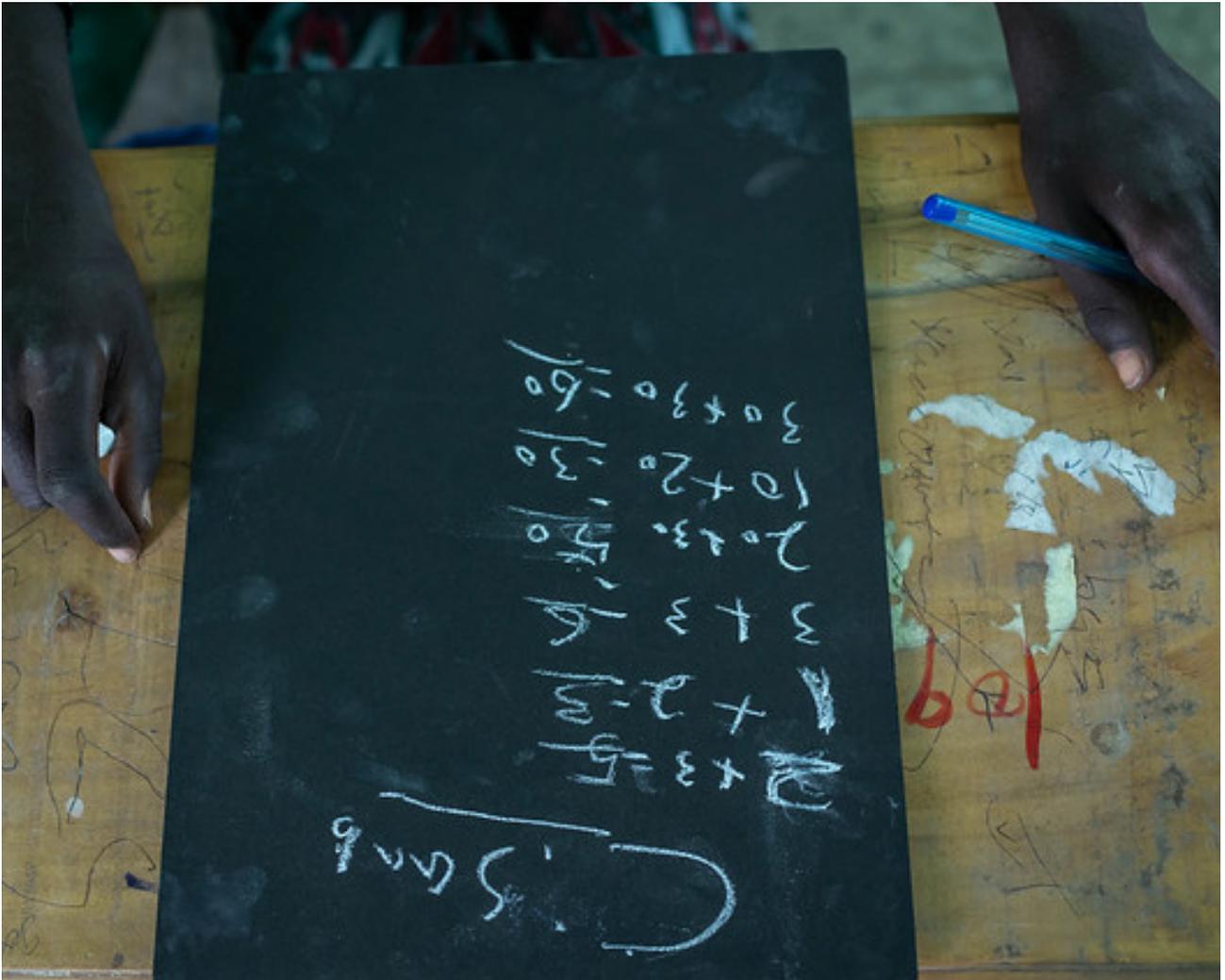
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# Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

I am pleased to present the Ethiopia Country Results Report, which reflects the collective efforts of the United Nations country team (UNCT) in partnership with the Federal Government of Ethiopia and our development partners for July 2020–June 2022.

The report highlights the progress made in Ethiopia against the deliverables outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020–2025 (UNSDCF), a multi-year strategic plan guiding the United Nations collective contribution to advancing progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The situation in Ethiopia remains both fluid and complex. Ongoing conflict and insecurities, recurrent climatic shocks such as floods and droughts, desert locust infestations, the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 and international developments, including the global cost of living crisis and the war in Ukraine, are all affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and undermining progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while at the same time affecting the ability of the United Nations to deliver its programmes across the country.

Despite the unanticipated situation we find ourselves in today, I am proud of the results we have delivered with the support of our government counterparts and partners in numerous areas across the four strategic priorities of the cooperation framework: (1) People; (2) Justice, Democracy and Peace; (3) Prosperity; and (4) Environmental Protection and Climate Change. I would like to thank the Government of Ethiopia for its continuous guidance and leadership and our donors and partners for their steadfast support, without which these significant achievements would not have been possible.

Two years into the implementation of our cooperation framework and with only eight years left to realize the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, we have learned that the nature of the current challenges requires us to significantly sharpen our priorities, deepen our collective efforts and step up our approach to working together.

Going forward, the United Nations in Ethiopia will seek to intensify its efforts to support the Government of Ethiopia to tackle the country's most critical development challenges, focusing on reaching those furthest left behind. Recognizing that the delivery of life-saving assistance remains critical, the United Nations development system will focus on strengthening the resilience of Ethiopia and its people to withstand future natural and human-caused disasters and will seek to reduce needs over the medium and long term. We will ensure that we continue to put people – women, young people, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the diverse peoples in this country – at the centre of all our partnerships and everything we do.

As Ethiopia continues to grapple with many recurrent crises, which have the potential to reverse the hard-won development gains made pre-2020, the task ahead is challenging. We remain fully committed to supporting the Government of Ethiopia in regaining the momentum towards achieving the SDGs and helping secure the country's future, peace and development in support of the Ethiopian Ten Years Perspective Development Plan.

**Dr. Catherine Sozi, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations Ethiopia**

# List of **abbreviations**

<b>CBO</b>	Common Back Office
<b>CIARP</b>	Conflict Impact Assessment and Recovery Plan
<b>CSAAB</b>	Climate Smart Agriculture and Agribusiness
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organization
<b>EDRMC</b>	Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission
<b>EFS</b>	Ethiopian Food Systems
<b>EHRC</b>	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
<b>ETB</b>	Ethiopian birr
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FGM</b>	Female genital mutilation
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>IAIP</b>	Integrated agro-industrial park
<b>ICT</b>	Information and communications technology
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced person
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>MSME</b>	Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
<b>NEBE</b>	National Election Board of Ethiopia
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>OMT</b>	Operations Management Team
<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
<b>PSNP</b>	Productive Safety Net Programme
<b>SCALA</b>	Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture

<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and gender-based violence
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
<b>SNNPR</b>	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations country team
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence against women and girls
<b>WASH</b>	Water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

# The United Nations **country team** Ethiopia

The UNCT in Ethiopia represents one of the largest UNCTs in the world. It is composed of representatives of 28 United Nations organizations, funds and specialized programmes, including two non-resident agencies (the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and International Trade Centre) and two observers (the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations Department for Safety and Security). Some of the United Nations organizations present in the country have regional mandates or act as liaison offices to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union.

The significant representation of the United Nations in the country is symbolically and materially

important, as Ethiopia was one of the African founding Member States of the United Nations.

A major source of strength is also the presence of UNECA in Addis Ababa, together with the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa.

With its large presence and diverse expertise, the United Nations is well-equipped to support Ethiopia on its journey towards sustainable development in line with the Ethiopia 2030: The Pathway to Prosperity. Ten Years Perspective Development Plan (2021–2030).

## Resident Agencies



## Non-Resident Agencies



**the United Nations is well-equipped to support Ethiopia on its journey towards sustainable development**

# Key development partners

United Nations organizations, funds and programmes in Ethiopia have established strong partnerships with a diverse group of stakeholders as development and implementing partners at the national, regional, local and municipal levels.

## • Government partners

Government partners include the following ministries: Agriculture; Education; Finance; Health; Industry; Innovation and Technology; Justice; Labour and Skills Development; Peace; Planning and Development; Trade and Regional Integration; Urban Development and Infrastructure; Water and Energy; Women and Social Affairs; and Youth, Culture and Sports. They also include the House of Peoples' Representatives and the House of Federation, regional state councils, regional and federal Judiciary and city administrations.

## • Other government partners

Other government partners include the Authority for Civil Society Organizations; Environmental Protection Authority; Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC); Ethiopian Enterprise Development; Ethiopian Forestry Development; Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC); Ethiopian Statistics Service; Federal Civil Service Commission; National Bank of Ethiopia; Meteorology Agency; and Refugees and Returnees Service, as well as all of the key democratic institutions, such as the Ethiopia Institution of the Ombudsman, Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, and National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE).

## • Bilateral partners

Bilateral partners include the governments of Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States.

## • International finance institutions

The United Nations in Ethiopia also collaborates with and receives support from international financial institutions, such as the African Development Bank, European Investment Bank and the World Bank.

## • Other partners

The United Nations also partners with and receives support from civil society organizations (CSOs), faith-based organizations, international and local humanitarian and development non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, the private sector, professional associations and global funds and foundations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ELMA Foundation, Global Environment Facility, IKEA Foundation and MAC Foundation, and the media.

# Overview: Cooperation Framework **priority areas**

The UNSDCF represents the United Nations Cooperation Framework with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for 2020–2025. It replaces the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Ethiopia 2016–2020.

Ethiopia is at a critical juncture, undergoing structural political, economic and demographic transitions. These transitions pose major challenges but also permit a leap forward in inclusion, shared prosperity, sustainability, peace and security, impacting the development trajectory of Ethiopia and its chances of achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

The Government of Ethiopia is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. This commitment has been embedded in the Ethiopia 2030: The Pathway to Prosperity Ten Years Perspective Development Plan (2021–2030). Acknowledging

the significant negative impact of COVID-19 on the development trajectory of the country, the Plan outlines strategic mitigation measures aimed at returning the economy to the high growth it experienced prior to the crisis.

Against this background, a forward-looking UNSDCF focused on big structural shifts represents a major – and crucial – break from the previous United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Through the framework, the United Nations aims to anticipate and adapt to longer-term trends, moving from a fragmented focus on numerous small-scale objectives to a narrower set of connected strategic priorities better suited to conditions of profound change, heightened complexity and uncertainty.

Consistent with its focus on critical transitions and taking into consideration its comparative advantage, the United Nations development system will address the following priorities:



**People:** The United Nations in Ethiopia will assist the Government in tackling stubbornly high levels of multidimensional poverty, inequality, social exclusion and marginalization. To do this, there will be renewed focus on, and special attention paid to the Leave No One Behind principles, with support for youth, women and girls.

**Democracy, Justice and Peace:** The United Nations will support the country to develop the core institutions of democratic governance as well as entrench the norms, rules, practices and systems that ensure participation in political and civic life, strengthen respect for and protection of human rights, improve prospects for equal protection and access to justice under the rule of law and help create the peaceful conditions necessary for sustainable development.

**Prosperity:** The United Nations will work towards accelerating the transition to a more inclusive and

diversified economy, using a 'smart' response to and recovery from the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 to improve the pace, scale and quality of the change process. At the core of the focus of the United Nations will be the development of an enabling environment that attracts investments and boosts entrepreneurship as well as enterprise/start-up formation and survival to generate decent and productive jobs at scale for a young and growing population while improving social protection.

**Environmental Protection and Climate Change:**

The United Nations will assist Ethiopia to progress rapidly towards a green economy that is resilient to growing risks, above all, the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, building greater resilience and enabling the country to 'adapt and transform' at the same time, taking account of risks and opportunities.



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$$765 - 21545 = 625$$

$$+ 880$$

$$2466 \quad \underline{625}$$

$$+ 150 = \underline{626}$$

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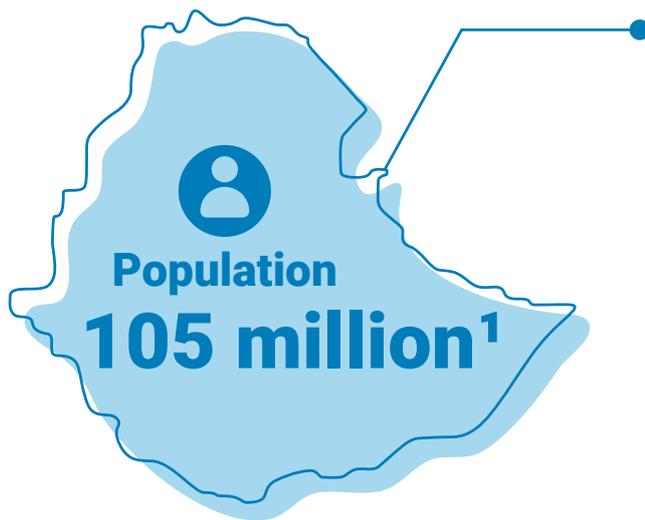


# Chapter I

Key developments in the  
country and regional context

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# ETHIOPIA



Human Development Index  
**0.498** in 2021



Human Development Index ranking  
**175** out of **191** in 2021

**GINI**

**35** in  
**2021**



**GDP**



**111.27**  
**billion USD**  
in 2021

**Gender  
Development  
Index:**

**0.921**  
in 2021



**Gender Inequality  
Index**  
**0.520** in  
**2021**



**People in need of  
humanitarian  
assistance:**

**8.4 million**  
in 2020

**23.5 million**  
in 2021

**29 million**  
in 2022



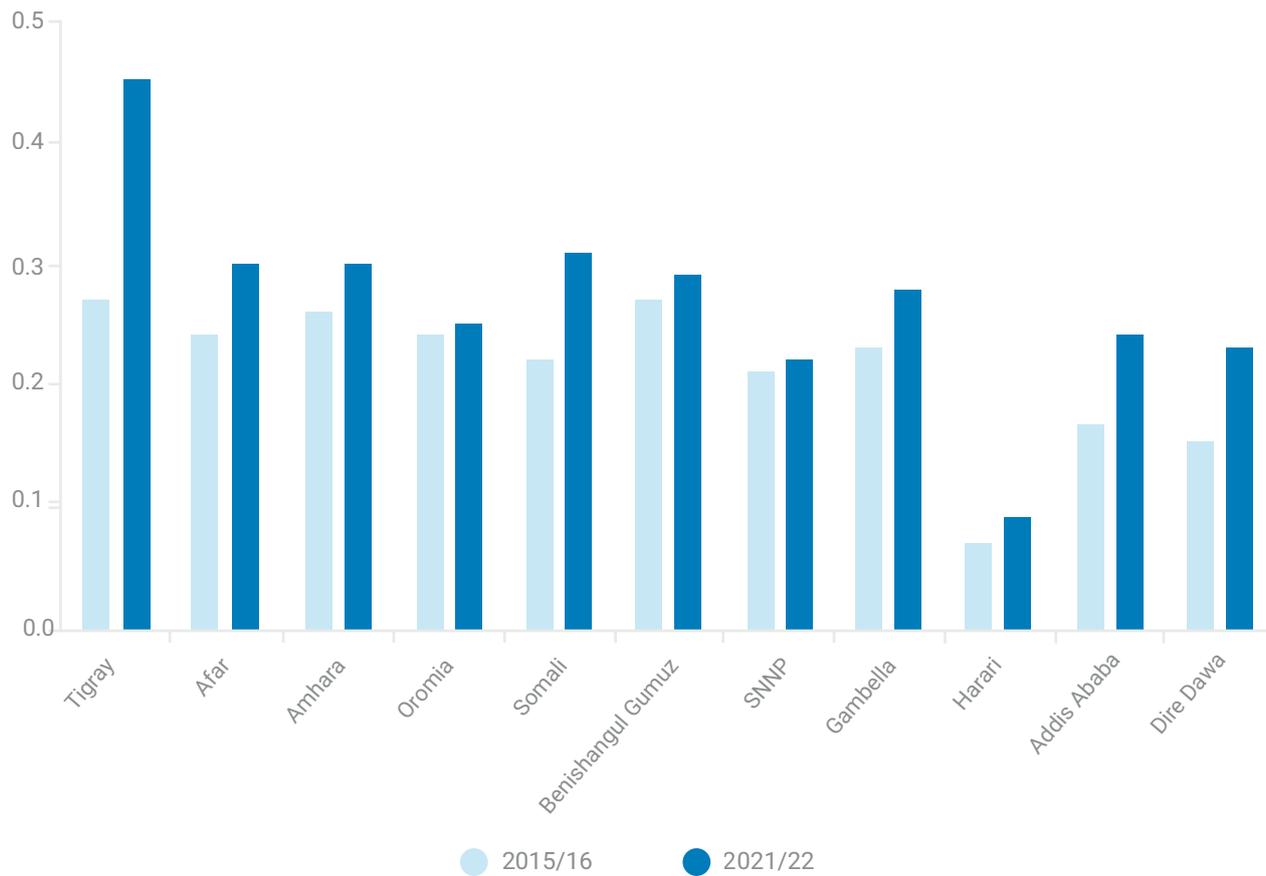
Ethiopia is undergoing multiple structural transitions involving elements of both progress and regression. On the upside, the country completed peaceful general elections in June and September 2021, with the ruling Prosperity Party securing a five-year term and establishing a new Government headed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed with some opposition members appointed to the Cabinet. This represented a significant step forward in the governance transition of Ethiopia towards a plural and inclusive polity. Regional elections and a referendum on the creation of the South West Ethiopia Peoples' Region were also held at the same time. The African Union Election Observation Mission issued a largely positive preliminary statement, affirming that pre- and post-electoral processes were conducted in an orderly, peaceful and credible manner.

At the same time, the situation in Ethiopia remains volatile. The conflict in northern Ethiopia between the Government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front broke out on 4 November 2020. It has come at a staggering cost to the populations in northern Ethiopia, the country's economy and the stability of the wider region.

The conflict has triggered a humanitarian crisis involving widespread harm to civilians, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), human rights violations and displacement. Food insecurity and access to basic services are a major concern for millions of people. In addition, the destruction of property and infrastructure poses a significant challenge for the recovery of conflict-affected regions and threatens to reverse development gains.

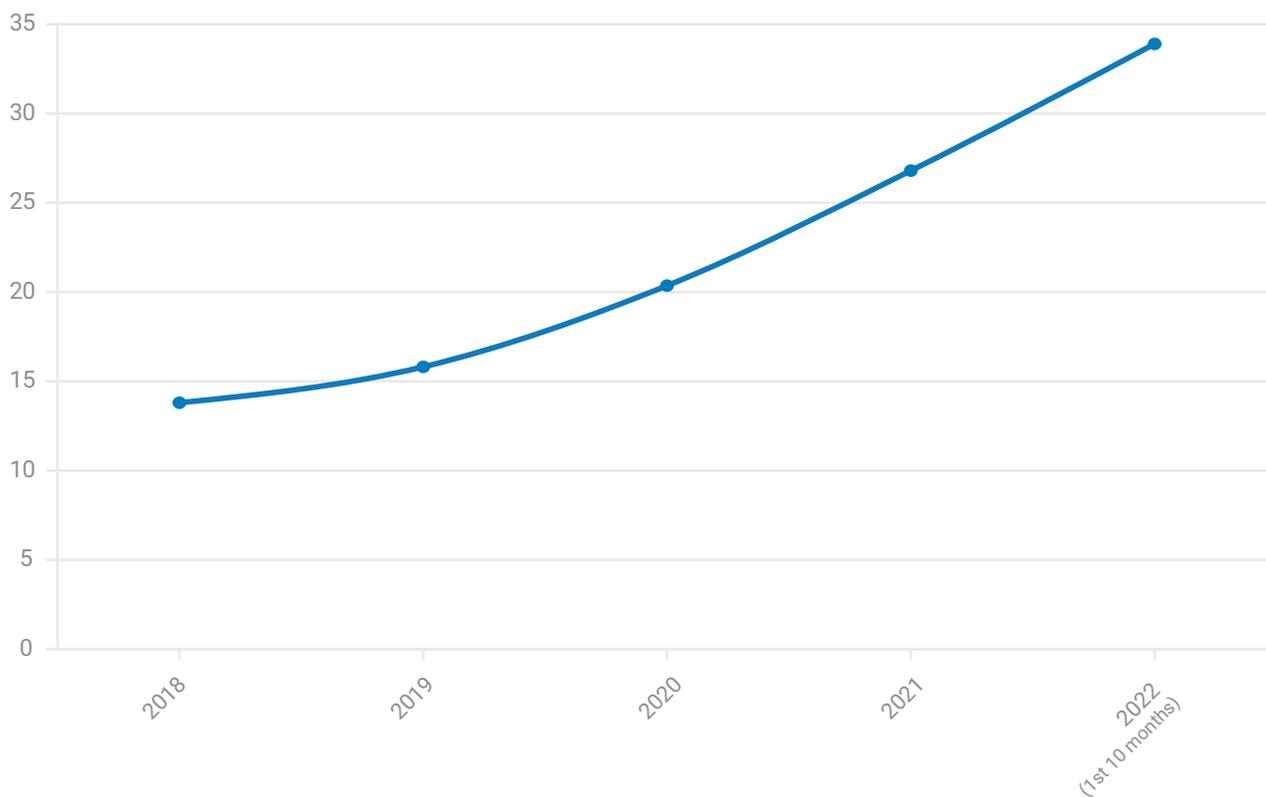
<sup>1</sup> There has been no population census conducted since 2007. The number is based on projections by the Ethiopian Statistics Service.

Figure 1: Simulations of trends in headcount poverty (%)



Source: UNDP – Ethiopia estimates.

Figure 2: Consumer price inflation in Ethiopia (2018–2022)





A fragile humanitarian ceasefire between the Government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front was reached in March 2022, allowing for increased humanitarian aid to conflict-affected areas and hope for a peaceful resolution, after which hostilities re-ignited. An agreement for the permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) was reached by the parties to the conflict on 2 November 2022. Meanwhile, Ethiopia has witnessed increased instability and insecurity in other regions of the country, including Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambela, the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) and Somali. Recurring episodes of violence have resulted in significant loss of life and property and high internal displacement.

### **the situation in Ethiopia remains volatile**

The conflict in northern Ethiopia and many inter-ethnic armed confrontations across the country have had significant implications on human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law. For example, the United Nations recorded a total of 28,426 cases of human rights violations and abuses by different armed parties between January 2021 and June 2022. About 12,326 of these took place between January and June 2022. These violations were perpetrated against individual victims across Ethiopia.

The findings of a joint investigation by EHRC and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) into alleged violations of human rights committed by all parties to the conflict in northern Ethiopia were published in November 2021. Along with cataloguing serious violations, the report, which represents a significant milestone for promoting human rights, contained a series of recommendations for strengthening accountability and human rights. As a result of the report, the Government of Ethiopia has set up an Interministerial Task Force, which has been leading the process to implement the recommendations through national prosecutions, reparations and other measures, including legal reforms and budgetary allocations. The outcome of the joint investigation and the Government's position, together with the rapidly evolving context, especially in northern Ethiopia, will greatly shape the response and support the United Nations provides to the Government over the coming months.

In an effort to address the ongoing ethnic and regional conflicts and tensions in Ethiopia, in December 2021, the Government announced the establishment of a Commission with a 3-year mandate to conduct a national dialogue. The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission, composed of 11 members, has begun its preparatory work and has stated its intent to undertake a bottom-up approach to the process. In 2022, the Government launched so-called law enforcement operations to respond to the deteriorating security situation in various regions, including Amhara, Oromia and Afar. Serious human rights violations have been reported in the process of implementing these operations, including arbitrary arrests and detention, and violations resulting from the activities of different armed groups in these regions, which have also resulted in forced displacements.

Another area of concern is the impact of climate change on the country. Even though globally, Ethiopia accounts for less than 0.1 per cent of emissions, the country is already experiencing the adverse effects of climate change. Communities in southern and eastern Ethiopia are suffering from one of the most severe droughts in the last 40 years, following four consecutive failed rainy seasons since late 2020 and other shocks, such as desert locust infestations. This crisis has compromised already fragile livelihoods that are heavily reliant on livestock and has deepened food insecurity and malnutrition. Between late 2021 and mid-May 2022, more than 3.5 million livestock died and over 9 million people required food and other emergency assistance. The prospect of a possible fifth consecutive failed rainy season poses a significant challenge, as the impacts of climate change are set to continue to intensify and expand the geographical areas affected by droughts and floods. This will be compounded by the numerous armed clashes in various regions, which are having implications for civilians.

When it comes to the economy, Ethiopia had registered stellar growth rates after 2004. However, the growth has slowed over the past few years for a variety of reasons, especially the adverse impact of the pandemic. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected that gross domestic product growth would be a paltry 2 per cent in the 2020/21 fiscal year, the slowest since 2003. This is lower than the estimated rate of population growth (2.54 per cent), meaning that the per capita income of the



**COVID cases:**  
**490,000**



**COVID-related deaths:**  
**7,536**



**Vaccine doses administered:**  
**52,000,000**

**as of June 2022**

population would decline slightly. The IMF also projects real gross domestic product growth at 3.8 per cent in 2022 while the World Bank estimates that the economy will grow by 3.3 per cent in 2022. Aside from the pandemic, contributing factors to the economic slowdown include the ongoing conflicts in parts of the country and political uncertainties, related to the postponement of the general elections, for example.

One major development in the economy during the fiscal years 2020/21–2021/22 is persistent and rapid rises in general price levels. Inflation increased from an average of 20 per cent in 2019/20 to 24.5 per cent in June 2021. It has remained well above 30 per cent ever since. This extremely high level of inflation could be attributed to multiple factors, including the impact of conflict, the rise in the international prices of key commodities such as fuel and the rapid devaluation of the currency, which has particularly affected imported products.

The multiple and overlapping crises affecting the country, such as conflict, drought, COVID-19 and the high rate of economic inflation, are affecting the poor disproportionately and are likely to reverse some of the gains made by the country with respect to reducing poverty. Thus, even though credible estimates of the impact of the crises on poverty are not available, it is evident that the negative impacts of these crises, especially since 2020, are causing the country to lose some of the progress tackling poverty made over the years.

The significant rise in global commodity prices, combined with lower external loan disbursements has weakened the external sector. As a result, foreign exchange shortage in the economy has become extremely severe and the balance of

payment is under heavy stress. Conflict has also had a serious impact on public finances leading to the budget deficit widening from 2.3 per cent to about 5 per cent in 2022.

## The United Nations COVID-19 socioeconomic response

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. In Ethiopia, the first COVID-19 case was declared on 13 March 2020. Ethiopia has experienced five waves since this first case. In April 2020, the Government of Ethiopia declared a five-month state of emergency, adopting various measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, including a variety of health and social measures. The United Nations in Ethiopia mobilized quickly to support the Government of Ethiopia in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the request of the Government, the United Nations helped develop the Ethiopia COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, using the humanitarian cluster structure to identify needs and response activities in key areas. The plan was developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance, with an initial assessment undertaken in May 2020 and the national-level response plan issued in September 2020. The United Nations committed to supporting the plan with around \$100 million in financial resources, made available by repurposing agency plans and through technical experts and assets in Addis Ababa and the regions. As a result of the support received through the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, laboratory and testing capacities increased substantially, with testing capacities being made available across all regions. Moreover, the United Nations has also supported the vaccination roll-out at the national level since March 2021 by providing cold chain, logistics, vaccine procurement and technical support. In addition, the United Nations provided support to the Government of Ethiopia in the management of 49 quarantine facilities across the country for returning migrants and supported the return of over 43,000 Ethiopian migrants in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic exacerbated humanitarian needs while at the same time impacting the humanitarian response. Though the humanitarian response has continued, at the onset of this pandemic, the humanitarian community took significant measures to contain the spread and protect communities and their staff. This meant new investments, for example, in IDP sites to establish additional

water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities and shelters to allow for social distancing among the communities. Especially at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, United Nations operations were highly affected. Many operations had to be scaled back with activities suspended and reprogrammed, limitations on staff movements, funds repurposed, and reduced attention given to non-COVID-19 activities. At the same time, the United Nations and its partners developed innovative measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and continue with operations. In addition to integrating COVID-19 prevention measures in programming, such as crowd control and handwashing, programmes were adapted to the new circumstances, by developing home-learning programmes, for example.

### **The pandemic exacerbated humanitarian needs while at the same time impacting the humanitarian response**

Conscious that the impact of the COVID-19 crisis would reach beyond health, in May 2020, the United Nations in Ethiopia drafted the *Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Ethiopia* to assess the impact of the pandemic on social and economic sectors, with a focus on jobs, businesses, agriculture, the rural economy, social services and social protection. Ethiopia was one of the first countries in the world to complete such an assessment, which was endorsed by the Government of Ethiopia. The analysis findings were invaluable to the Government's plans and policy interventions. The impact assessment led to the formulation of a proposed national Response and Recovery Plan (the Integrated Proposal) for consideration by the Government. The main objective of the Integrated Proposal was to implement evidence-based and gender-sensitive interventions and emergency responses to lessen the adverse impact of COVID-19 on the private sector to protect jobs and social services. To this end, the overall policy objective was to maintain the productive base, firm structure (formal/informal) and employment levels in the economy while preventing a damaging breakdown between sectors (especially agriculture and non-agriculture as well as social service sectors).

Following the endorsement of the Response and Recovery Plan, the United Nations and the Government developed Joint Action Plans to design, implement, monitor and evaluate measures to maintain social services and protect jobs.

Unfortunately, when the United Nations and the Government were preparing to mobilize resources and implement the Joint Action Plans in November 2020, fighting broke out in northern Ethiopia, causing momentum to be lost and the plans to be only partially implemented.

Nevertheless, the United Nations implemented programmes and projects to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic by reprogramming and reallocating existing resources and mobilizing some new resources. Consequently, the United Nations became the principal source of technical assistance from the development community in planning the response to COVID-19 in Ethiopia, articulated under the National Emergency Response Plan. The United Nations designed detailed response and recovery proposals based on the plan and quickly identified \$86 million of repurposed and new resources in support. As a result of this effort, the United Nations was tasked by the Ministry of Finance to identify priority interventions for response and recovery in close consultation with line ministries to achieve a whole-of-government approach to address the impact of the pandemic. The United Nations was also able to unlock more than \$1 billion of direct budget support from international financial institutions and bilateral agreements to combat COVID-19.

As part of its efforts to sustain and protect businesses, the United Nations was able to reach out to more than 21,800 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) – 66 per cent of which were owned by women – located in 10 major towns, including Addis Ababa. The support has also helped retain 31,719 (43 per cent female) employees who would have been laid off mainly due to COVID-19 and other crises. The support has covered all sectors and businesses engaged in the formal and informal sectors. This was possible with the support of the Governments of Canada and Japan and the United Nations Response Financial Facility. A Business Emergency Unit was established, hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Skills Development, to support businesses impacted not only by COVID-19 but also by other crises, such as conflict, drought and the war in northern Ethiopia. Under the Joint Action Plans, the United Nations provided funding of \$7 million between 2020 and mid-2022. The Business Emergency Unit has developed a national-level support package that includes small grants, wage subsidies and soft loans delivered through the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia and the Development Bank of Ethiopia. Learning from the experience and anticipating

future risks and the need to protect businesses, the Ministry of Labour and Skills Development has developed a directive on Enterprise Disaster Risk Management aimed at protecting businesses at all levels with a focus on MSMEs.

In 2021, the United Nations implemented a small joint programme involving \$1.7 million of funding from the COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund to help the country continue to mitigate the worst effects of the pandemic by sustaining businesses and protecting jobs, especially in the informal sector, for businesses owned by women, IDPs and persons with disabilities. The project provided financial stimulus packages to 1,488 affected enterprises, helping to retain 3,584 employees. The United Nations also implemented a wage subsidy programme with financial support from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. The programme disbursed a total of \$4 million in wage subsidies to 14,286 workers at 46 eligible domestic textile and garment factories as per the benefits package. The workers' basic salaries were paid through bank transfers into their accounts for five consecutive months. Additionally, workers' income tax and pension contributions

were transferred directly into the respective government entities' accounts.

As COVID-19 hit Ethiopia, the declaration of a nationwide state of emergency saw the introduction of a raft of measures and restrictions aimed at reducing the spread of the virus. These included the unprecedented move to introduce remote working for federal public servants. Many institutions found themselves unable to deliver services due to the disruption created and the absence of a culture of business continuity planning. In response, the United Nations assisted 30 federal- and regional-level key governance institutions with adopting new practices, protocols and procedures, including virtual applications to ensure business continuity at a time of crisis. Through this intervention, these institutions were able to safeguard their most critical functions. The United Nations helped them identify the time-sensitive functions to be continued, the critical staffing requirements, the resources and assets needed, etc., in line with global incident/risk management and business continuity practices. The intervention will help build resilience within the Government, making it better able to tackle future crises.

## Protecting jobs and sustaining businesses

Tsion Yimer is a young woman in her mid-twenties. Although she actively searched for a job for about a year after graduating from the University of Gondar with a degree in Civil Engineering, she was not fortunate enough to get one. After realizing she was unlikely to find a job, she joined forces with two friends and began researching how to start their own business. They later got funding from their families and a loan from the Development Bank of Ethiopia to start a garment business named Auto Park Garment. In addition to owning the business, Tsion currently works there as a Garment Cutter and Managing Director.

Auto Park Garment mainly produces boxer shorts but also makes school uniforms, gowns and other clothes. Today, the company employs 20 permanent and 10 temporary workers, and its capital has reached 7 million Ethiopian birr (ETB). Tsion remembers the difficult situation they faced during the pandemic: they were forced to shut down. Although they tried to produce facemasks and revive the business, the situation was difficult because of mounting salary bills and bank loan repayments. She remembers with sorrow that the company lost 17 well-trained workers because these financial difficulties meant they couldn't pay their salaries. She indicated that the economic impact of the pandemic is not over yet because it affected their ability to procure inputs, severely impacting their productivity.

It was during this time that they heard about the support. After registering, they ended up receiving 186,000 ETB. Tsion indicated that the support saved their business. They used the money to buy inputs and hire more workers who are currently being trained. They are preparing for the surge in demand at the end of this rainy season. Tsion thanked the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Labour and Skills Development for the support they received from the project.

**“The support saved our business”:  
Tsion Yimer  
(Auto Park Garment)  
– Gondar**





# Chapter II

United Nations support for national  
development priorities through the  
Cooperation Framework

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## Chapter II

# Outcome 1: People

**All people in Ethiopia enjoy the rights and capabilities to realize their potential equally and with dignity**

Under this outcome, the United Nations focuses on addressing four immediate causes of high multidimensional poverty and vulnerability: low levels of human development; poor quality and inequitable access to essential social services; gender inequality and violence against women and girls (VAWG); and displacement. The focus, given the issues, is on those left behind, especially young people, women, children, displaced populations and returned migrants as well as marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities.

To address these immediate causes, the United Nations worked on strengthening the quality of and access to basic social services to contribute to a healthy, educated and skilled population and workforce; reducing gender inequalities and VAWG to lower the significant barriers that still hold women and girls back; and supporting the Government of Ethiopia to operationalize its Durable Solutions Initiative to create conditions that enable all IDPs to find safe, dignified and voluntary solutions for rebuilding their lives in sustainable ways.

### Participating organizations



### Key related SDGs





**Output 1.1. Young people, especially those left behind in education and employment, are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to access decent jobs and participate in civic life.**

The United Nations has provided technical, financial and material support to increase opportunities for young people, especially the vulnerable and marginalized who face barriers to accessing opportunities for learning and employment.

Through its Generation Unlimited engagement programme, the United Nations and the Ministry of Labour and Skills Development have established a GenU network of 44 youth-led organizations. These organizations have been supported with skill transfer programmes on education, entrepreneurship and social impact projects and learning to earning opportunities for young graduates transitioning into the labour market. A Youth Leaders advisory team and youth organization's network has been built through a

bottom-up approach without much predefined guidance. Generation Unlimited launched an entrepreneurship Youth Challenge. A total of 2,318 young people aged 18-29 (678 girls) in teams of three to five submitted applications for their business ideas to be considered by the GenU. After a competitive selection process, two teams were chosen to represent Ethiopia in a Global Challenge. These young people continue to receive technical and financial support to enhance the development of their ideas.

In 2019, the Government of Ethiopia pledged to create 20,000 technical and vocational education and training (TVET) slots for refugee and host community youth. Together with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the United Nations supported the Government in developing a road map to implement the pledge. By the end of 2021, 3,071 (around 50 per cent female) refugee and host community youth had accessed TVET training in sectors such as automotive, food preparation, welding and garments in Addis Ababa, Jijiga, Gambela and Asosa. As a result of the TVET training, 23,112 young people from

refugee and host communities have accessed wage employment and self-employment.

Through its collaboration with international NGO Girl Effect, the United Nations has reached adolescents in an innovative way by supporting an existing youth brand Yegna, “the story of all of us”. The brand produces and creates television dramas, music, magazines, digital and social media content, mini-media clubs and viewing and discussion clubs. The show focuses on educating and entertaining adolescents in Ethiopia, emphasizing the empowerment of adolescent girls. The stories and music focus on issues of violence and early marriage, nutrition, COVID-19 preventive behaviours and accessing health services. 9.8 million viewers reported having learned something new from the show (Source: TV Impact Evaluation study, 2020). 44 per cent of Ethiopian girls aged 13–15 have watched the show.

The United Nations empowered young people through integrated skill-building and service provision. It established or strengthened 143 platforms (associations, youth centres and networks) for young people with special needs to serve as a safe space where they can access and use information and services related to sexual reproductive health, job opportunities and connections to microfinance institutions.

### **The United Nations empowered young people through integrated skill-building and service provision.**

Along with strengthening safe spaces, more than 45,000 (46 per cent female) young people were reached with social and behavioural change interventions using interpersonal communication, electronic tools, a disability-friendly digital platform and a mobile application to reduce their risk and vulnerability to social malaise. Focus was given to young people with multiple layers of vulnerability and special needs and those living in humanitarian settings. Moreover, through the provision of service outlets, supplies, trainings and guidelines, the United Nations enabled key institutions to deliver quality, friendly and comprehensive services to young people.

The United Nations supported the Ministry of Peace in launching the Ethiopian National Voluntary Community Service Programme, a government-led

initiative launched in early 2020. It is part of the Government’s agenda to engage young people more constructively. The programme seeks to address a range of issues:

- » The economic marginalization of young people coupled with the erosion of social cohesion, which has resulted in violent unrest in which youth have been active agents.
- » The absence of a strategic youth-centred initiative that seeks to respond to the growing youth population in Ethiopia in relation to peacebuilding.
- » The untapped potential and opportunity for the social and economic development of Ethiopia.

The programme has assisted efforts to broaden the space for youth engagement and participation in the development and political processes of the country through their direct local-level engagement with communities. The following achievements were also tracked as markers of the [programme’s success](#):

- » The Ethiopian National Voluntary Community Service Programme launched on 23 February 2020 and was rolled out to 10 Regional States (Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambela, Harari, Tigray, Oromia, Sidama, SNNPR and Somali) and two City Administrations (Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa).
- » Seven predeployment training modules on life and leadership skills; civic rights and social virtue; media smart youth; building national consensus; entrepreneurship and employability; peace and peacebuilding; and volunteer community service have been developed and used to guide and facilitate the programme’s predeployment trainings.
- » In the first phase, 10,943 youth were trained and inducted to serve targeted communities.
- » Out of those trained, 9,646 young people were deployed, of which 8,600 currently serve communities in agricultural, health, water development, information and technology, education, environmental, social and other community mobilization activities.

## A solar-powered water scheme brings relief to women and girls in Ethiopia

The small village of Serkema, Kombolcha *woreda* (district), Oromia Region, is surrounded by dry and rugged mountainous terrain. Serkema is prone to recurrent drought. The majority of the community are reliant on food aid under the PSNP. Water is extremely precious to the community, and women and adolescent girls once spent hours fetching water from a faraway river, putting them at risk of exploitation.

But that has now changed. UNICEF and its partner CARE International have installed a solar power system and water points and rehabilitated the water scheme, thanks to support from the Government of the United States of America (United States Agency for International Development). Clean water is now easily available to the community, serving over 6,500 people.

For 16-year-old Urji Abdusemed, this is a great relief. She knows what it means to have clean water at school and home. We spent a day with her, following her routine. Urji starts her day by fetching water from the nearest water point, which is just minutes from her home. "Water is life... everything one could ask for. It means a lot to us [women]", she explains.

Urji remembers when she had to walk for two hours to fetch water. "I used to leave home early to go to the river. It took hours to get there, and by the time I got back, I would already be late for school. If I needed to fetch water, I had to miss at least two periods each day. That affected my education." Some days, Urji had to do the burdensome task of fetching water twice, before and after school. She got so tired that getting back to her studies was almost impossible.

As the firstborn girl child, Urji is expected to cook, clean, wash clothes and look after her younger siblings. After Urji brings water home, she helps her mother cook breakfast before washing the dishes. Then she rushes to school. Her mother, Amina Abdurrahman, is proud that her daughter is in eighth grade, despite all the challenges she faces.

"Before the water point was built here, my daughter didn't even bother to have breakfast first. She just rushed out with her jerrycan to the river. It made me sad to see her tired and unable to focus on her education. But now I am a happy woman. We are all happy."

In class, Urji sits at the front and focuses during mathematics class. Urji needs to concentrate – in June 2022, she will take the eighth grade national exam to join high school.

Nearly 1,000 children now have access to clean water in the school that Urji attends. During break time, the water taps are quite crowded, as many students assemble to drink and wash their hands. For Urji and fellow adolescent girls, the water also brings dignity. Hygienic menstrual practices in schools start with the availability of clean water. This means a lot: insufficient access to clean water in schools and a lack of handwashing facilities are some of the main challenges girls face when menstruating.

Urji actively participates in the school's gender club. She and fellow adolescent girls discuss menstruation hygiene and other gender issues. Their teacher, Fedila Beyan, encourages the girls to overcome their fears and openly discuss the taboo issue of menstruation. "Because we have water in school, we are setting up a separate room for girls to change their pads and rest for a while. We are also setting up a system to replenish sanitary pads and soap, which are supplied by UNICEF. It is encouraging to see girls participating. I also show them how to wear pads properly", says Fedila.

Fedila encourages the girls to demonstrate what they have discussed to their peers. In this way, the girls develop skills and confidence. They can also teach their friends.

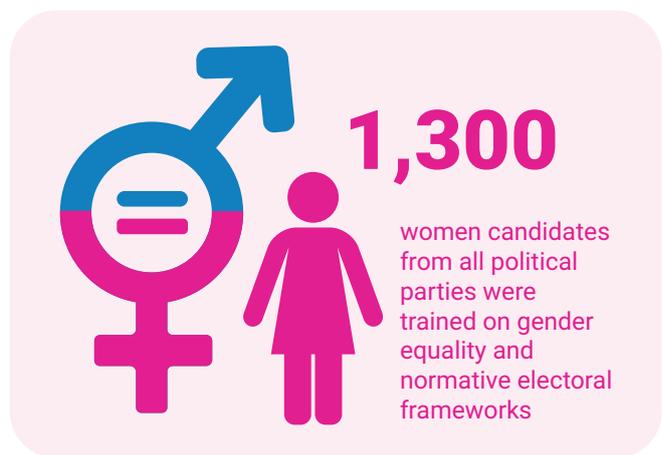
After school and lunch, Urji now finds time to study at home. The water scheme came at a time when she needed it most. She is now preparing for the national exam and wants to continue her education to the highest level possible.

“I want to go to high school and then college. My dream is to become a doctor. We have no health facility nearby, but if I become a doctor, I can provide my services here”, Urji says.



**“Before the water point was built here, my daughter didn’t even bother to have breakfast first. She just rushed out with her jerrycan to the river. It made me sad to see her tired and unable to focus on her education. But now I am a happy woman. We are all happy.”**





## Output 1.2. Gender inequalities and violence reduced, rights and accountability mechanisms strengthened, and opportunities for women and children enhanced.

Violence against women continues to plague communities despite strong legislative and institutional provisions in Ethiopia. Violence of various forms is still widespread, and women and girl survivors of violence are left with many psychosocial needs that often go unmet because of limited resources to support their rehabilitation and reintegration. In response to these challenges, the United Nations in Ethiopia continued to provide support to reduce gender inequalities and VAWG and to lower the significant barriers that still hold women and girls back in the country. Key results include:

### Access to justice and the rule of law

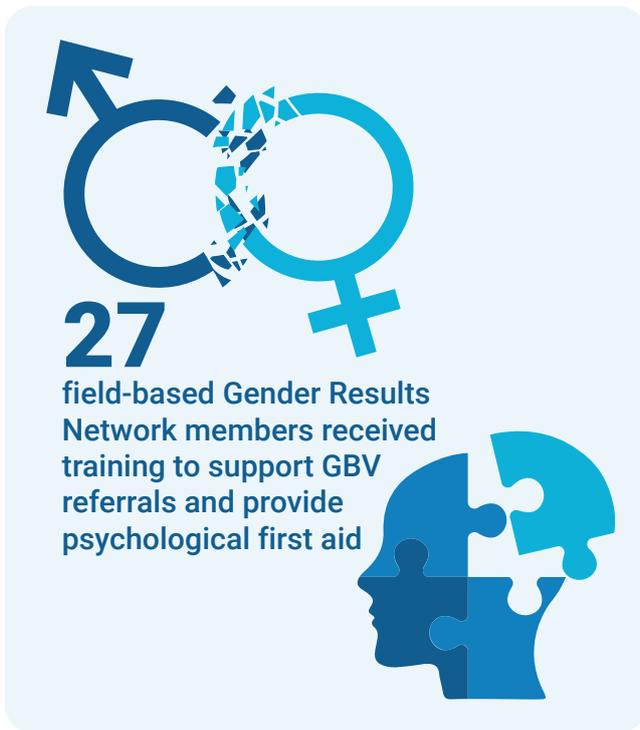
- » Continued to support the establishment and running of two free legal aid centres as well as six women's shelters and continued to support a hotline service for VAWG survivors in remote areas. Through the legal aid centres, women received free legal counselling, legal representation in court and support with filing legal charges against perpetrators and petitions for compensation. During the reporting period, a total of 40 women sought legal aid through the centres.
- » Established telephone hotlines to provide alternative ways for VAWG survivors to access services and referrals during COVID-19 restrictions in 2020. Around 100 survivors made use of this service.

- » Established an emergency fund to support women and girls affected by female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage to cover transportation costs to access health and legal services. More than 5,000 women and girl survivors benefited from the fund.

### Protection and service provision

- » A total of 4,153 women and girls across the country, who are subjected to violence, received essential services from several women's shelters and hotline service providers.
- » Supported the development of the National Standard Operating Procedure, which is now used by the Ethiopia Network of Women Shelters. As a result, all members of this network started using the National Standard Operating Procedure in 2021 and implementing survivor-centred principles as per the global essential services package.
- » Used food distribution points to raise community awareness of sexual and reproductive health services, such as family planning, available in nearby health facilities. The United Nations also shared key messages through community dialogue sessions on sexually transmitted infections, early marriage, FGM and gender-based violence (GBV), nutrition, hygiene, breastfeeding and COVID-19 mitigation for 1,571,575 community members (280,681 adolescent girls and 106,366 boys, and 568,380 women and 280,681 men). As a result, there was a notable increase in the use of sexual and reproductive health/family planning services, including long-term child spacing methods, delaying pregnancy and improving the nutritional and health habits of mothers and children.





- » Trained and deployed women and community health workers to identify, treat and refer survivors of FGM. As such, 91,826 women and girls were reached with treatments, counselling, antenatal and postnatal care and referrals.

### Rights and accountability mechanisms

- » Trained 31 national investigators and prosecutors (including 25 women) to conduct national criminal investigations and prosecute crimes involving sexual violence in line with international standards following the joint investigation and in support of the Interministerial Task Force established by the Government to facilitate implementation of the investigation's recommendations. Such technical support is particularly strategic to support accountability efforts pursued by the Government in response to the EHRC and United Nations joint investigation recommendations.
- » Promoted a gender-equal, respectful and non-violent culture among students, teachers and other staff through the educational curricula and targeted programmes in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and the Bureaux of Education in Amhara and Oromia. The United Nations in Ethiopia supported the development of gender-

sensitive curricula and textbooks. It helped revise a school-related GBV Code of Conduct, informed by an operational study of the Code's previous implementation, strengthening the capacities of teachers, students and other stakeholders in Oromia and Sidama Regions to prevent and respond to school-related GBV. The successful implementation of community mobilization strategies will promote a gender-equal, respectful and non-violent culture that contributes to ending VAWG.

- » Supported the Government of Ethiopia in policy and strategy development to enhance the rights of women and children. In 2021, notable progress was made in promoting the adoption, revision and implementation of legislation and policies from a women's rights perspective. The United Nations supported the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs with drafting policies and strategies on the prevention and response to VAWG and formulating a comprehensive national policy to prevent and respond to GBV. In particular, the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, with the support of the United Nations, initiated the development of a comprehensive national



# 14,910

community members and stakeholders in Addis Ababa and Hawassa were reached by various initiatives addressing sexual VAWG in public spaces

Capacity-building training was given to

140

voter education service providers

49

domestic elections observers

Training on gender-sensitive election monitoring delivered to

85

participants

anti-GBV policy which aims to respond to the gap in the legal framework on VAWG. In addition, the position paper on the need to adopt this policy has been developed to scale up advocacy efforts with various stakeholders.

- » Supported the Government of Ethiopia, and mainly the Ministry of Agriculture, to include gender equality and women's empowerment issues in the revision and development of the Agricultural and Rural Development Policy, Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation and Land Expropriation, Valuation and Compensation Regulation. To this end, various consultations were held with key stakeholders and agriculture sector representatives, and policy recommendations were produced that informed the processes from the perspectives of gender and inclusiveness.
- » Revised the Ethiopian Criminal Procedure Code from a gender perspective and submitted

United Nations supported the establishment of the **Ethiopian Woman Human Rights Defenders Network** in 2021



# 59



trainers trained on school-related gender-based violence

## 1,226 religious leaders



### preventing VAWG

compiled inputs to the parliament. The multi-year efforts on the adoption of family law in the Somali and Afar Regions have also resulted in some level of consensus among the community and decision makers on the importance of adopting the law while providing due respect to the regional context and religious practices.

- » Ensured, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, the development of a criminal proceeding information management system that focuses on recording and analysing administrative data on criminal cases, including

VAWG cases, in order to address the gaps in the availability and use of administrative VAWG data.

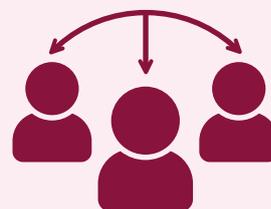
- » Supported 7,348 community-based organizations, women development groups, anti-harmful practice committees and surveillance mechanisms, which played a critical role in tracking child marriage and FGM arrangements and facilitated their cancellations. As a result, 5,056 arranged child marriages were tracked and cancelled.
- » Community and generational dialogues were conducted at the grass-roots level, resulting in 775,501 people making public declarations against FGM and child marriage and the set-up of by-laws and sanctions.

### Inclusion and participation

- » Strengthened the capacity of female electoral candidates and other key electoral stakeholders to increase women's chances of securing seats in the federal parliament and regional councils in close collaboration with EHRC, NEBE and CSOs, such as the Network of Ethiopian Women Association, in order to create a level playing field for women to run in and win elections. For example, the United Nations trained women candidates on critical public speaking, campaigning, political leadership, voter outreach and fundraising skills to ensure they can compete on a more equal standing with men. Additionally, the United Nations in Ethiopia trained and created capacity-building platforms for key electoral stakeholders, including CSOs, EHRC staff, political parties, media and people with special needs, on gender and elections, gender-sensitive election monitoring and observation, advocacy skills and ways to ensure gender is mainstreamed in the electoral process. These capacity-building platforms were also used to distribute knowledge products on critical thematic areas, such as violence against women during elections and the roles played by various stakeholders in advocating for its prevention. Supporting the first ever televised political debate on gender equality was also part of the efforts of the United Nations to ignite dialogue around the need to make gender equality and women's empowerment into a national agenda.

187

returnees and trafficked women and 17 children



received assistance and skills training for integration into their families and communities

680

survivors of VAWG

provided with remote hotline counselling and referral services



### Expansion of education and livelihood opportunities

- » Supported women's business skills development and boosted women's agribusiness and rural cooperatives. For example, under the Gender Transformative Climate Smart Agriculture and Agribusiness (CSAAB) Project, the United Nations provided support to 2,865 women to organize themselves into agribusiness cooperatives and enterprises in the Oromia Region, enabling them to engage in useful economic activity through on-farm and off-farm income diversification and livestock business activities. The women are now engaged in profitable income-generating activities and are completely managing their own cooperatives' financial and business activities.
- » Implemented a women leadership development intervention in 11 garment and textile factories, targeting 102 women workers. Seventy per

cent of these women were promoted to the next leadership position. Furthermore, this programme led to concrete results in selected piloted lines in the target factories: line efficiency and quality were improved, rework/reject rates were reduced, and absenteeism dropped.

- » Reached 526,000 in- and out-of-school adolescent girls through comprehensive and transformative life skill, sexual and reproductive health and sexuality education to increase their knowledge and ability to change norms in their communities. The United Nations supported the establishment of 530 safe spaces for in- and out-of-school adolescent girls and in IDP sites to provide a platform for vulnerable adolescent girls to openly discuss different issues and make informed decisions. More than 20,000 adolescent girls participated in discussion sessions.
- » Broadcast 49 episodes focused on the topics of FGM, SGBV and child marriage in partnership with the Population Media Council. The show has a Telegram account with over 5,000 followers and reached more than 238,000 people.
- » Mobilized youth groups to conduct community outreach and mobilization interventions on the prevention of harmful practices using a variety of methods, including megaphones in the villages, art performances, drama and music, reaching 122,253 people in the target areas.
- » Distributed mini-media equipment to schools to increase their capacity engagement in media campaigns and disseminate information on the issues of FGM and child marriage.

## A women's business group, training and start-up capital change women's lives

Workalem, Chair of the newly established group for women business owners in Haru *kebele*, Yirgachefe *woreda* (SNNPR), used to earn her livelihood from small trade in her area – buying kocho (a traditional Ethiopian flatbread) from surrounding *woredas* to sell in Haru *kebele*. She earned enough to support her family. However, there was a conflict in her area and she lost everything. After the conflict, she had no working capital to restart her business. Additional problems in her area, including COVID-19, made things worse, and she started losing hope of returning to normal life. With the support of the UNDP project, she joined other women like her in the area and formed Hunjente Keno, a self-help group for women. She has received savings and business management training, and her group also received some start-up capital.

With that support, the group opened a local cafeteria where they sell bread, tea and coffee. Additionally, they bring kocho from other areas and sell it at better prices (earning more income). Every two weeks, the group members meet and discuss their business and social affairs. They make deposits and share income every month. With the income from the business, Workalem can now send her children to school and provide food for her family. She can also cover her family's small daily expenses. She also shared the group's plans for the future: opening a retail shop next to the cafeteria to increase their income further.

955 women who were most



affected by  
**CONFLICT**



impacts of  
**COVID-19**



locust  
**INFESTATION**



and  
**FLOODS**

received start-up capital for small businesses

89

Ministry of Women  
and Social Affairs  
and regional  
bureau staff



taught how to design  
and manage  
programmes



in a gender-  
responsive manner

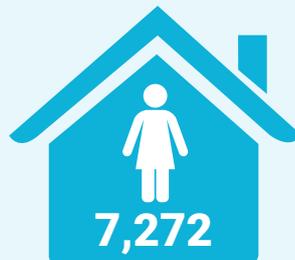
20,258



women business  
owners received  
capacity-building  
training



of women trained by  
the United Nations are  
engaged in **diversified  
agribusiness** activities



7,272

women-headed households  
had job opportunities created  
for them, resulting in

**\$380,000**  
of earnings in 2021

660 women trained

in entrepreneurship and business  
management and organized  
into cooperatives



100 women

who received technical and leadership  
coaching for 3 months now occupy a  
**leadership position**

Boosted the capacity  
of 700 women to lead  
and advocate for  
**“womenomics”**



## Family planning: a life-saving intervention for conflict-affected young women in Ethiopia

“In this difficult situation, family planning will help me take care of my own health and safety and better care for my baby and family”, says Nigiste, 21, a mother of a three-month-old son. After the conflict expanded from Tigray to her region in Amhara, she fled with her newborn son to Kulcha-Meda, an IDP camp on the outskirts of Debarq. She receives family planning counselling at an MSI Reproductive Choices mobile clinic supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with the funding of the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

The conflict in northern Ethiopia has displaced thousands of people, and more than 9.4 million are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. “I am alone, and I barely have enough to cover my basic needs”, said Nigiste, who relies entirely on humanitarian aid for survival. “After I found out the benefits of spacing pregnancies, I decided to use family planning”, she explained. Across northern Ethiopia, health systems are cracking under ever-increasing needs. Damage and destruction of health facilities and shortage of supplies and providers are severely disrupting the delivery of sexual and reproductive health services to people in need.

Family planning needs do not disappear during a crisis. Stories like Nigiste’s are all too common as needs become more urgent, and women may want to avoid the dangers of pregnancy and childbirth, particularly during a period of displacement or crisis. “The demand for family planning services is high”, said Birhanu Yalem, an MSI clinical nurse at the camp. “Women seek to avoid childbirth in this situation, including those who have already experienced obstetric complications in the past and who would most likely be at high risk in the future. Family planning saves lives”, he explained.

“With the disruption of critical health-care services and the frequent increase in sexual violence during emergencies, family planning is a proven, high-impact, cost-effective intervention that not only supports women’s rights but prevents maternal and newborn deaths and associated complications, such as fistula”, says Dr. James Okara Wanyama, UNFPA Humanitarian Programme Coordinator in Ethiopia. Nigiste is grateful to be able to choose based on her own needs, priorities and reproductive life. But much more needs to be done to ensure every young woman in Ethiopia is able to exercise their reproductive rights.



## A radio listener group raises awareness of harmful practices in Ethiopia

Abdul Mewuded, 19, lives in SNNPR in Ethiopia, in the town of Alem Gebeya, Sankuru *woreda*, Silt'e Zone. Abdul is a ninth-grade student at Alem Gebeya Secondary School. Abdul is the Radio Listener Group leader in Sankuru *woreda* for Nekakat (Cracked), a radio serial drama that addresses negative social norms and harmful practices.

GBV, FGM and child marriage are common harmful practices affecting millions of women and girls in Ethiopia. To combat and address these negative social norms and harmful practices in the area, Population Media Center-Ethiopia, in partnership with UNFPA, has broadcast the Nekakat radio serial drama on the National Radio of Ethiopia, FM 97.1 and Fana Broadcasting Corporate. The drama reached thousands of people with its social media platform during the broadcast period.

The Radio Listener Group is integrated with school-based clubs to augment the efforts towards abandoning FGM and child marriage in and around Sankuru *woreda*. The coordinated efforts of Radio Listener Groups and school-based clubs have been successful in combating negative social norms and harmful practices.

Abdul recounts: "I was assigned as the Radio Listener Group leader for the Nekakat radio serial drama in Sankuru *woreda*. Population Media Center-Ethiopia and the *woreda* Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office made me responsible for managing and coordinating the Radio Listener Group members. My friends and I attended an orientation and were trained on how to listen to the dramas and provide a feedback report to Population Media Center-Ethiopia. The group members and I are highly committed to listening to and engaging with Nekakat. The entertainment and educational elements of the drama have been effective in the fight against FGM and child marriage in Sankuru *woreda*. I am also a member of the social networking club at Alem Gebeya Secondary School. The major responsibilities of this club include teaching students to abide by the rules of the school and to be goal-oriented. The club also works on environmental sanitation and participates in the green legacy programme, which involves planting trees within the school compound. We use the school mini-media channel to educate the students on issues. We also promote Nekakat with audio-recorded messages. The messages of the drama address FGM, child marriage and GBV. The drama is well-received due to its entertaining nature. I am confident that the integration of the Radio Listener Group into school-based clubs will continue to be effective in reaching a large audience within the remaining broadcast period."

Abdul will be working on further integrating the Radio Listener Group into different school-based clubs. There are several clubs in Alem Gebeya Secondary School, such as the girls, mini-media, agriculture, ethics and science clubs. Each club meets regularly, and the episodes of the drama will be on the agenda for discussion in all clubs. The Radio Listener Group members are keen to share the entertaining and educational messages in Nekakat with family, friends, neighbours, school-based clubs and community-based organizations, such as Equb and Edir. They will work hard to eradicate negative social norms and harmful practices in and around their area. Abdul recaps, "I am grateful to Population Media Center-Ethiopia and UNFPA for the extensive broadcast of the Nekakat in Sankuru *woreda*. The topics in each episode have powerful messages that teach the public about the negative impacts of harmful practices on the lives of women and girls. We will use audio-recorded messages from the drama to educate the students and the community. The broadcast of Nekakat will enhance our efforts against harmful practices in and around our *woreda*, including rural *kebeles*."



## Output 1.3. Equitable access to basic social services is strengthened, benefiting vulnerable, marginalized and displacement-affected people.

Due to the negative impact of COVID-19, conflict and climate shocks, ensuring the delivery of basic services to vulnerable populations has remained a priority for the United Nations in Ethiopia. During the reporting period, the United Nations continued to provide its support to ensure that vulnerable communities in Ethiopia, including those affected by displacement, have access to health-care services, food and sufficient nutrition, WASH and education.

### Access to health-care services

The United Nations in Ethiopia supported the Government of Ethiopia's COVID-19 response while ensuring the continuity of essential health services. Consequently, more than 97 per cent of health facilities in Ethiopia continued to provide essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. This included maintaining life-saving maternal, newborn and child health services in health facilities. Additionally, 119 health and nutrition teams supported by the United Nations provided life-saving maternal, newborn and child health services to 827,224 children and women in the six regions affected by humanitarian crises. Furthermore, the United Nations strengthened the quality of essential newborn services. For example, 78 per cent of health centres now have newborn corners, up from 64 per cent in 2019. More than 165,000 newborns benefited from the care provided in 79 neonatal intensive care units supported by the United Nations, which improved care coverage and quality for small and sick newborns.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the health status of refugees remained stable, with no significant disease outbreaks. The crude and under-five mortality rates have been maintained at 0.03/1,000/month and 0.07/1,000/month, respectively. A total of 92.1 per cent of children under five were vaccinated against measles, and 94 per cent of the 12,313 deliveries recorded were facilitated in health centres with the assistance of skilled birth attendants. Antiretroviral treatment services were made accessible in all refugee camps, with 2,049 patients currently receiving antiretroviral treatment.

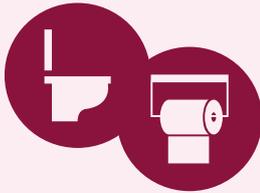
The United Nations supported the Ministry of Health in preparing the Health Sector Transformation Plan II and continued to help implement the Government's Expanded Programme on Immunization to accelerate immunization, including catch-up campaigns, for the most vulnerable. In July 2020, a measles campaign was successfully organized, reaching about 15 million children (96 per cent of the target). Following the identification of 20 cases of circulating vaccine-derived polio in 2020, the United Nations supported two rounds of polio campaigns, vaccinating a total of 7,325,026 and 7,344,691 children in the two rounds, respectively.

The United Nations supported COVID-19 vaccine introduction and roll-out in collaboration with the World Bank and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, including vaccine logistics, cold-chain strengthening and community mobilization, contributing to over 26 million people being vaccinated between 2021 and 2022. Support started from the inception, with the development of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan and subsequent revisions following the World Health Organization's recommendations, followed by the development and revision of training materials. The plan was cascaded to the subnational level to be familiarized. The United Nations supported training of trainers and cascade training for health professionals and the Expanded Programme on Immunization focal points at the national and subnational levels. As the country used different types of vaccines, there was a need to develop job aids to avoid potential confusion between vaccines, so 30,000 job aids were prepared and printed for national and subnational use.

The United Nations played a major role in introducing and launching the COVID-19 vaccine at the national and subnational levels. Support with coordination, planning, logistics, communications, monitoring and evaluation continued throughout the roll-out and campaigns. Ethiopia conducted three campaigns successfully, with the United Nations supporting campaign preparation, implementation and follow-up. The three rounds of the campaign were a tremendous achievement. The third-round campaign was one of the country's most significant successes, with more than 3.6 million doses administered in one day. On average, more than 1 million people received the vaccine per day during the campaign period, raising the coverage to 33.9 per cent, which indicates that over 36.2 million people completed the primary vaccination series. Vaccine coverage varied from region to region.



**46,296 IDPs**  
in camp-like settings  
given access to  
emergency latrines



**597 new kebeles**  
(subdistrict) (estimated  
2,982,500 inhabitants)  
are now open defecation free

The United Nations also ensured that refugees and IDPs were included in the vaccination campaign. There was a minimal difference in vaccine uptake between women and men, with women representing 48.2 per cent and men representing 51.8 per cent of vaccine recipients.

As per World Health Organization guidelines, Ethiopia conducted an intra-action review at the national level in collaboration with the United Nations after the first COVID-19 vaccination campaign. This helped the country identify challenges, best practices and lessons learned, which were applied during subsequent COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.

**During the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations also provided food and cash assistance to the most affected returnees and IDPs.**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations also provided food and cash assistance to the most affected returnees and IDPs. In 2020 and 2021, the United Nations provided cooked food to Ethiopian migrants who returned from the Persian Gulf and neighbouring countries while they were housed in COVID-19 isolation and treatment centres for 7–14 days. It also provided cash assistance to 156,016



**140,946 IDPs**  
given access to  
safe drinking  
**water**

(79,568 male and 76,448 female) IDPs whose income and livelihoods were affected by COVID-19, with a total budget of \$6 million.

The United Nations also supported the Government in strengthening the sexual and reproductive health sector by procuring and distributing personal protective equipment, maternal health products and sexual and reproductive health products, including family planning products; supporting the development of the Government's reproductive health strategy (2021–2025), sexual and reproductive health self-care guidelines and obstetric management protocols; strengthening 50 health facilities on emergency obstetric care and maternal death surveillance; conducting fistula repairs for 430 patients; providing information, services and supplies related to sexual and reproductive health to nearly 700,000 women and girls residing in conflict- and drought-affected areas; and equipping 191 health-care facilities with reproductive health kits.

The Joint United Nations Team on HIV continued providing advocacy and technical assistance to relevant government institutions to ensure the availability of HIV prevention, testing and treatment services to the population. Following persistent advocacy, education for health and well-being was integrated into the national curriculum, with substantial health content, including HIV, gender and sexual and reproductive health, introduced into carrier subjects, such as biology, languages and civics. A Ministry of Education assessment, supported by the United Nations, showed that in recent years, around 77 per cent of students have been educated about HIV, AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and sexual and reproductive health.

## United Nations Food Systems Summit

In response to the Secretary-General's call to convene the United Nations Food Systems Summit in New York in September 2021, the Government of Ethiopia launched the Ethiopian Food Systems (EFS) process in November 2020 with the support of the United Nations in Ethiopia.

EFS was convened by Oumer Hussein, Minister of Agriculture, and Dr. Lia Tadesse, Minister of Health. It brought together over 120 stakeholders from government departments, private sector corporations, universities, research institutes, CSOs and multilateral and bilateral institutions to define the vision and pathway for the transformation of Ethiopian food systems.

Figure 3: The Five 'Ps' of the food system



Through a series of dialogues, the participants identified key challenges that need to be addressed to ensure food security for all citizens. Production diversity and productivity are inhibited by limited access to appropriate agricultural technologies and inputs, including fertilizers and seeds. Prices of nutrient-dense foods have increased significantly over time, making healthier diets unaffordable for the majority of people. Population growth and agricultural intensification have led to soil erosion, land degradation and deforestation. All these challenges must be addressed while curbing rapidly growing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and building enhanced resilience to ongoing climate change and extreme weather events.

To address these challenges, participants in the process identified five central goals to achieve food systems transformation:

1. Ensure diversified food production and increase the supply of nutrient-dense foods (animal-sourced and plant-based foods)
2. Promote food production practices that conserve soil health and the environment and provide better access to agricultural inputs, technologies and financial services, especially for our rural settings
3. Support the development of equitable food systems livelihoods by promoting agro- and food processing that promotes food safety while limiting post-harvest losses

4. Build resilience to vulnerabilities and shocks, including through leveraging the existing PSNP and other social protection actions, such as school feeding and fresh food vouchers that can be used to promote food systems livelihood development to drive greater resilience
5. Use innovative approaches and technologies and sustain leadership and governance, women empowerment and leadership to transform the food system and use national food-based dietary guidelines as a tool to align commitments to deliver sustainable healthy diets by all food systems actors as an overarching goal.

To achieve the above goals, the Government of Ethiopia will implement 22 game-changing solutions divided into the following six clusters:

1. Nutrient-dense food production, food safety, fortification and rural electrification and appropriate climate smart technologies
2. Supply and value chain development, national food-based dietary guidelines and nutrition literacy and awareness creation
3. Integrated policymaking, land reform and improved government finance provision for agricultural and rural transformation
4. Agricultural technologies, innovation and agricultural input supplies
5. Access to markets, market information, infrastructure and specialization
6. Managing risk and protecting the poor.

The Government of Ethiopia is calling for all actors and partners to unite and form coalitions around these clusters to support national efforts to realize the EFS vision. These coalitions will facilitate policy and programme coordination and mobilize participation, expertise innovation and resources.

Despite the national competing priorities of insecurity, unprecedented drought and the impact of the global economic crisis, the Government of Ethiopia has been working post-summit on the following:

1. Establishing and activating a high-level national coordination and governance framework and structure
2. Harmonizing the EFS road map, finalizing the costed action plan and developing the monitoring and evaluation framework that will support and operationalize the EFS transformation pathways
3. Translating, communicating and making the developed EFS documents widely available
4. Holding biweekly meetings of the multisectoral core team that led the EFS process and is leading the establishment of the coordination and governance structure and framework.

The Joint United Nations Team on HIV provided support in capacitating and operationalizing 113 youth development platforms, including youth centres, school clubs, Community Care Coalitions and Drop-in Centres, to improve young people's access to out-of-school sexuality education and HIV prevention services. During the reporting period, 305,943 young people were reached with training to improve their knowledge and skills to protect themselves from peer influence and promote access to and utilization of HIV and sexual and reproductive health services. Furthermore, with assistance from the Joint Team, 1,401 service providers (480 male and 921 female) received various trainings on youth-friendly service provision, communication skills, community engagement, coordination and system-building interventions. This enabled service provision outlets to provide quality, friendly and integrated information and services to 57,532 at-risk adolescents and young people (58 per cent female and 42 per cent male).

### Food security and nutrition

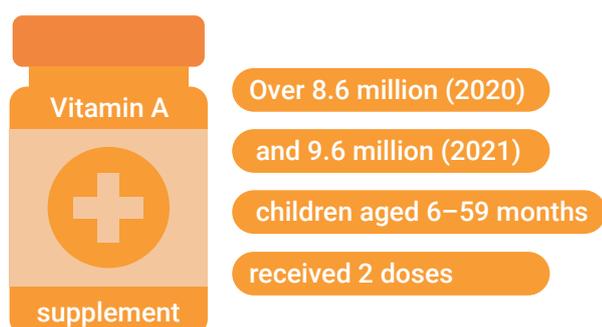
The United Nations implemented nutrition programmes in 46 nutrition facilities across the country, where 42,805 children (aged 6–59 months) have been admitted and treated for acute malnutrition. Nutrition surveys were conducted in 18 of the 24 refugee camps in the country, with the overall result showing a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 83.3 per cent. The United Nations provided treatment to a total of 2,121,358 moderately malnourished children aged 6–59 months and 1,050,667 malnourished pregnant and lactating women. The United Nations also supported the Ministry of Health in training health workers and health extension workers on the integrated management of acute malnutrition and facilitating the integration of moderate acute malnutrition treatment into the health system. Additionally, the United Nations supported the treatment of a total of 894,393 severely malnourished children between January 2020 and February 2022, with an 89.1 per

cent cure rate, 0.2 per cent death rate and 3.5 per cent defaulting rate.

The United Nations provided digital vouchers for nutrient-dense foods to households with children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women enrolled in the national Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). The vouchers were redeemable for fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs and milk as part of an innovative approach to reduce stunting by targeting the first 1,000 days of life. The cost of the voucher ranged from \$14 to \$50, depending on the household size. The United Nations also provided social behavioural change communication to increase the demand for nutritious food. In addition, the United Nations worked with retailers to develop their business plans and food-storage facilities to preserve fresh food. The vouchers helped rural retailers enrolled in the programme to plan their stock and increase their profits. Currently, this support targets 92,500 people in Amhara, with plans to scale up to an additional 70,000 people in the Afar and Somali Regions.

The United Nations in Ethiopia worked with the Government and partners to develop national social behavioural change communication campaigns to increase the demand for and consumption of nutritious food. Using media-based broadcasting and interpersonal social behavioural change communication, the United Nations provided messages to women, health workers and adolescents on optimal maternal, infant and young child feeding practices and the importance of a diverse diet.

The United Nations helped the Government to conduct analyses to inform evidence-based decision-making on the design and scale-up of nutrition interventions. This included the Cost and Non-Affordability of a Nutritious Diet study, which informed the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis, which, in turn, helped inform the transfer value of the



digital vouchers and government-led dialogues on nutrition.

An external evaluation found that the percentage of children aged 6–23 months meeting the minimum acceptable diet improved from 22.3 per cent to 42.9 per cent. The proportion of women who received the minimum dietary diversity improved from 3 per cent to 31.7 per cent. Additionally, messages on maternal, adolescent, infant and young child nutrition and optimal dietary practices reached 218,000 people.

The United Nations supported the costing of the 10-year multisectoral National Food and Nutrition Strategy (2021–2030), endorsed by the National Nutrition Coordination Body. This costing has provided a road map for budget leveraging among different partners for the next decade. The United Nations also supported the development and endorsement of the Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies guidelines and the new breastmilk substitute directive.

**The United Nations has been able to maintain an acceptable food security threshold among vulnerable communities.**

Moreover, the United Nations provided school meals for 297,356 preschool and primary school children in Afar, Oromia and SNNPR. The United Nations provided a number of capacity-building initiatives and supported the Ministry of Education in developing a national school feeding policy and strategy.

The United Nations has been able to maintain an acceptable food security threshold among vulnerable communities. Accordingly, outcome monitoring revealed that in the Amhara Region, escalating conflict in North Gondar had significantly affected the food security situation, with households that consumed sufficient food falling from 93 per cent in October 2020 (pre-conflict) to 34 per cent in May 2021 (during conflict). However, this had increased to 82 per cent by December 2021. Alarming trends were observed in Tigray, where more than half of the households assessed were severely food insecure (poor food consumption scores) due to difficulties in commodities entering Tigray.

In partnership with the Government of Ethiopia, the United Nations assisted vulnerable communities by distributing more than 353,000 tons of food

since June 2020 and investing \$17.5 million in the local economies via cash assistance. Resource shortfalls continue to impede the provision of much-required food needs. The relief food basket consists of 15 kg of cereal, 1.5 kg of pulses and 0.45 kg of vegetable oil per person per round. Recently, rations were cut by 13 per cent, and fewer people received assistance.

**Relief assistance**

The United Nations provided unconditional in-kind and cash-based assistance to 6.3 million people affected by conflict, drought, floods and displacement in the Afar, Amhara, Somali and Tigray Regions under the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan and Northern Ethiopia Response Plan. The caseload includes 2.4 million people in Somali, 2.1 million people in Tigray, over 650,000 people in Amhara and over 626,000 people in Afar. The conflict in northern Ethiopia led the United Nations to rapidly scale up its emergency food assistance. In addition, the United Nations supported 100,000 vulnerable urban beneficiaries in 10 cities across Ethiopia with cash transfers to urban PSNP beneficiaries in response to economic shocks caused by COVID-19. Support was provided in six rounds during 2021, with six-week distribution intervals. In addition, the United Nations has begun providing relief food assistance in three additional regions following the outbreak of the northern Ethiopia conflict at the Government's request.



**IDP women-headed households (approximately 39,300 individuals) in the Afar Region**

The delivery of relief assistance was coordinated with various partners and EDRMC and Disaster Risk Management Bureaux in the Afar and Somali Regions. In the Amhara and Tigray Regions, the United Nations partnered with Samaritan's Purse, Food for the Hungry and World Vision Ethiopia. For cash transfers for urban, shock-responsive PSNPs, the United Nations worked closely with the Ministry of Finance to manage the flow of cash transfer assistance through the Government's federal contingency budget, the Ministry of Agriculture to support the transfer and oversight of assistance, and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs to jointly implement the PSNP.

### Education

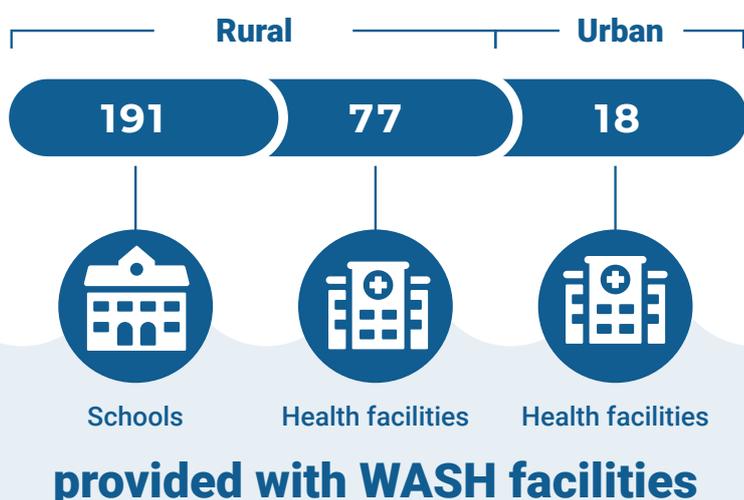
In 2021, 171,447 students (42 per cent girls) were enrolled in all levels of education, representing a 15 per cent dropout rate compared to 2020, attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in northern Ethiopia. The United Nations invested resources in informing the development of evidence-based programming for children and young people. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other development partners, the United Nations commissioned a ground-breaking study on the situation of out-of-school children using the Five Dimensions of Exclusion framework devised by United Nations organizations. The study has produced a context-specific, costed implementation strategy for addressing the education needs of out-of-school children and young people. The United Nations has been implementing a multisectoral innovative flagship programme named Every Child Learns, aimed at providing learning opportunities for out-of-school children in Ethiopia.

Support has also been provided to enable a total of 117,822 preschool children (48 per cent girls)

to access formal and non-formal early-childhood education programmes nationwide. Moreover, the United Nations technical and financial support for the National Early Childhood Development and Education Policy Framework, as well as its accompanying Strategic Operational Plans, will not only strengthen cross-sectoral coordination among different line ministries but also contribute to a stronger enabling environment for the development of foundational skills critical for lifelong learning among young people.

Investment in both formal and non-formal education programmes in humanitarian situations resulted in a total of 643,663 children (46 per cent girls) being able to resume and continue their education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The recruitment and deployment of education-in-emergency specialists, and trainings conducted with United Nations support, helped to strengthen the education cluster's coordination systems at the national and regional levels and improve the alignment of efforts to address the needs of young people between various stakeholders.

In 2020 and 2021, 57,901 children who had experienced violence, abuse or exploitation accessed and benefited from social services. Services included social welfare, health, legal/justice, psychosocial support and family tracing and reunification. These services were provided by facilities, including the One-Stop Centres by the child protection social service workforce supported by the United Nations at the *kebele* level. The National Child Protection Case Management Training Manual developed by the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs has been finalized and rolled out countrywide.



## Advancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has been on the rise in Ethiopia – from 8.4 million in 2020 to an estimated 29 million in early 2022. Working across the humanitarian-development-peace divide is imperative to address recurring humanitarian needs caused by conflict and climate-related shocks. Through the deliberate use of joint analyses, planning and cooperation, this approach maximizes the comparative advantage of each type of programming with a common goal of strengthening systems and building resilience.

The United Nations in Ethiopia has increasingly aimed at integrating humanitarian-development-peace nexus approaches into its strategies, programmes and partnerships across multiple sectors and areas of basic service delivery. For UNICEF, for example, these efforts have centred on including education, nutrition, WASH and social protection in its work.

Regarding education, UNICEF has co-located development and humanitarian responses in the same areas to address immediate needs while building long-term capacities. For instance, the My Home/Bete approach implements integrated child protection and education programming in areas of high humanitarian need while strengthening the long-term capacity of government systems to manage and operate these systems.

In the area of food security and nutrition, in addition to providing emergency services, UNICEF has been working in parallel to support early warning platforms and government-led food security and nutrition assessments to underpin a longer-term response. Similarly, the United Nations has sought to pair emergency WASH services with the reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure that can durably benefit both host and IDP communities in areas with high levels of displacement across the country.

Following the intercommunal conflict between the Gedeo and Guji communities, which left close to one million people displaced from their homes, United Nations agencies and other humanitarian partners provided assistance in the area. UNDP and humanitarian partners developed a livelihood recovery and peacebuilding project, which addressed additional livelihood recovery needs (such as agricultural seeds, tools and other inputs) by integrating development needs (job creation for the most vulnerable youth and women) and peacebuilding initiatives. This coordination and complementarity among humanitarian and development actors in Gedeo and West Guji helped the conflict-affected people recover and transition to a development phase more quickly by ensuring peaceful coexistence.

As Ethiopia continues to be vulnerable to recurring, protracted and increasingly interlinked crises, systematically enhancing and expanding the use of humanitarian-development-peace nexus approaches will be key to ensuring that the country can adequately anticipate, respond to and manage shocks and prevent and minimize the long-term impact of these risks on people and communities.

## Output 1.4. Displacement-affected persons enabled to find safe, dignified and voluntary solutions to rebuild their lives in sustainable ways.

Efforts to provide durable solutions to displacement-affected communities continued during the reporting period. For example, in Oromia and SNNPR, the United Nations in Ethiopia, with local partners and universities, supported 32,300 people (47 per cent women and girls) with legal aid and legal awareness with a focus on civil documentation and restoring housing, land and property. In the Gedeo and West Guji Zones, 24,661 IDPs benefited from various support, such as the provision of agricultural inputs (seeds and tools), construction of durable houses and participation in local income-generation activities and peacebuilding connector projects. In the Amhara and Tigray Regions, nearly 20,000 IDPs received support in realizing their decision for voluntary return, including protection counselling, tailored aid to persons with specific needs, and

transportation support for people and assets, as well as core relief. In the Somali Region, specifically in Qoloji, skills training and livelihood support are ongoing, including for pastoralist communities, focusing on enterprise development, female-owned cooperatives, the inclusion of IDP children in education and social cohesion efforts through community-based peacebuilding committees. Advocacy, technical support and capacity development have been conducted, aimed at contributing to an environment conducive to durable solutions, including technical support in the drafting of the Refugee and IDP Proclamation and Strategy and trainings on the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (Kampala Convention) and trainings on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs and its operationalization. Support for the governance structure of the Durable Solutions Initiative has been maintained, with regular meetings of the Durable Solutions Working Group, including key relevant stakeholders, notably in the Amhara, Gambela, Oromia and Somali Regions.



## Durable housing brings hope to conflict-afflicted households

Zeritu Dubale, a widow with seven family members, was one of the people severely affected by the conflict in Buno *kebele*, Kochere *woreda* (SNNPR). Before the conflict, Zeritu used to lead a peaceful but economically challenging life. During the conflict, she was displaced with her husband and children to Chelelektu, where she lived in an IDP camp for three months. On their return, the family found that their house had been burned down and their farm had been damaged. Her husband couldn't cope with these major developments, and he died of depression, making the situation even worse for Zeritu. She carried the burden of feeding her large family without the support of her husband.

She was also living in a poor shelter, and had been for more than two years, with water leakages during the rainy season, exposure to cold and risks from both people and wild animals. She had been taking care of her family's food and other needs by carrying firewood to sell at a nearby town (5 km) every day on foot. Zeritu's family is one of the households that have been supported with the construction of durable, sturdy houses. She now lives in a better house that is far safer for her family and in much better condition. She is incredibly grateful for the support and is hopeful for a better future.





## Chapter II

# Outcome 2: Justice, Democracy and Peace

### All people in Ethiopia live in a cohesive, just, inclusive and democratic society

Under this outcome, the United Nations set out to target key immediate causes of constrained social cohesion and relatively low social capital, including a lack of transparency and accountability in governance systems; risks to human rights and prevalent insecurity with associated intercommunal and intracommunal unrest triggered by a multitude of factors; and social exclusion and marginalization. To tackle these challenges, the United Nations supported Ethiopia in building and deepening its institutions of democratic governance and nurturing a democratic governance culture; strengthening the legislative, regulatory and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, so Ethiopians can benefit from a more open and inclusive governance arrangement; assisting with national efforts to reform the justice system and enhance the rule of law, so that even the most vulnerable individuals and groups can have their voices heard, exercise their rights and seek redress; and helping create a national peace architecture bringing together State and non-State institutions at the federal and regional levels that can help prevent conflict or, where this has not been possible, respond effectively to end such conflict quickly and reinforce social cohesion.

#### Participating organizations



#### Key related SDGs



## Output 2.1. Government capacity strengthened to improve the performance of institutions and promote increased participation, transparency and accountability at the national and subnational levels.

The United Nations continued to sustain strong investment in support of the Government's reform agendas aimed at promoting inclusive political processes and enhancing the capacities of multiple key democratic and accountability institutions to be better able to deliver on their core mandates. 2020 saw a number of major policy developments linked to the wider transformational democratization reforms supporting the creation of an enabling environment to ensure equitable, efficient, accountable and participatory development. Through United Nations support to the Ethiopian Broadcasting Authority, the Government of Ethiopia adopted the long-awaited Media Policy. The United Nations supported the development of the Civic Engagement Policy, which now means that there is a framework that places citizens at the heart of participatory democracy in Ethiopia. With the support of the United Nations, the House of Federation took the lead in devising the Intergovernmental Relations Policy that seeks to define the interface between the federal and regional levels of governance. The United Nations remains at the heart of efforts to enhance the independence and professionalism of the judicial system, including supporting the Judiciary to elaborate its medium-to-long-term reform strategy.

Over the course of the reporting period, despite the challenging context, the United Nations supported efforts to strengthen the institutions of democratic governance of Ethiopia to enable a more plural, peaceful, inclusive and accountable society. The United Nations managed a \$50 million basket fund supported by 16 donors, including a \$10 million direct grant from the Government of Ethiopia, to assist with the first competitive general elections in Ethiopia in June and September 2021. It was the largest United Nations electoral operation globally in recent years, with one of the largest coalitions of partners in support of elections anywhere in the world in recent years.

The election operation was a major achievement due to its scale and complexity. It was designed and executed through NEBE, covering large-scale procurement, storage and distribution of materials

(including ballot boxes, voting booths, and indelible ink) to over 50,000 polling stations across a vast territory.

While the elections may have fallen short of resolving the country's deep-rooted problems, they did lay down some critical foundations for a democratic process, including strengthening a competent election management body. Finally, despite their procedural imperfections, the elections were seen by many as reflecting the will of the people, with all parties appreciating the assistance provided by the United Nations in Ethiopia.

Enhancing gender equality and gender balance in the electoral and decision-making processes was also a significant pillar of the United Nations support. The United Nations worked with NEBE to undertake the first gender audit of the Political Parties Registration and Election Ethics Law, along with derivative directives; a gender audit of political parties; a gender audit of NEBE; and a revision of the NEBE's gender mainstreaming guidelines. These exercises helped advance gender sensitivity in the electoral cycle and supported the participation of women in the election both as candidates and as members of election management bodies. As a result of these interventions, NEBE has gender mainstreaming guidelines that will guide its work for future elections and a gender-sensitive electoral framework in place. The United Nations also partnered with EHRC to undertake a rapid assessment on violence against women in elections that informed various consultative platforms with key stakeholders and triggered debate and discussion around factors that affect women's participation in politics and elections.

**the elections were seen by many as reflecting the will of the people, with all parties appreciating the assistance provided by the United Nations**

The United Nations also supported the first ever comprehensive study on the status of women in leadership in the three branches of the Government in Ethiopia: legislative, executive and judiciary, and a study on the implementation of affirmative action measures in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs. These studies informed the Ministry's interventions towards increased knowledge and awareness of the gender gap in leadership and decision-making in the country.



To ensure the parliament, as the highest political office in the country, is a gender-sensitive entity that leads by example, the United Nations supported the undertaking of a gender audit of the House of Peoples' Representatives that will inform the gender mainstreaming strategy of the new parliament that took office after the sixth general election. The gender audit, together with its action plan, will support the efforts of the new parliament and its secretariat to mainstream gender in its legislative, oversight and representative mandate.

The United Nations also supported several milestones in the policy and implementation of the Government of Ethiopia's anti-corruption efforts. In 2020, the United Nations worked with the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to develop a new anti-corruption policy and strategy and supported the successful implementation of the third National Corruption Survey. The new comprehensive policy framework and the survey tool, which helps gauge public trust in the accountability of its institutions, are important resources that are helping the Government to reduce corruption at the federal and regional levels. Over the reporting period, the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission significantly strengthened its anti-corruption efforts with the design of a code of conduct for high public officials, as well as a digitized Disclosure of Assets Registration System requiring that henceforth public servants register their assets as part of the fight against corruption.

A key factor in institutions' responsiveness is their ability to include and register all segments of the population, facilitating access to their rights and basic services. In 2020 the Government, with the support of United Nations organizations, began a major push towards establishing a conventional civil registration system. As a result of these efforts, a National Comprehensive Civil Registration Vital Statistics assessment and National Costed Action Plan 2021–2025 were developed and endorsed. These resources enabled the development of data sources and ultimately – by increasing access to basic services – improved the health and well-being of women, men, children and adolescents in Ethiopia. Since 2020, the births of 378,942 Ethiopian nationals and 1,936 refugees have been registered.

To ensure that gender concerns are mainstreamed across the country's statistics systems and development planning, the United Nations helped the Ethiopian Statistics Service to conduct an

assessment on the mainstreaming of gender in the national statistical system and an assessment on the representation of persons with disabilities. These assessments have helped to improve the normative environment for statistics, which will be reflected in the revision of the National Statistical Act, fostering greater inclusivity in public policymaking.

At the same time, the United Nations worked closely with the Planning and Development Commission and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment to strengthen the gender responsiveness of the Government's Ten Years Perspective Development Plan in line with the SDGs. In particular, this partnership's work helped to ensure that gender-sensitive indicators were incorporated as part of the key performance indicators of the Ten Years Perspective Development Plan.

As part of the efforts of the United Nations to promote the empowerment of women in peacebuilding, a joint National Sensitization Workshop was also organized in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (formerly the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs). This provided an opportunity to identify feasible interventions to empower women leaders at the national and subnational levels and facilitate peacebuilding networks. At the subnational level, the United Nations produced a policy brief entitled *An integrated approach to amplifying the voices of women in peacebuilding in Ethiopia: The case of Oromia and Somali Regional States*. The brief has helped to inform a policy-level discussion at the national level related to women's participation in peacebuilding.

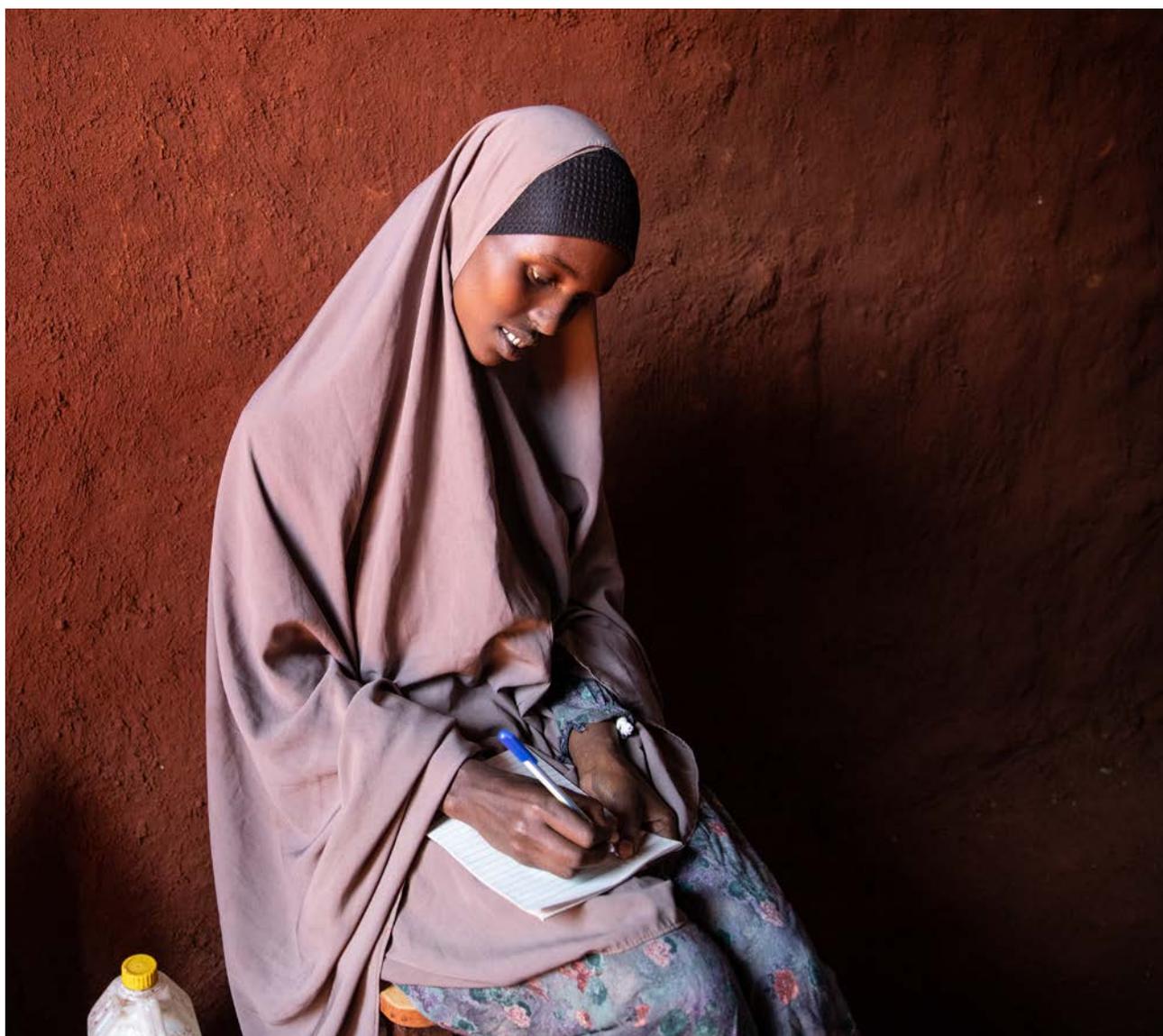
**This provided an opportunity to identify feasible interventions to empower women leaders at the national and subnational levels and facilitate peacebuilding networks.**

Going forward, the United Nations will prioritize supporting efforts to strengthen gender equality and women's empowerment in all governance processes. The revision of the 1993 National Women's Policy presents an important opportunity to update and significantly strengthen a whole-of-government approach to gender equality. The United Nations will support women's movements and organizations in civil society to help them

advocate for and claim their rights to participate in the political, economic and civic spheres.

Despite the notable achievements in economic growth and provision of basic services in Ethiopia, the Ten Years Perspective Development Plan acknowledges the importance of the sustainability of development results and the need for the Government to respond to citizens' calls for greater accountability and a more open political space if it is to deliver a lasting economic transition. The public sector plays a crucial role in delivering the Government's policies. At the Government's request, the United Nations is supporting the professionalization of the civil service with the aim of ensuring a competent, effective and efficient civil service acquainted with the desired standards of knowledge, skills and attitude to serve the public interest impartially in an ethical and professional manner. The support is expected to result in improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness

of the services provided to citizens by the public sector. The support underpins the broader government reforms in the country and coalesces around two critical civil service roles. First, the development of a professional civil service that is neutral, impartial and can uphold plural politics in Ethiopia. The core elements here are that civil servants ought to be professional, politically neutral while in post and ready to serve any political party elected to office. Moreover, their recruitment, assignment and promotion should be merit-based. Second, the improvement of public service delivery and accountability for service providers. Despite huge prior investments in public sector reform, Ethiopia ranks among the lowest in the Government Effectiveness Index and Doing Business Index. Support provided to date has seen the development of the civil service reform road map, merit-based civil service system initiatives and service delivery improvement innovations through a partnership with the Federal Civil Service Commission.



## Output 2.2. Capacities and mechanisms strengthened at the national and subnational level for enhanced protection of human rights, the rule of law, access to justice and protection for vulnerable populations.

The partnership between the United Nations and EHRC has played a vital role in supporting human rights in Ethiopia. With assistance from the United Nations, EHRC undertook major internal reforms and increased its capacities to deliver on its mandate more effectively. As a result of its reform efforts, EHRC enhanced its international recognition, receiving an “A” status from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in December 2021, the highest possible rating the body can give to national human rights institutions.

A major achievement of the EHRC-United Nations partnership was publishing the joint investigative report into human rights violations in the context of the conflict in northern Ethiopia in November 2021. The *Report of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC)/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Joint Investigation into Alleged Violations of International Human Rights, Humanitarian and Refugee Law Committed by all Parties to the Conflict in the Tigray Region of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia* – an important step in strengthening accountability for human rights – covered alleged violations committed in the context of the Tigray conflict and highlighted violations against vulnerable populations, especially IDPs, persons with disabilities, children and the elderly. As a response and follow-up to the report and its recommendations, the Government of Ethiopia established an Interministerial Task Force, which is now facilitating redress and accountability measures in response to the violations committed during the conflict in Afar, Amhara and Tigray. In September 2022, the Interministerial Task Force released its first report consolidating the findings of investigations conducted mostly in the Afar and Amhara Regions.

The United Nations also assisted the Government of Ethiopia in strengthening its ability to monitor, promote and ensure the rights of children. Important achievements in this area have been the revision of the Ethiopian Convention on the Rights of the Child monitoring guideline, which

was brought into line with key international commitments, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The United Nations also supported a revision of the criminal procedure to improve provisions on child justice, especially for children incarcerated with their mothers. The revision has now made it possible to postpone imprisonment for a mother of a child under 30 months old.

The United Nations also supported the Government in building its capacity to comply with its reporting obligations under international human rights mechanisms, including through training, targeting members of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up, coordinated under the Ministry of Justice. Ethiopia has made progress in its compliance with its international reporting obligations. Since 2020, it has submitted reports to relevant committees, including those established under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Technical assistance was also extended to CSOs and EHRC to directly engage with the United Nations human rights mechanisms to promote compliance with the mechanisms’ recommendations, which align with the major issues relevant to the evolving Ethiopian context.

Going forward, a significant priority area for the United Nations will be to continue supporting EHRC, the Interministerial Joint Task Force and its four committees to follow up on the implementation of the EHRC-OHCHR report and advance efforts towards transitional justice. The United Nations will support the capacities of EHRC and other relevant institutions to understand and promote the SDGs, monitor detentions across the country and enhance public awareness of access to justice, the rule of law and legal challenges affecting women, children and vulnerable groups. It will also collaborate with regional justice organs at the regional level to expand access to justice and the rule of law.

Following on from output 1.2, violence continues to affect the lives of many women and girls in Ethiopia. The United Nations efforts to improve the legal environment have included advocating for the adoption of a family law in the Afar and Somali Regions in line with the revised Federal Family Law, which was finalized in 2020, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms

of Discrimination Against Women Committee's concluding recommendations for Ethiopia to adopt family law in these regions. The assessment of the socioeconomic status of women and girls in the Afar and Somali Regions and barriers hindering the adoption of the Federal Family Law significantly informed the ongoing initiatives towards the adoption of a family law by providing concrete evidence and recommendations for action. The Federal Family Law has now been adopted in the Somali Region, and work remains ongoing in Afar.

A comprehensive national anti-GBV policy that aims to respond to the gap in the legal framework on VAWG is also being developed. The Ethiopian Criminal Procedure Code has been revised from a gender perspective, with inputs compiled and submitted to the Federal Parliamentary Assembly. This is now awaiting parliamentary ratification. A criminal proceeding information management system has been developed that focuses on recording and analysing administrative data on criminal cases, including VAWG cases. It will enable justice sectors to record and analyse VAWG administrative data by type, investigation and prosecution rates and perpetrator and victim details. Two legal aid centres in the Afar and Somali Regions were established in conjunction with a national CSO to provide women with free legal advice and counselling.

One of the other pressing issues during the COVID-19 emergency has been the safety and protection of staff providing essential services to VAWG survivors, such as police, prosecutors, social workers and counsellors working in the special investigation units and One-Stop Centres. To address this challenge, the United Nations procured personal protective equipment for the special investigation units in the 10 districts of Addis Ababa and the One-Stop Centres in federal and regional states.

Strengthening the rule of law and justice system is central to the consolidation of democracy and stability in Ethiopia. A well-functioning justice sector is critical for the efficient delivery of public services and good governance, reducing corruption.

Although the country has made strides over the last two decades, its justice sector remains in need of continued and sustained reforms. The United Nations has been supporting efforts aimed at broadening democratic participation, strengthening justice and the rule of law, improving public service delivery and creating transparency and accountable systems of governance. Institutional reforms have also been introduced in the justice system. A Legal and Justice Affairs Advisory Council was set up under the Ministry of Justice. The Council's responsibilities include examining restrictive laws and flaws in the justice system and developing recommendations for institutional restructuring and revisions, including amendments to laws. A Judicial Affairs Advisory Council was established with a primary mandate of examining existing laws and practices relevant specifically to the Judiciary at the federal and regional levels, as well as presenting recommendations for judicial reforms. Its ultimate objective is to enhance the independence, integrity and credibility of the judicial system, thereby ensuring the rule of law and citizens' access to justice and restoring public confidence in the judicial system. The United Nations, through OHCHR, delivered varied capacity-building and training activities to police in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Debre Birhan, Gondar and elsewhere to ensure they abide by human rights. In some instances, for example, in Hawassa, Sidama, joint training was provided for the Judiciary, Corrections Service and police.

**A well-functioning justice sector is critical for the efficient delivery of public services and good governance, reducing corruption.**

To support a comprehensive justice reform programme in Ethiopia, United Nations agencies undertook a Rapid Justice Assessment with the full support of the Government. This assessment provides a baseline, recommendations and a road map for interventions for wider justice sector programming. It promotes evidence-based reform of the institutional, legal and policy framework of the justice sector.

## Tigray conflict: EHRC/OHCHR joint investigation report

From 16 May to 30 August 2021, EHRC and OHCHR conducted a joint investigation into alleged human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law and refugee law committed in the context of the conflict in Tigray.

The objectives of the joint investigation were to provide a faithful account of the human rights situation in Tigray, including its gender dimension; further the accountability process and advocate for effective remedies; provide clear and actionable recommendations; and identify serious violations to ensure redress for victims and prevent recurrence.

The investigation was carried out within the framework of relevant international legal norms, including international human rights law, humanitarian law, refugee law and criminal law, as well as Ethiopian domestic law.

The Joint Investigation Team investigated alleged violations by all parties to the conflict from 3 November 2020 until the unilateral ceasefire declared by the Ethiopian Government on 28 June 2021.

The team found serious abuses and violations of human rights and humanitarian and refugee law committed by the Ethiopian National Defence Force, Eritrean Defence Force, Tigray Special Forces and allied militias, and Amhara Special Forces and allied militias, as well as other parties to the conflict.

According to the report, the Joint Investigation Team has reasonable grounds to believe that a number of these violations may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes, which require further investigations to ensure accountability. The primary responsibility for addressing the violations rests with the State as part of its obligation to respect and protect human rights.

The main findings of the investigation include:

- » Attacks against civilians and indiscriminate attacks
- » Unlawful or extrajudicial killings and executions
- » Widespread arbitrary detentions, abductions and enforced disappearances
- » Pillaging, looting and destruction of property
- » SGBV
- » Forcible displacement of civilians
- » Violation of the civilian character of refugee camps

The report emphasizes that accountability should not be understood narrowly, and that criminal responsibility is only one of a broader set of required actions. It repeats the calls by victims and survivors of violations, who wish for the restoration of their means of livelihood, reparations, the truth about what happened to their loved ones, all sides to acknowledge responsibility and perpetrators to be brought to justice.

The report makes extensive recommendations. These include a call to all parties to the conflict to end all violations and abuses and to take all necessary measures to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure. It calls on them to agree, without preconditions, to immediately end hostilities and any measures that may exacerbate the already acute humanitarian crisis.

There are also numerous recommendations for the international community, including the United Nations. These include promoting and supporting all efforts to reach a cessation in hostilities and achieve sustainable and inclusive peace, including support for effective accountability measures.

The United Nations is currently supporting the Government in implementing the recommendations contained in the Joint Investigation Team report, including training investigators and prosecutors, providing technical assistance to develop an IDP proclamation and strategy and sharing best practices on transitional justice approaches in the region.



## Output 2.3. Peace architecture and related instruments strengthened to prevent, mitigate and manage conflict and promote peace, reconciliation and social cohesion at the national and local levels.

The ability of Ethiopia to support peace, reconciliation and social cohesion is a key enabler for it to chart its course towards sustainable development and prosperity successfully. Over the reporting period, the United Nations worked at the national, regional and local levels to enhance the capacities of government officials and civil society to strengthen collaboration to jointly mitigate, manage and prevent conflict.

The United Nations played the lead technical role in the emergency recovery assessment and planning in Tigray. Following the outbreak of armed conflict in Tigray in November 2020, the Government of Ethiopia requested the support of the United Nations with a rapid recovery assessment and planning process for immediate use in Tigray. United Nations support provided a solid framework for linking with and transitioning from the immediate humanitarian response to a more development- and peace-focused phase both within Tigray and across its borders. The Emergency Recovery Plan for Tigray, designed and finalized in June 2021, provided a framework for aligning programmatic responses and, although stalled due to the escalated conflict, defines a road map for the Government of Ethiopia and partners to guide humanitarian and development interventions



**Supported the establishment of a conflict early warning and rapid response system in 32 woredas**

anchored on five main pillars: (i) rebuild social cohesion, stability and trust; (ii) restore government functions at all levels; (iii) restore public infrastructure and economic services; (iv) restore basic social services in coordination with humanitarian assistance; and (v) restart private sector/business/economic activities.

In 2022, again at the request of the Government of Ethiopia, the United Nations development system in Ethiopia has been supporting the national Conflict Impact Assessment and Recovery Plan (CIARP) initiative, under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance and the technical coordination of the World Bank. The aim of the CIARP is to: (i) conduct a comprehensive multisector conflict impact and needs assessment in the affected regions (Afar, Amhara, parts of Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Konso in SNNPR and Tigray) and (ii) formulate a strategy for recovery and reconstruction using the Build Back Better principles, including the design of an appropriate implementation arrangement and institutional framework, resource mobilization strategy and financial mechanisms to manage and fund the recovery. The assessment will help inform the recovery efforts towards creating enabling conditions for the return of the displaced population to their place of origin and restoring safety, livelihoods and service delivery in the affected regions.

At the national level, the United Nations supported an inclusive national peace forum involving 450 local government officials, 189 religious leaders and 120 civil society members, including women influencers such as leaders of women federations, “peace mothers”, *hadha siinqees* and youth leaders. At the local level, the United Nations supported 1,320 communities in holding local peace dialogues and successfully trained 271 senior figures from key government institutions on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. To further build sustainable peace infrastructure at the local level, UNCT helped establish a conflict early warning and rapid response system in 32 *woredas*, and university and school peacebuilding clubs.

In Ethiopia, the role of women in the peace and security agenda is receiving growing attention from concerned State and non-State actors. This is due to the dynamic geopolitical landscape with escalating violent conflicts and recognition of the role women can play in resolution and peacebuilding initiatives using the country’s formal or traditional structures. Given the scant evidence on the positive role and capacity of women in

Ethiopia, interventions initiated to maximize women's role in peacebuilding seem to lack an integral and transformative approach to diagnose and address the multifaceted barriers faced by women in peace and reconciliation.

### **the role of women in the peace and security agenda is receiving growing attention from concerned State and non-State actors**

Therefore, an important area of United Nations support has been promoting women to play an active role in peacebuilding, reconciliation and the promotion of human rights. To better spotlight the key role that women play in peace, a national women's dialogue with 120 participants was conducted between traditional women leaders and regional government representatives from all parts of the country.

At a critical juncture during the 2021 election, the United Nations supported a march led by "reconciliation mothers" calling for a peaceful electoral process and a dialogue with political party leaders in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar. The engagement between political parties after the march provided a platform for dialogue between women and politicians, which resulted in public commitments to a peaceful electoral process.

On 10 December 2021, the Ethiopian Council of Ministers adopted a draft proclamation to establish the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission to independently lead and coordinate an inclusive and participatory national dialogue. The Proclamation (No. 1265/2021) was subsequently passed by the House of Peoples' Representatives in February 2022, and 11 Commissioners were nominated through an open process to lead the Commission for a period of three years. As defined in the Proclamation, the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission has been assigned specific tasks including: (i) facilitating consultation between the various segments of society by identifying the root causes of differences on fundamental national issues and identifying the topics on which discussions will take place; (ii) implementing an effective national dialogue process by ensuring

national dialogues are inclusive, transparent and led by a competent and impartial body, with a clear focus on the cause of disagreements, guided by key principles of impartiality and integrity, and with a clear plan to implement the results of the consultations; (iii) establishing a system of deliberations that will improve the relationship among the different segments of the population as well as between the public and the Government so as to enable the creation of a new political dispensation that is marked by mutual trust and constructive engagement; (iv) supporting the implementation of recommendations emerging from the dialogues and building an open and democratic system of trust between citizens, the Government and people at all levels; (v) supporting the development of a political culture that can solve internal problems that have been simmering for generations through dialogue and create a conducive environment for the building of a democratic system; (vi) laying the social and political foundations on the basis of which current problems can be solved in a sustainable manner, ensuring lasting peace; and (vii) laying a firm foundation for national consensus and the building of a state with strong legitimacy. The United Nations has been requested by the Ministry of Finance to lend technical and advisory support to this newly established body.

Within the framework of the implementation of the joint investigations' recommendations on non-judicial measures, the Government has prioritized transitional justice, including reparations. To support these efforts, the United Nations has undertaken community consultations in some parts of the country, including northern Ethiopia, to document peoples' views and perceptions to inform the possible discourse on viable transitional justice options. In 2022, the United Nations also strengthened the capacity of civil society actors to monitor and report on early warning indicators of rights violations that could prevent community-based conflict from exacerbating human rights violations. As a result, local early warning networks were established and are now operational in six locations across the country (Debre Birhan, Nekemte, Bahir Dar, Dire Dawa, Semera and Hawassa).

## Output 2.4. Civil society and the media empowered to exercise their rights and enjoy increased participation in political, economic and civic space.

The United Nations continued scaling up its engagement with women's movements and feminist CSOs to strengthen their ability to build evidence, develop strategies, mobilize resources and form, strengthen and sustain partnerships that support women and girls in claiming their rights and actively participating in political, economic and civic spaces as well as in humanitarian decision-making and community-led accountability mechanisms.

While the United Nations welcomed the revision of the CSO law, which directly contributed to an increased number of CSOs engaged in promoting good governance and human rights, it also noted these organizations were suffering from weak capacity and a lack of resources. To alleviate this problem, the United Nations identified various capacity-building support initiatives that included direct funding to enhance the institutional capacity of CSOs by way of small grants. The support targeted CSOs, especially women-led CSOs and those that work to promote women's political participation and involvement in peace and security. The small grant support enabled targeted CSOs to put basic organizational structure-related normative frameworks in place and build the capacity of their own staff on transformative approaches to promoting gender equality.

In late 2021, the Funding Board of the [Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund](#) decided to add Ethiopia to its list of active countries to support women's rights organizations and civil society working on gender-specific issues in peace and security and humanitarian contexts. The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund will support selected CSOs to increase the participation and leadership of women in humanitarian planning and response, enhance the safety, security and mental health of women and girls, and better ensure their human rights are respected. This Fund is key to reinforcing the institutional capacities of CSOs and enabling them to sustain their efforts and enhance their impact.

Throughout the period covered by this report, the United Nations was active in supporting an environment for responsible, free and independent media – a key factor in democratic governance. This included providing technical

assistance to revise three media-related laws in Ethiopia, which laid the groundwork for the Media Proclamation Law approved by the House of Peoples' Representatives, passed in 2020. The law was meant to address a key challenge: the proliferation of online media sources and the ensuing challenges, including hate speech, misinformation and disinformation, which escalated during the 2021 electoral period. The law sets out the responsibilities of the Ethiopian Media Authority, including its mandate to regulate and monitor the sector. At the same time, in support of greater freedom of the press, freedom of expression, access to information and journalist safety, the United Nations supported a multi-stakeholder platform for the national and international media, co-chaired by the Government.

Meanwhile, to improve the quality and standards of media actors, the United Nations worked directly with civil society and journalists to raise awareness and understanding around the new law and their rights. These efforts included working closely with security forces to address key safety challenges faced by journalists. The United Nations also supported the strengthening of journalistic standards through a number of different means, including the development of a journalism curriculum (currently under review for accreditation) and the drafting and implementation of a gender-sensitive conflict reporting guideline for Ethiopian media actors, developed and validated in collaboration with the Ethiopian Broadcasting Authority.

Another priority in the context of the changing media landscape in Ethiopia was training journalists and media from different media organizations in fact-checking information and analysing disinformation trends. A national fact-checking institution was established and strengthened to provide regular fact-checking services and weekly and monthly reports on disinformation and hate speech to journalists and citizens.

The media landscape in Ethiopia continues to face multiple challenges, including the need to strengthen an enabling environment for the safety of journalists and media actors and build the quality of and capacities for journalists and new media actors' factual reporting. Currently, the United Nations is supporting the establishment of the first mid-level media training centre in Ethiopia by establishing a National Media Centre of Excellence. It will also continue to support duty-bearers on access to information.

## Chapter II

# Outcome 3: Prosperity

### All people in Ethiopia benefit from an inclusive, resilient and sustainable economy

Under this outcome, the United Nations pledged to address four immediate causes of the economy's slow structural transformation: high unemployment and underemployment and a 'missing middle' of vibrant, productive and growing MSMEs connected to domestic and global supply chains; low productivity and value addition as well as weak market integration; an improving social protection system that still requires considerable investment; and low domestic resource mobilization.

Taking into consideration the shock represented by COVID-19, the United Nations will target underlying causes in key areas, including mitigating the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic by protecting jobs and ensuring the survival of the enterprises and businesses hit hardest, especially in the informal sector in urban areas; systematically strengthening the ecosystem for MSMEs to create decent jobs and livelihood opportunities at scale, raise incomes, trigger sustained and significant productivity improvements, and increase value addition and exports; bringing innovation – a major accelerator of structural economic transformation – across multiple areas of work to introduce new services and technologies, create additional avenues for job creation, raise productivity and competitiveness and attract new sources of capital for sustainable development; strengthening and expanding social protection programmes targeting the working poor and those most at risk; and strengthening the development planning and statistical systems of Ethiopia.

#### Participating organizations



#### Key related SDGs



### Output 3.1. Policies, regulations and institutions strengthened to create decent jobs and promote equal access to finance for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in their productivity and competitiveness.

The United Nations supported the strengthening of the ecosystem for MSMEs to create decent job and livelihood opportunities at scale, raise incomes, increase value addition and exports and trigger sustained and significant improvements in productivity.

The United Nations has undertaken several studies and analyses on the competitiveness of the leather sector and has set up a Leather Industry Development Institute regional centre, an MSME footwear cluster and a leather goods cluster in Modjo, Oromia Region. The United Nations further mobilized \$255,418 in support of the MSME cluster and established a Creative Hub in Addis Ababa to support start-ups and MSMEs in industrial innovation and design. The Hub supports creative innovators, designers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in various fields by deepening their understanding of global design and industrial concepts, providing state-of-the-art working tools, materials and resources and enhancing the link between young innovators, industrial organizations and governmental entities. To date, 120 MSMEs have acquired specialized skills, and 340 have increased their profit margins, with an average 5 per cent increase in export volume achieved.

The United Nations has supported the development of integrated agro-industrial parks (IAIPs) in Ethiopia, with three of the four pilot parks

(Yirgalem, Bulbula and Bure) inaugurated and now open for business and investment during the reporting period. The objectives of IAIPs are to (a) drive the structural transformation of the Ethiopian economy; (b) reduce rural poverty; and (c) create a better environment for increased investment in agrifood and allied sectors. The United Nations was able to mobilize \$661,851,717 to complete the construction of three IAIPs. As of June 2022, 94 investors have registered to operate in the Yirgalem and Bure parks, six of whom established processing factories in the parks with a capital outlay of \$229,432,669.83. Forty-two investors have showed an interest in investing in the Bulbula park. Two avocado factories operating in the Yirgalem IAIP have begun exporting and have created market linkages for 88,000 farmers organized in 22 basic cooperatives.

In an effort to promote entrepreneurship development, the United Nations continued to support the Ethiopian Entrepreneurship Development Centre. Established in 2013 with the support of the United Nations, the centre has become a legally constituted entity called the Entrepreneurship Development Institute.

The United Nations underpinned the Government's efforts to accelerate pro-poor economic growth, with SME development and transformation as the key driver of economic resilience, by supporting inclusive and sustainable SME development, enhancing access to information and critical productive services, supporting the efficiency of marketing systems and leveraging appropriate technology and practices to boost productivity and value chain development in the SME sector. As such, the United Nations assisted the then Ministry of Industry in setting up an MSME management information system and e-commerce platform infrastructure and strengthening the single-window



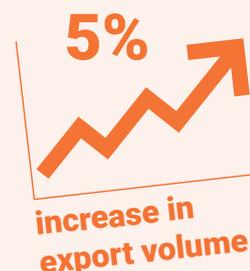
Loans supported  
**311 (139 women)**  
potential migrants  
and returnees to  
**start a business**

**\$661,851,717**

**mobilized to  
complete the  
construction of  
three IAIPs**



**340 MSMEs have  
increased their profit  
margin, with an average**





*Handwritten text on the chalkboard, including a list of items and a section header.*

*Section 1:*

1. Gula
2. Bumbu
3. Gula
4. 25...

*Section 2:*

1. Ikan
2. Bumbu
3. Gula
4. 25...



**93,000 farmers**  
linked to integrated  
agro-industrial parks  
benefited from sales  
and technology transfer  
and training

**20 business deals facilitated**  
with Japanese firms,



**with an average investment of**  
**\$1 million each**

service system to improve SMEs' information communication and digitalization.

As part of the Government's homegrown economic reform programme, the National Bank of Ethiopia has been working to develop capital markets in Ethiopia. To develop capital markets, the necessary institutions, policies, legal instruments (directives and regulations) and market infrastructure must be put in place. The United Nations has also worked with the National Bank of Ethiopia to establish the Capital Markets Authority by deploying seven national technical experts and one international technical expert who are currently working on the capital market project implementation team. The team has crafted regulations and policy documents on securities exchange and overall capital market development. To date, the team has produced and substantially completed drafts of various directives, operating manuals and policy proposals and conducted stakeholder consultation workshops on 12 directives. Moreover, with financial support from development partners, including the United Nations, it has provided capacity-building and investor education sessions and activities. To date, the team has provided capital market training to over 600 potential service providers and 200 potential issuers.

In addition, the Capital Markets Authority and a team from the National Bank of Ethiopia were supported to learn from the experiences of Kenya and Turkey, as Ethiopia is just starting up its capital market as part of its financial sector reform and there are benefits to adapting experiences



**27,000 coffee farmers**  
associated with 22 cooperatives  
were supported

**Coffee project-linked farmers**  
**increased their income by**

**168%** 

from other countries that have tried capital markets. In light of the importance of trade for development and the need for clarity, predictability and consistency in the policy framework for the socioeconomic development of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration led the process of crafting a comprehensive trade policy in line with the Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda, Ten Years Perspective Development Plan, the newly revised Commercial Law, other trade-related laws and the obligations expected due to various trade negotiations. The United Nations also supported the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration in preparing the comprehensive trade policy framework.

The United Nations financial education manual was adapted and translated to better address the needs and interests of potential migrants and returnees and better reflect the country's context. A training of trainers was organized for 20 trainers from government and non-government institutions, of which nine trainers cascaded the financial education training to 503 potential migrants and returnees (464 women).

Moreover, the United Nations, in partnership with Amhara Credit and Savings Institution, Wasasa Microfinance and Siinqee Bank, established a revolving loanable fund amounting to \$800,000 (37,191,600 ETB) to improve potential migrants and returnees' access to finance in Addis Ababa, Amhara and Oromia to enable them to establish sustainable livelihoods. The funding is a matching fund: the United Nations contributed one half of the fund, and the financial service provider contributed the other. To date, 311 potential migrants and returnees (139 women) have benefited from the loan and have established businesses.

## Output 3.2. Improved access to decent jobs, employment and livelihood opportunities in formal and informal sectors, particularly for youth and women.

Under this output, the United Nations focused on mitigating the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic by protecting jobs and ensuring the survival of the enterprises and businesses hit hardest, especially in the informal sector in urban areas in the short term.

The United Nations developed a rural jobs strategy in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Skills Development, the Job Creation Commission and other stakeholders. It also established the Employment Services Facilitation Centre within Yirgalem IAIP. The centre provides various employment services – such as linking jobseekers with potential employers – for jobseekers inside and outside the park.

The United Nations continued working with the Ministry of Labour and Skills Development and regional Bureaux of Labour and Social Affairs to strengthen the technical, material and financial capacity of the labour inspectors in four bureaux in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR. As a result, 144 workplaces were inspected, and 22 labour inspectors (four women) were trained and certified. With the financial support of the United Nations, nine new trade unions in garment and textile factories with 4,100 members (2,640 women) were established, which will lead to more people having a voice and improved representation, social dialogue and productivity.

To ensure informed capacity-building to provide TVET services to potential migrants and returnees, the United Nations commissioned a study to assess the capacities and capabilities of the TVET agencies in Ethiopia. Based on the assessment findings, the United Nations developed and implemented a capacity-building strategy through technical and material support to the TVET agencies.

The United Nations rolled out its entrepreneurship training programme “Start and Improve Your Business” to reinforce the entrepreneurial and business management skills of Ethiopian returnees focused on food processing design. Following the training of trainers, trainers cascaded the programme to 259 potential migrants and returnees



The Better Work intervention supported **49 garment and textile factories**

with over **30,000** workers to address decent work deficits



**238** advisory sessions conducted to support factories in their improvement process, leading to



**63** training sessions on **15** topics with **1,429 (942 female)** participants



**158** participants (**41 female**) in **5** industry seminars

**1,152 people**  
(926 women)  
received soft skills  
trainings on



entrepreneurship and  
business skills



**486** of them  
now have a  
sustainable income

Another **100** potential  
and returned migrants  
benefited from  
**employability skills  
training** to enable  
them to access wage  
employment

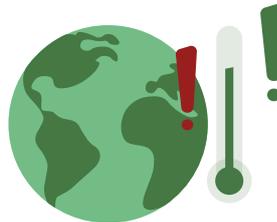


Factory productivity and competitiveness training, coaching and consultations provided to **60 factory production lines**

**32 TVET experts  
and other trainers,**  
received core skills  
training to cascade  
to their respective  
organizations



**123 partners** participated in  
**Skills for a Greener Future** to  
promote a just transition to a  
green economy and... **reduce** the impact of  
environmental challenges  
and **climate change**



**112 partners,** received  
skill needs anticipation and  
matching training to reduce  
the skills mismatch at  
supply and demand



the United Nations provided capacity-building support to hotel owners and human resources managers to continue their business during and after COVID-19. Technical and financial support was also provided to review and update occupational standards for tourism and hospitality.

Through the United Nations GET Ahead tool, which promotes enterprise development among women in poverty who want to start or are already engaged in small-scale business, capacity-building training was provided to 18 business development service providers at the federal level and in the Somali Region. The network of business development service providers trained by the United Nations provided entrepreneurship and cooperative development trainings to 325 (168 women) members of enterprises and cooperative societies. Around 126 (57 women) of them were refugees. Similarly, the trained financial education trainers reached 90 (54 women) MSME operators through the United Nations financial education tool. The United Nations also partnered with Somali

(206 women). The United Nations partnered with local NGOs to provide soft skills trainings on entrepreneurship and business skills to 1,152 people (926 women). It also commissioned an assessment of the existing business development and financial services providers for potential migrants and returnees in the Oromia Region and Addis Ababa City Administration.

The United Nations supported the Ministry of Tourism in reviewing and updating the current tourism policy of Ethiopia. As the tourism and hospitality sectors are highly affected by COVID-19,

Microfinance Institution to provide technical assistance with developing financial products that target hosts and refugees in the Somali Region.

During the reporting period, the leather cluster project supported by the United Nations created 3,518 jobs (57.6 per cent women). It also provided entrepreneurship skills development training to 14,431 entrepreneurs and start-ups and public entrepreneurship and tech innovation ecosystem-building support to 145 government officials. A total of 18,000 enterprises received business advisory services, 14,000 enterprises expanded their operations, and 15,000 new businesses were established. Hence, 165,000 additional jobs were created. Through the Jobs Creation Commission (now the Ministry of Labour and Skills Development), the United Nations has supported 21,800 formal and informal MSMEs with support packages, including grants, wage subsidies and soft loans. Women formed 74 per cent of the beneficiaries. In addition, the United Nations provided cash-for-work livelihood support for 25,000 vulnerable youth (60 per cent women) in five cities (Adama, Bishoftu, Dire Dawa, Hawassa and Jijiga). To support MSMEs impacted by various crises, such as conflict and the war in northern Ethiopia, the Business Emergency Unit has been

established under the Ministry of Labour and Skills Development to mobilize resources and support the most impacted businesses across the country. The United Nations has launched regional engagement programmes in three regions (Amhara, Oromia and Somali). A major component of the support has been protecting businesses impacted by the various crises.

To promote entrepreneurship in universities in Ethiopia, the United Nations is in the process of establishing incubation centres in three universities (Asela, Hawassa and Bahir Dar) to train start-ups and MSMEs around the institutions with a focus on agribusiness development. Moreover, about

**United Nations leather cluster project created 3,518 jobs (57.6% women)**

**United Nations-supported IAIPs and rural transformation centres created 16,703 jobs**



Entrepreneurship skill development was provided to

**14,431** entrepreneurs and start-ups



Public entrepreneurship and tech innovation ecosystem-building support was provided to

**145** government officials



**5,983**

enterprises received business advisory services



**4,263**

enterprises expanded their operations



**5,210**

new businesses were established



**48,312**

additional jobs were created



**325 members**

(168 women) of enterprises and cooperative societies received



entrepreneurship trainings



cooperative development trainings



**126** (57 women)

of them are refugees from Kebrebeah Refugee Camp and Addis Adaba urban refugee project

Trained financial education trainers reached **90** (54 women) MSME operators through the United Nations financial education tool



**19,856** formal and informal MSMEs provided with support packages including



Incubation facilities, support and grants provided to **17 early-stage** and **high-growth** digital entrepreneurs

Cash-for-work livelihood support provided to **25,000 vulnerable youth**



in Adama, Bishoftu, Dire Dawa, Hawassa and Jigjiga, in three regional states (Oromya, Somalia, SNNPR)

Disbursed a total of **\$4 million** via a wage subsidy programme



**109** enterprises and **30,441** workers (18,595 male, 11,846 female) and employers received training in

Targeting **14,286** workers in **46** textile and garment factories



**COVID-19**



**industrial accidents**



**labour proclamation**

10 universities were supported in promoting and commercializing their innovative research ideas to solve problems. In addition, with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Innovation and Technology, university-industry linkage departments in those 10 universities have been strengthened through material and technical support.

The United Nations supported eight farmer organization cooperatives in Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR with 20,000 members by aggregating networks and creating structures to link smallholder farmers to predictable market outlets for their produce. Thanks to the aggregated networks, these farmer cooperatives supplied about 9,400 Mt food commodities (mainly maize) to the United Nations at good prices. The United Nations also provided support to smallholder farmers in the Gambela Region with a range of livelihood and resilience activities, including the provision of improved seeds, Purdue improved crop storage/ airtight bags, temporary warehouse support, tractor services and trainings (agricultural extension packages, food quality, storage and preservation, marketing and negotiation skills) and the formation of village saving and loan associations.

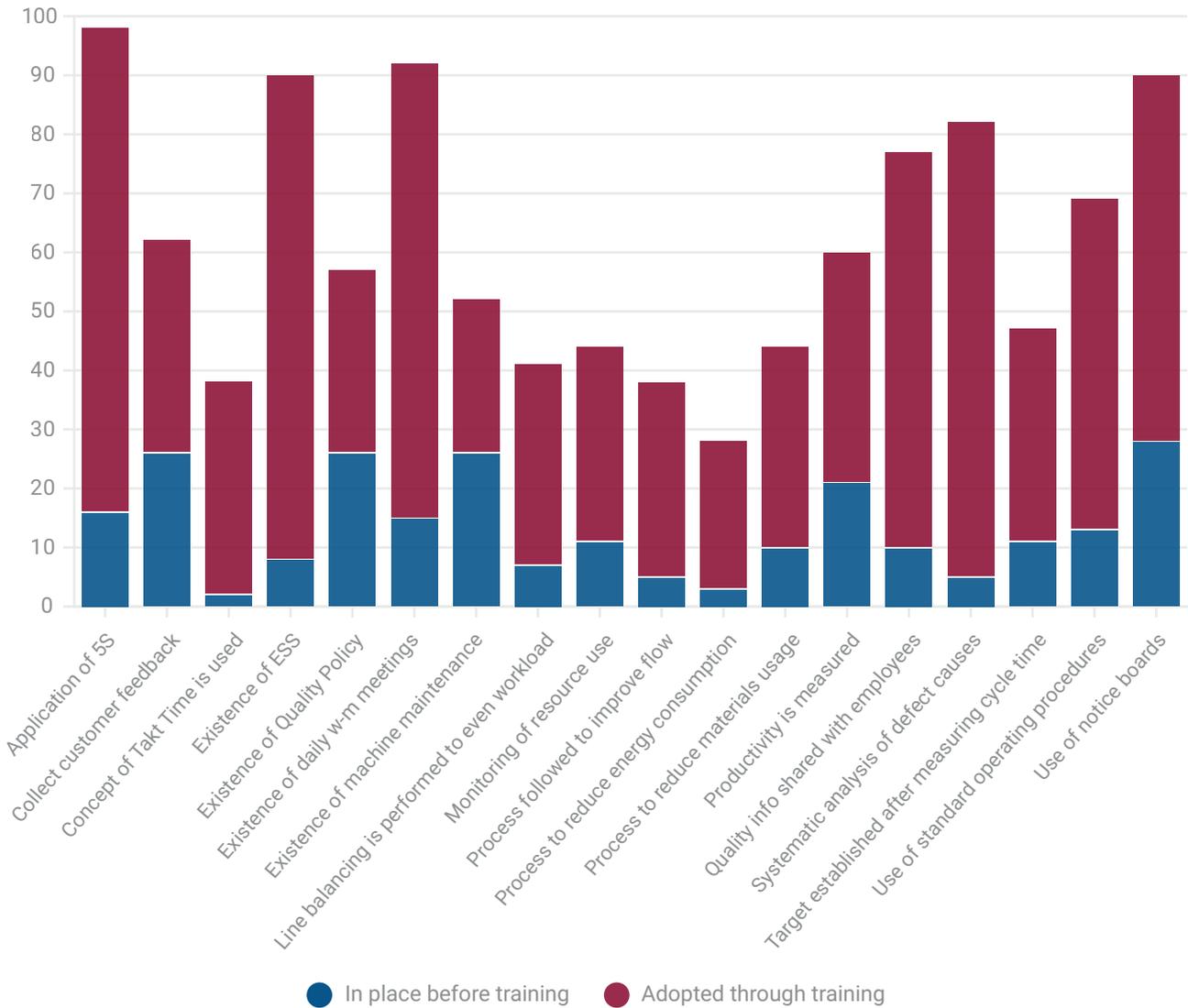
The United Nations implemented a Better Work initiative, supporting 49 garment and textile factories that employ over 30,000 workers to ensure decent working conditions through unannounced

assessments (audits), advisory sessions and trainings. Through these assessments, the factories were able to identify different non-compliances, including those concerning occupational safety and health practices, working hours, overtime compensations and gender and women-specific issues. A total of 238 advisory sessions were conducted to support the factories in their improvement process. Based on the training needs of the factories and identified gaps, the United Nations organized 63 sessions (both in the classroom and virtual). A total of 1,429 (942 female) middle-level managers, line supervisors, team leaders, HR and production managers and operators took part. Five industry seminars were organized for 158 (41 female) participants.

To improve factories' productivity and competitiveness, the United Nations implemented training on Sustaining Competitive and Responsible



Figure 4: Percentage of SMEs that adopt good practices for productivity



Strengthened the technical, material and financial **capacity** of the labour inspectors in **four** Bureaux of Labour and Social Affairs



**22** labour inspectors, (4 female), were trained and certified



**144** workplaces were inspected



**16** motorbikes were donated

to address logistic challenges



**9**

new trade unions in garment and textile factories

**4,100** workers

**2,640** female



Adama, Addis Ababa, Bishoftu, Burayu, Hawassa, Sebeta

**Designed and implemented** advanced training courses on international labour standards and mediation and conciliation for...

**60**

Federal Labour Bench judges



Capacity of **32 Labour Relations Board** members/experts built on...

- mediation services
- occupational health and safety legal provisions
- child labour issues

in collaboration with Hawassa University

Enterprises and productivity, followed by in-factory coaching and consultations on workplace cooperation, productivity improvement techniques and quality management tools to 60 factory production lines. As a result of the programme support, absenteeism decreased in three factories by 40 per cent. Factories managed to rid themselves of unnecessary items: one factory recovered 129,700 ETB by selling unwanted items, obtaining 38 m<sup>2</sup> of free space. Machine downtime was reduced in a leather shoe factory from 59,113 minutes to 12,116 minutes. In addition, the number of enterprises tracking work-related

accidents increased by 44 per cent. Other results include improvements in energy consumption in 11 enterprises, sharing quality information with workers in 26 enterprises, participation of workers in new idea generation through an employee suggestion scheme in 30 enterprises, measuring productivity in 14 enterprises and use of standard operating procedures in 30 enterprises.

## Creative Hub Ethiopia

The United Nations has supported the establishment of Creative Hub Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. The Hub has been designed to foster innovation and economic development by promoting creativity, digitalization and knowledge-sharing. The facilities in the Hub – located within the Ethiopian Enterprise Development (formerly the Federal Small and Medium Manufacturing Industry Promotion Agency) premises in the heart of Addis Ababa – have been equipped with advanced machinery and include co-working areas, laboratories and a cafeteria.

The Hub provides designers and innovative entrepreneurs with access to a wide range of services, such as seminars and workshops, trainings, prototyping techniques, social events and networking sessions.

Creative Hub Ethiopia puts creativity at the centre of every decision-making process as a key to understanding and interpreting the global market and its evolutions. It is a suitable platform for existing MSMEs and operators (especially women-owned companies and operators in design, leather, fashion, textiles and other sectors) to promote product development, sales activity and services, as well as to experiment with new solutions and sharing experiences.

During her visit to Ethiopia in February 2022, Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed met young women entrepreneurs who are all part of Creative Hub and heard their stories.

Lidia Million, Founder and General Manager of LiNu Manufacturing PLC, a company that produces leather products, was one of the women she spoke to. After overcoming many challenges to become competitive in the international market, Lidia and nine other entrepreneurs formed an association known as LOMI, inspired by the Amharic proverb “50 lemons are a burden for one person, but jewellery for 50 people”.

“Working under this cluster has helped us a lot”, she said, explaining how the Hub facilitated access to training, new technologies, facilities, markets and networks.

“That makes us competitive in the international market and collectively respond to the growing demands for our products”, she added.

Listening to their stories and looking at the faces filled with excitement, Amina J. Mohammed saw hope, a belief that “the powerhouse of Ethiopia can be felt on the continent and beyond in other regions”, she said.

Speaking to the women, she reminded them of the strength that sticking together and supporting each other gives them.

“What I like about the spirit here is you are not waiting for anyone to tell you how to do it. You are just saying, ‘give me the opportunity to create the environment and I can do it. I can grow it. I can be so much bigger and better.’ And this is exciting”, Amina J. Mohammed said.

The establishment of the Hub falls under the implementation of the UNSDCF, which supports accelerating the transition to a more inclusive and diversified economy. The Hub also represents a “smart response” to and recovery from the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, seeking to improve the pace, scale and quality of the change process.

At the core of the United Nations support for a critical economic transition is the development of an enabling environment that can attract investments and boost entrepreneurship, as well as enterprise formation and survival, with a view to generating decent and productive jobs at scale for a young and growing population while improving social protection.



### **Output 3.3. Access to innovation, new technology and finance is increased, fostering an inclusive and diversified green economy.**

The United Nations leveraged \$100 million to support the construction of the Modjo Leather City industrial park and mobilized \$3 million from the Global Environment Facility to assist the Ethiopian textile and garment sector to sustainably manage chemicals and waste, creating economically viable and socially beneficial products and services. The United Nations has also supported the development of 155 business opportunity profiles for industrial development institutes and the listing of 1,054 firms in the business directory for the Ethiopian Investment Commission to support investment and aftercare services. It has promoted 12 selected Japanese technologies, with over \$1.9 billion mobilized to support industrial infrastructure and agricultural commodity value chain development. In addition, 14 public institutions and agencies benefited from capacity-building support and technology transfer as part of investment promotion support.

Through the Ethiopian Digitalized Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Development (#ETdeeds) project implemented with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, the United Nations selected 10 information and communications-based start-ups through a competitive process and supported them with incubation, grants, business development services and training, as well as twinning arrangements with advanced start-ups in countries such as Israel. The second #ETdeeds cohort, called "Biruh", of 200 innovative youth drawn from Addis and the regions received the corresponding bootcamp training.

The access to finance ecosystem in Ethiopia has been assessed, and MSMEs have been identified as the missing middle with limited access to finance. To address this challenge, an Innovative Finance Lab has been set up to accelerate MSMEs' access to finance based on the recommendation of the Impact Investment Exchange study. The United Nations and the National Bank of Ethiopia set up the lab to identify alternative financial instruments that will work for MSMEs and then promote and scale their linkage with the capital market in the long term. As part of the lab, a technical assistance facility has been established to provide pre- and post-investment support to growth oriented MSMEs. The lab will be managed by a board

composed of financial institutions, the Government, the United Nations and representatives of the private sector.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, the United Nations has incubated 10 information and communications technology (ICT)/digital-enabled early-stage, innovative and growth-oriented start-ups. Two of these are women-led. The United Nations and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology also trained about 200 people (21 female) drawn from 40 government universities and 50 TVET colleges on innovation ecosystems, intellectual property management and technology transfer. In addition, to promote science and innovation to the wider community, two-week bootcamp training (covering issues from ideation to prototype development, marketing and financial management) has been provided to 300 (42 female) youth innovators drawn from high schools, universities and colleges, including in the regions. As part of creating an appropriate platform and ecosystem for innovation, about 400 (115 female) experts and middle-level leaders in key government offices have been trained in innovation ecosystems and public entrepreneurship. Another 50 experts have been trained in digital skills, and 120 (40 female) students were supported to participate in a technology and innovation show organized through science cafes in Adama and Bahir Dar.

#### **The integration of technology in services has opened up a space for new digital entrepreneurship with growing demand in both the private and public sectors.**

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered an unprecedented demand for digital solutions to facilitate the continuity of critical government services. The integration of technology in services has opened up a space for new digital entrepreneurship with growing demand in both the private and public sectors. The adoption of a national digital strategy boosted this effort. The United Nations partnered with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology to test a model for a public-private partnership to underline the urgency for digital solutions. Through an Innovation Challenge, local innovators were invited to propose innovative solutions via digitalization to ensure the continuity of critical government functions. The selected solutions, mostly start-ups, were provided with a total grant amounting to \$200,000 and business development support to test their

solutions. The lessons learned included the fact government institutions have a strong appetite for digital tools that can help them serve people better. On the supply side, many entrepreneurs are keen to build digital tools and are ready to take up the challenge.

### **Output 3.4. Social protection programmes and systems strengthened to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable people.**

During the reporting period, the United Nations implemented a wage subsidy programme of \$4.5 million in support of MSMEs to minimize the impact of COVID-19. A total of 14,286 workers from 46 eligible domestic textile and garment factories benefited from the programme. As per the benefits package, the workers' basic salaries were paid through bank transfers into their bank accounts for five consecutive months starting from 30 August 2021. Additionally, workers' income tax and pension contributions were transferred directly into the respective government entities' accounts. In addition to the wage subsidies, the United Nations, in partnership with microfinance institutions, provided cash transfers amounting to \$225,000 for 1,500 vulnerable returnees. Cash grants were also provided to 806 returnee migrant workers (63 per cent women) to fulfil their basic needs for three months as part of the United Nations commitment to supporting the Government's reintegration programme.

In partnership with the Federal Government of Ethiopia, the United Nations implemented humanitarian cash transfers for IDPs, reaching 73,125 households between September 2021 and April 2022. It also provided cash top-ups to urban households in 14 cities, reaching 105,167

households between June 2020 and May 2021 through the urban PSNP.

The United Nations, working with the Ministry of Finance, undertook an actuarial valuation of the Civil Service Pension Fund and Private Organizations' Employees' Pension Fund. The reports from these two actuarial valuations are intended to inform options on the financial sustainability of the pension schemes and improve their reform and governance. The United Nations completed a technical study and accompanying policy briefs to provide policy options and inform discussions on the extension of coverage based on an understanding of the policy, legislative, institutional, administrative and operational status in relation to the extension of social protection to all workers. The study serves as a basis for availing evidence towards a more pragmatic approach to coverage extension and formalization.

The United Nations worked with the Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disabilities in July 2021 to promote the inclusion of disability in the Ethiopian social protection system through awareness-building among government and media organizations, advocating for a more disability-inclusive review of the national social protection policy and strategy. A working group was established to continue advocating for disability inclusion under the auspices of the Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disabilities.

The United Nations continued to back the Federal Social Protection Platform that was established and launched in October 2020 to maintain momentum and build greater coordination for the social protection sector. The platform serves as an essential coordination mechanism for social protection, bringing together key stakeholders from the Government, development partners and CSOs working on social protection.

## Cash transfers to returnee migrant workers promote entrepreneurship in Ethiopia

Many people, especially the rural youth, are increasingly seeing migration as the only way out of poverty in Ethiopia.

Tigist Endalamaw, 28, from Merawi, West Gojjam *woreda*, Amhara Region is the mother of an eight-year-old daughter. Tigist married at the age of 20, but her marriage lasted for only two years. She was forced to get a divorce, as her husband was not happy with her after she gave birth to a girl. As a result, Tigist began living with eight family members, including her brothers, sisters and mother.

Lack of employment opportunities back in her village limited income-generating opportunities, and the burden of supporting her family members, including her daughter, became difficult. Tigist decided to go to Lebanon to work as a domestic worker. She had a schoolmate working in Lebanon, and their communication through Facebook opened a door for Tigist to travel abroad.

Tigist paid 5,000 ETB (\$100) to a local agent to process her documents to go to Lebanon through a regular channel. She was told she would be paid a salary of \$200/month. "When I arrived in Lebanon, I was forced to pay an additional two months' salary to the local agent linking me to the job", Tigist said. After getting the job, Tigist was only paid \$150/month.

As Tigist did not face any harassment or abuse, she wanted to stay in Lebanon for several years. However, her dreams were shattered by the outbreak of COVID-19. After working there for one year, the COVID-19 pandemic made her life miserable. Tigist's employer stopped paying her salary, providing her only with food and a place to stay in return for her work. She received a salary for only one year and had to work without a salary for another year. This forced her to think about returning to Ethiopia, but it was not easy. After two months of effort, with the support of the Ethiopian Embassy in Lebanon, Tigist was finally able to return home.

"I returned to Ethiopia without a single penny as I was not paid for almost a year, and everything I was paid before that, I sent back to my family", Tigist explained. When she returned, she found that all the money she had sent back home from Lebanon had been spent on supporting her family.

Tigist was unable to find a job and had no capital to start a small business. But she wanted to do something to support her family and for her daughter's education. Tigist tried to sell roasted corn on the roadside, but the income generated from this business was very minimal.

That was when Tigist enrolled in the FAIRWAY programme of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Part of the COVID-19 response, it provided support to returnee migrant workers in the form of cash transfers to meet their immediate needs for three months.

Tigist was one of 806 returnee migrants who received such assistance from the programme. "I received the first cash transfer of 1,500 ETB (\$32), and from that moment, I was only thinking about starting some other small business that might provide me with greater benefits", Tigist said.

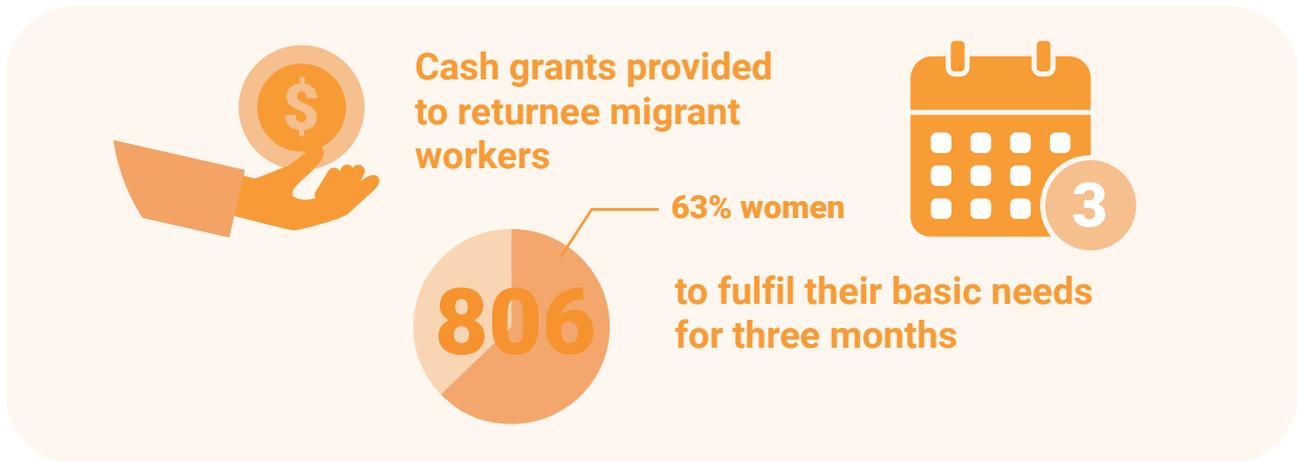
"I chose to start selling home-made alcohol by investing the money I received from the programme that was to help meet my immediate needs."

Tigist thought that if she used the money only to meet her immediate needs, she would not be able to sustain her income and the family later on. The locally brewed liquor business was comparatively more profitable, making her more confident in investing the remaining cash transfer of 3,000 ETB (\$64) that she received in two instalments.

“I am so happy and feel so fortunate to have had such an opportunity and support”, Tigist said. Though the cash provided by the programme might not be so significant in its monetary value, some migrant returnee workers like Tigist effectively used it to improve their livelihoods.

By investing the full amount received under this assistance in her local alcohol business, Tigist was able to meet her family’s immediate needs and save some money each day to expand her business further. “I am trying my best to expand my business to maximize my profits”, Tigist said.





### Output 3.5. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development integrated into development plans and budget allocations at the national and subnational level, with adequate financing mobilized.

The United Nations and EHRC conducted a comprehensive review of the draft Ten Years Perspective Development Plan from a human rights-based perspective, focusing on the administration of justice and delivery of social services and the review, analysis and formulation of section-based recommendations. It also supported the mainstreaming of SDGs in the Development Plan.

Furthermore, the United Nations compiled studies and drafted policy briefs on population dynamics to support the revision of the 1993 National Population Policy of Ethiopia. The results of these studies will form evidence-based inputs for revising this policy.

In addition, the United Nations assisted in the production of the Annual Vital Statistics Report, compiled for the first time by the Ethiopian Statistics Service, covering statistics on births, deaths, marriages and divorces for the year 2017/18. In addition, a draft report for the year 2018/19 was produced for further review and finalization.

The United Nations also continued to strengthen the Government’s information management system. For example, the United Nations established a web-based integrated information management system in three regions: Dire Dawa, Oromia and Somali. It is linked to the Ethiopian Statistics Service’s website, facilitating easy access to

regional data. The United Nations organized awareness-raising and sensitization training for 194 data experts and planners working at federal ministries and agencies, regional bureaux, international organizations, research institutions and universities on the importance of the web-based information management system. The United Nations also promoted the wider use of the multisectoral information management systems for planning and evidence-based decision-making. With United Nations support, 65 selected data and ICT experts were equipped with technical skills on the Redatam-based information management systems, enabling them to build capacity and provide technical assistance in their respective regions with the aim of ensuring the continuity and sustainability of the regional web-based information management systems. The United Nations organized a biannual experience-sharing meeting of 31 experts working on establishing and managing regional information management systems in four regions (Amara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia and SNNPR), enabled them to share experiences and promoted networking among regional experts.

The United Nations provided technical and financial support to the Ethiopian Statistics Service in a bid to modernize its market price data collection, analysis and dissemination system. Accordingly, in collaboration with the United Nations, the Ethiopian Statistics Service is developing an electronic market information system. The system should have functionalities to capture, store, organize, analyse and disseminate price and consumer price index data through a web portal. Once the system is in place, people working in academia, research institutes, development planning and programme management will have access to price data for an array of food and non-food items from 119 markets all over the country.

Moreover, the United Nations trained 55 field staff at the Ethiopian Statistics Service in mapping methods and techniques to enable them to update Ethiopian administrative maps for areas affected by administrative boundary changes. In addition, trainings were organized for 13 experts working in the Ethiopian Statistics Service on model-based small area estimation techniques, enabling them to produce and disseminate high-quality disaggregated data at the subnational/district level for the planning, monitoring and evaluation

of international and national development frameworks. Finally, the United Nations supported the training of 291 experts working in the Ethiopian Statistics Service, Immigration and Citizenship Service and Regional Vital Events Registration Agency on basic knowledge of civil registration and vital statistics systems to enable them to coordinate and implement vital events registration, vital statistics data management and quality assurance activities.



## Chapter II

# Outcome 4: Environmental protection and climate change

### All people in Ethiopia live in a society resilient to environmental risks and adapted to climate change

Under this outcome, the United Nations set out to target selected causes of the relative lack of environmental resilience in Ethiopia and the slow pace of progress towards a green economy despite clear policy prioritization, including limited disaster risk management capacities; acceleration of environmental degradation as a result of rising demographic pressure in both the highlands and lowlands of Ethiopia, in the latter case, in the context of a fragile ecosystem; and shortfalls in implementing green economy policies. In doing so, the United Nations focused on assisting Ethiopia to strengthen the knowledge and institutional base for climate risk management; develop and/or strengthen normative and financing frameworks to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources; expand access to clean, especially renewable and sustainable sources of energy, as a major accelerator of the transition to a green economy; enhance multi-hazard early warning systems and support for early action on environmental disasters; scale up promising innovations that will contribute to reducing risks and vulnerability in the long run; and strengthen governance and planning capacities to promote sustainable urban development.

#### Participating organizations



#### Key related SDGs



## Output 4.1. The Government of Ethiopia's climate and disaster risk management capacity at the national and subnational levels is strengthened to build resilience.

Ethiopia – like the rest of the Horn of Africa – is highly susceptible to climate change and its risks, which are already affecting the most vulnerable people and communities. The recurring climate shocks, in particular drought, have a major social impact, including causing the deterioration of food security and livelihoods.

The United Nations supported vulnerable households to strengthen their resilience to more frequent and intense climate-related shocks. United Nations climate change and resilience-building interventions assisted 586,275 individuals with resource transfers under livelihood and insurance services, the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative and forecast-based financing. Specifically, 14,625 individuals directly received unconditional cash transfers of \$468,241 as forecast-based financing action to protect their livelihoods, minimize losses and reduce the need for humanitarian assistance. Additionally, \$361,602 of capacity-strengthening transfers reached beneficiaries through the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment project to enhance their livelihood capacities as of the end of 2021.

The United Nations helped communities to adapt to the impacts of climate-induced shocks on food security. The United Nations has worked across the country to enable smallholder farmers to adopt more productive, environmentally friendly agricultural models. For example, in partnership with the World Bank, the United Nations promoted the adoption of irrigation, solar energy and value chain support to improve natural resource management, food security and gender equality. So far, United Nations interventions have helped to restore 120,000 hectares of land and supported over 200,000 households.

The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative has pioneered efforts to enhance the resilience of vulnerable rural families to food insecurity and agricultural risk by combining support for shock-resistant agricultural practices with microcredit, insurance and social protection schemes integrated into the national rural PSNP. It shows an innovative way to build resilience over time. As a result of the programme,

farmers are saving twice as much as those without any insurance, and they invest more in their agricultural assets over time.

Food assistance was leveraged to build pastoralist resilience by shifting from unconditional to conditional food assistance in the Somali Region. The United Nations scaled up its support in the Somali Region to improve the resilience of vulnerable communities and households to the cyclical shocks of environmental, conflict and economic crises. After many years of large-scale unconditional humanitarian assistance, there is a need to provide alternative livelihood strategies to vulnerable communities so they can recover from the climate-induced impacts of water scarcity, low productivity and land degradation, which are proximate causes of water and food insecurity. Since February 2022, the United Nations has been implementing a pilot integrated climate adaptation and livelihoods resilience programme intended to rehabilitate degraded natural resources and build physical assets for water and food security. The programme consists of three main activities:

- » Developing micro water harvesting structures called half-moons lined with manure to start the process of reviving ecosystem productivity, encouraging water recharge, reducing soil erosion and regenerating degraded land areas.
- » Enhancing water harvesting and management by building Hafirs (open water ponds), rehabilitating and maintaining Birkas (sheltered community water tanks), fencing pastureland, protecting gullies, establishing solar-powered small-scale irrigation in places close to the rivers for crop and fodder production, establishing nurseries and planting trees.
- » Expanding community livelihood strategies for food and income through community groupings such as cooperatives and farmer/trader associations.

With the support of the United Nations, the Government's climate and disaster risk management capacities were strengthened on the national and subnational levels to prevent and mitigate the impacts of natural hazards. The United Nations supported both the development and implementation of national disaster risk management policy and strategy, especially in terms of strengthening early warning and early action systems.

## Climate smart agriculture empowers women in rural areas

Talakua lives in Dugda District in the Oromia Region.

About 15 years ago, Talakua's husband Tagese, who used to earn a living working as a daily labourer, fell ill. Since then, the task of feeding the family has fallen on her shoulders. With her new role as a breadwinner, she started producing pepper seedlings at the family's farm. However, the income generated from this activity could not cover their medical bills, forcing the family to sell some of their land to other farmers. Talakua also tried to produce marketable products using the family's backyard, but the income she received was insufficient for her family.

While struggling to make ends meet, Talakua became one of the beneficiaries of the new Gender Transformative CSAAB project in her locality. The project works to achieve integrated and inclusive economic empowerment of rural women and youths in Ethiopia. UN Women and SOS Sahel Ethiopia are piloting the project in the Oromia Region.

"Now, with the support of the project, I am getting 450 ETB per seedbed and managing 51 seedbeds that cover my entire backyard. I make produce four times a year to make sure there are always seedlings to sell whenever a buyer comes", Talakua said.

She also noted that the project had replaced the traditional way of fetching water from the well, which takes several hours, with rope and washer irrigation technology. This means watering plants is much easier and takes less than an hour. "I now have lots of time for other household chores and business activities", Talakua said.

The CSAAB project has provided drought-resistant and early maturing seed varieties, including beetroots, carrots, local cabbage and onions, training on basic business skills and regular technical support from grass-roots project staff and government extension workers. The support also includes six grafted/improved mango seedlings, which can mature in two years.

As a result of the trainings she received from the project, when her husband recovered from his illness, he and Talakua discussed how to improve their relationship and the well-being of their family, including sharing responsibilities and decision-making on household matters. She also plans to rebuild her house, rent additional land to expand her business and purchase more cattle.

Given her success, Talakua said, "*Nuffii hin qabnu*", which in her local language Afan Oromo means "We don't get bored of this work."



The Government's capacity to analyse, interpret and respond to early warning data was enhanced to prevent and mitigate the impact of natural hazards in communities. The United Nations boosted the capacity at the national, regional and local levels to implement anticipatory actions for drought and contributed to scaling up drought-anticipatory actions for food security in Ethiopia. For example, working together with the National Meteorological Agency, the International Research Institute for Climate and Society of Columbia University, the Somali Region Disaster Risk Management Bureau, and different partners in the region, the United Nations developed a forecast-based financing system for drought-anticipatory actions in the Somali Region of Ethiopia.

In collaboration with relevant Government agencies, a risk information system for early warning for forest fires was developed, which will serve to update the EDRMC multi-hazard warning bulletin and as a key input for the newly established Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission early warning system for forest fires. Additionally, the EDRMC early warning officers of Ethiopia were integrated into the continental early warning coordination mechanism. As a result of United Nations support, *woreda* early warning offices can send monthly monitoring data in a timely way for data processing, reporting and forecasting. Furthermore, *woreda* early warning experts are able to exchange information, share

data and collaborate with the regional and federal offices electronically.

The United Nations also supported the digitalization of an early warning system in the Oromia and Somali Regions. Early warning data is currently collected through a manual paper-based system that causes delays and contributes towards a lack of coverage, particularly in remote areas. By the time the report is ready, it is too late to use most of the information for early action. The United Nations is supporting the Government of Ethiopia's plan to digitalize the early warning system to enhance the timeliness and quality of the early warning data. As part of this capacity-strengthening support, the United Nations is implementing the project in the Oromia and Somali Regions. The project covers all zones of the Somali Region (two *woredas* from each zone) and three zones of the Oromia Region. The digitalization process starts with using digital data-collection methods, including SMS, which will be scaled up to enhance the timeliness, availability and accuracy of the data. The United Nations is working with EDRMC to link the data to existing storage servers and develop a dissemination portal to visualize the situation on the ground to enhance evidence-based decision-making. This support includes training on early warning concepts and digital data collection and the formation of early warning committees at the *kebele* level.



## Beating the odds: Somali farmers produce food in a climate-challenged environment

Seeing green vegetation and crops in a drought-ravaged environment is unexpected. However, thanks to irrigation facilities at the Shebelle River in Godirey *kebele*, Gode *woreda* in the Somali Region, Fatouma Umar's maize and vegetable fields are green and promise a good harvest.

In 2021, FAO provided Fatouma and 1,300 other households in Gode *woreda* with crop and vegetable seeds (onions, haricot beans and tomatoes), training and extension support.

Although the Somali Region was experiencing a severe drought due to the failure of rains for three consecutive seasons by February 2022, Fatouma and other farmers were pleased that they had ventured into crop farming.

"This land had been idle for over 20 years. Realizing how close it is to the river and the irrigation facility, we agreed to work together to open the land for cultivation and divide it into individual plots", said Fatouma.

"We are looking forward to harvesting our crops and vegetables to sustain our families", said Mohammed Affi, a 44-year-old farmer. Mohammed plans to keep some maize for home consumption and sell the rest through the local market.

Farah Ahmed, also a farmer, appreciated the training and extension support provided by the project. "We learned about planting techniques, weeding and harvesting. We are applying all the recommended practices", he said.

FAO partnered with the NGO Action Against Hunger and the Somali Region Agriculture and Natural Resource Development Bureau to implement the project between September 2021 and March 2022. The Government of Japan funded the project with \$2.5 million.





**“We learned about planting techniques, weeding and harvesting. We are applying all the recommended practices”**

## Output 4.2. Normative frameworks, institutions and systems strengthened for conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing of the use of biodiversity and natural resources to ensure environmental sustainability for development.

The United Nations supported the Government to strengthen their gender-responsive legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions and to adopt solutions for the conservation and sustainable and equitable benefit-sharing of natural resources in line with international conventions and legislation.

The Government of Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative was reinforced with a comprehensive programme ensuring the sustainable management of reforested landscapes to reduce siltation and thus extend the resilience of hydropower infrastructure; building the capacities of communities to rehabilitate and manage degraded forest lands, and participate in ecosystem governance; creating opportunities for local entrepreneurship by training youths and women in the fabrication and marketing of efficient wood-burning stoves; and building the capacity of public technical experts to monitor and report on the impacts of reforestation on carbon sequestration, siltation and local livelihoods.

The United Nations supported the establishment of the Climate Resilient Green Economy Facility monitoring and evaluation system of Ethiopia. It developed a web-based data management system to monitor and operationalize climate change interventions. To enhance equitable access and benefit-sharing of natural resources and biodiversity conservation, two botanical gardens are being created in the towns of Gambela and Asosa. These will provide women and girls with the opportunity to participate in and benefit from employment opportunities in research and development.

The greenhouse gas mitigation and waste management capacity of Ethiopia was strengthened. Greenhouse gas emission plans are being developed in eight ministries, while quality assurance and quality control procedures are being developed for the country's greenhouse gas inventory. A draft national air quality monitoring

road map was also developed to support air quality monitoring. With United Nations support, 54 adaptation plans were prepared at the community level to integrate ecosystem-based management, and 162 development experts were trained in integrated community-based adaptation planning. The existing national chemical and waste management profile and national observatory assessment for pollution and health impacts information exchange were updated to support the country in waste management. Moreover, 450 tons of DDT were safeguarded, and 160 were subsequently exported for sound disposal.



## Support for COP27

The impact of climate change on Ethiopia and many countries on the African continent – especially across the Horn – is severe. The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) will take place in Egypt from 6–18 November 2022. It will be a chance for Africa to lead the climate conversation and take the challenges and opportunities of the continent to centre stage. At COP26 in Glasgow, the parties agreed to double their previous \$100 billion pledge to developing states, yet Africa needs a minimum of \$2.5 trillion to implement its climate action commitments. Key priorities for COP27 include ensuring that the ambitions and commitments are raised to support mitigation and adaptation across the continent, including through financing, technology transfer, capacity development and private sector investments.

On 2–3 June 2022, the Government of Sweden, with support from UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme, organized Stockholm+50, an international meeting to accelerate progress towards implementing climate change agreements ahead of COP27. Ethiopia participated in a series of national consultations held in over 58 countries meant to inform the international meeting. The national consultations in Ethiopia took place between April and May 2022 with support from UNDP and United Nations Environment Programme.

Overall, around 126 stakeholder institutions representing 41 public institutions, 19 members of the diplomatic community, 22 multilateral development partners, 20 international NGOs and 24 national NGOs and CSOs participated in the consultations. They also targeted youth and women's organizations, elders and community-based organizations. The consultations highlighted key climate- and environment-related challenges in Ethiopia, including the impacts of climate change on drought, environmental disasters, deforestation, pollution and waste management. Key technical, financial and social constraints were identified as obstacles to tackling these issues. Proposed solutions centred on fostering a greater enabling environment for action on climate change adaptation and mitigation, enhancing access to financing, accelerating innovation and research and strengthening existing legal and institutional frameworks. Outcome reports from the national consultations with key findings, recommendations and an analysis of the policy landscape were used at Stockholm+50 and will form an important point of advocacy for COP27.



## Ethiopia demonstrates its long-term commitment to tackling the impacts of climate change

Home to more than 100 million people, Ethiopia is one of the world's most drought-prone countries. It has a high degree of vulnerability to hydro-meteorological hazards and natural disasters. Dependence on sectors sensitive to climate change, such as rain-fed agriculture, water, tourism and forestry, as well as a high level of poverty are the main factors exacerbating the vulnerability of Ethiopia. The country's policy response to climate change has progressively evolved since the ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994. Ethiopia launched the National Adaptation Plan of Action in 2007 and the Ethiopian Programme of Adaptation on Climate Change and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions in 2010. Ethiopia also endorsed a Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy in 2011 with the objective of building a green and resilient economy. Over the years, Ethiopia has implemented various programmes within those policy frameworks. The most consequential by far has been the Green Legacy Initiative. Rooted in a vision of building a green and climate-resilient Ethiopia, the Green Legacy Initiative was launched in June 2019 with a target of planting 20 billion seedlings within four years. By the fourth year, Ethiopia has succeeded in planting 25 billion seedlings by mobilizing more than 20 million citizens throughout the nation. The development of more than 120,000 nurseries throughout the country has created more than 767,000 jobs, mostly for women and youth. The Green Legacy Initiative is a demonstration of the long-term commitment of Ethiopia to a multifaceted response to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation that encompasses agroforestry, forest sector development, greening and renewal of urban areas, and integrated water and soil resource management. This has made an immense contribution to the country's efforts to meet its international commitments, such as the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.



## Output 4.3. Institutions and systems strengthened, and solutions adopted to reduce pollution and increase access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy.

The United Nations has promoted solutions to reduce pollution and increase access to affordable, clean and sustainable energy. The Promoting Sustainable Rural Energy Technologies project, for example, financed by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by the United Nations in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Energy and regional authorities, has engaged the private sector to commercialize rural energy technologies and distribute over 480,000 solar-powered products for cooking, lighting and heating. The project not only reduced the use of environmentally damaging fossil fuels and non-sustainable biomass but succeeded in reducing energy-related emissions by 2.8 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over its initial target of 2 million tons. The project is implemented in the Amhara, Dire Dawa, Harari, Oromia and Somali Regions. Likewise, the United Nations, implementing partners and NGOs

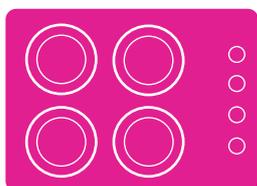
have been providing alternative and clean cooking sources and technologies for refugees and host communities. These include fuel-efficient stoves, charcoal briquettes, communal kitchens connected to grid electricity, biogas and commercial fuelwood. The United Nations humanitarian energy intervention also includes distributing portable solar lanterns to new arrivals and vulnerable groups. The Humanitarian Energy and Environment Working Group developed a Multi-Actor Cooking Energy Strategy (2022-2030), which aims to ensure clean, affordable and sustainable cooking energy for refugees and their host communities in line with the United Nations SDG 7.

Comprehensive guidelines on building and operating small-scale renewable technologies for pumping irrigation water are under development, facilitated by the United Nations. This includes a review of existing application tools, an assessment of international best practices of green models and techniques, and the development of revised contextualized guidelines for pumping irrigation water. This activity aligns with the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy, which supports the introduction and promotion of renewable energy sources for irrigation water lifting. This will inform the Ministry of Agriculture's formulation of a sustainable agricultural intensification and development policy.

Through the SWITCH Africa Green programme, the United Nations facilitated various consultative sessions with key stakeholders to support the development of a country implementation plan for Ethiopia aimed at adopting sustainable consumption and production in the priority sectors of manufacturing, integrated waste management and agriculture. Consequently, the implementation plan has been validated and endorsed by the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission.

In close collaboration with the Government, the United Nations has so far mobilized over \$340 million from different development partners towards national capacity development and green economy programmes. This has included facilitating the Government's direct access to the Green Climate Fund, tapping into the resources of the Global Environment Facility and establishing the Climate Resilient Green Economy Facility supported by bilateral partners

**Environmental-  
friendly  
cooking**



**and solar  
lighting  
solutions**



**promoted among  
displaced and  
crisis-affected  
populations,  
benefiting over**

**50,000**

**households  
across Ethiopia**

## Ethiopia enhances irrigation, watershed and pastureland management

In Ethiopia, changes in rainfall patterns are affecting smallholder farmers that are highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture and natural resources. Data collected over the past 50 years suggests that temperatures have increased by an average of 1 °C since the 1960s and that rainfall is subject to high yearly, seasonal and regional variability. The combined risks of water scarcity and recurrent droughts due to rising temperatures could increase the incidence of food insecurity and prompt population movements in search of natural pastures and water resources, implying that the pastoral and agropastoral activities in the country should adapt to the changing climate.

To strengthen national-, regional- and *woreda*-level capacities to adapt to climate change, Ethiopia is implementing its National Adaptation Plan, which categorizes short-term adaptation priorities in the sectors considered most vulnerable to climate change, namely agriculture, cities, energy, forestry, health, industry, transport and water. Ethiopia is working to integrate climate information into planning and decision-making for development interventions and prioritizing climate resilience across policies. Its updated Nationally Determined Contribution submitted in July 2021 also outlines adaptation commitments focused on the agriculture and land-use sectors, with priorities identified in livestock diversification, drought-resistant animal breeding, rangeland management and crop and livestock insurance.

Ethiopia has partnered with FAO and UNDP on its Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture (SCALA) programme (2020–2025), funded by the German International Climate Initiative, with targets to be achieved through National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions. This will further support the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan and Nationally Determined Contribution of Ethiopia, focusing on climate action in the agriculture and land-use sectors. In early 2022, Ethiopia officially launched the SCALA programme with an inception workshop that brought together key stakeholders from ministries, the private sector and CSOs. SCALA programme staff sat down with Negus Lemma, Director General for Climate Change and Biodiversity at the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission, and Wondale Habtamu, Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, to learn more about the outcomes of the workshop and highlight the programme's plans for the next five years.





# Support for partnerships and financing the 2030 Agenda

The total United Nations financial support for the first calendar year of the UNSDCF amounted to \$704,103,376 in 2021, a significant increase from 2020 when UNCT committed a total of \$402 million across its programmes and activities. The total spending in 2021 represents 66 per cent of the overall 2021 budget commitments to the UNSDCF, which amounted to over \$1.064 billion.

A breakdown of the UNSDCF by outcome highlights the emphasis on social protection in 2021, with 90 per cent of the overall resources required and 90 per cent of the resources mobilized going towards outcome 1 (People) amid the conflict in northern Ethiopia and drought in southern Ethiopia. The overall budget gap for 2021 between the resources mobilized to support the implementation of the

UNSDCF and the resources required for its implementation was \$360 million.

United Nations organizations in Ethiopia continue to invest in catalysing multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement the UNSDCF and the national development priorities of Ethiopia. Results from the 2021 UNCT Partnerships Survey identified more than 220 active United Nations partnership engagements with the Government, civil society, foundations, academia and the private sector in support of national development priorities. The United Nations works with these partners across a range of issues, including education, health and nutrition, women and gender equality and job creation.



## Funding overview 2020-2021

2020	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Required resources	\$364,074,884.04	\$20,638,549.64	\$17,816,246.40	\$29,962,762.16
Available resources	\$338,447,810.00	\$6,906,230.00	\$17,269,801.00	\$39,208,817.00
Budget gap	\$-25,627,074.04	\$-13,732,319.64	\$-546,445.40	\$9,246,054.84

2021	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Required resources	\$961,479,295.00	\$25,987,982.00	\$15,977,026.00	\$61,088,808.00
Available resources	\$635,478,441.00	\$11,255,507.00	\$12,149,537.00	\$45,219,891.00
Budget gap	\$-326,000,854.00	\$-14,732,475.00	\$-3,827,489.00	\$-15,868,917.00

2020	2021
\$432,492,442.24	\$1,064,533,111.00
\$401,832,658.00	\$704,103,376.00
\$-30,659,784.24	\$-360,429,735.00

Note: Based on information collected from 15 agencies.

# Results of the United Nations **working together** more and better: coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

## Operating as one

### **Business Operations Strategy 2.0 (2020–2025).**

In line with the Secretary-General's reform vision, the Business Operations Strategy 2.0 continues to focus on joint business operations to eliminate duplication, leverage the common bargaining power of UNCT and maximize economies of scale. Following its development in 2020, the Business Operations Strategy 2.0 underwent its first annual review from January to March 2022 to monitor and track the implementation of the common services agreed upon within it and report on the use of the benefits realized and the quality enhancements achieved from the collaborative operational services. As part of the review, the Operations Management Team (OMT) and OMT Working Groups reviewed the common services implemented in 2021 and agreed on additional priorities for 2022. In total, 49 common services were implemented in 2021, and 10 new priorities were identified for 2022. A key focus for the new services is the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and Gender Parity Strategy. For 12 common services, the United Nations undertook a cost-benefit analysis to determine planned and realized savings as a result of implementing services jointly. The cost avoidance realized thus far stands at \$3.3 million, and the overall expected cost avoidance by 2025 has been revised downward from \$37 million to \$11 million. This can be explained by two main factors, including the challenging environment of 2021 and the fact that certain planned common services, which had significant cost savings attached, have not thus far materialized.

**Common Back Office.** The Common Back Office (CBO) is one of the critical instruments to advance the Secretary-General's efficiency agenda as

outlined in the report, *Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet (A/72/684–E/2018/7)*.

As one of the pilot countries to establish a CBO, Ethiopia is committing itself to representing a new way of operating at the country level and consolidating a range of business operations for greater efficiency and effectiveness. Following the launch of the CBO, the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office organized kick-off meetings with UNCT, the United Nations Development Coordination Office and OMT. The purpose of the meetings was to renew the UNCT commitment to achieving the target of implementing a CBO by the end of 2022. Due to the ongoing conflict in northern Ethiopia, it was decided to put the CBO process on hold until 2023.

**Back-to-office guide.** Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNCT finalized the Business Continuity Plans of 31 United Nations organizations with support from the ICT Working Group. Through joint support and collaboration, systems were established to prevent, mitigate and recover from the crisis situation of the pandemic. In line with the Business Continuity Plan, a One United Nations back-to-office guide was developed to establish a phased strategy for returning to the workplace based on clear, transparent, real-time and evidence-based criteria and develop and implement preparedness measures for ensuring a safe working environment. This guide will serve as a framework, providing common steps that all United Nations organizations should follow to ensure a safe return to the workplace.

**ICT Emergency Cell Task Force.** To ascertain the status of ICT capacities and gaps among the

various United Nations organizations responding to the emergency situation in Tigray, a One United Nations ICT Emergency Cell Task Force was established to coordinate and facilitate effective and timely delivery of ICT services to all United Nations organizations and the broader humanitarian community working on the emergency response. The United Nations ICT Emergency Cell Task Force is working for the common provision of reliable Internet connectivity and radio telecommunications services to the United Nations community in Tigray, improving their ability to coordinate, operate and respond in areas especially affected by the multiple crises and avoiding the duplication of efforts.

## Communicating as one and partnerships

In support of the implementation of the UNSDCF, UNCT established a Communications and Partnerships Group to underpin the United Nations programmatic efforts with a broader communications strategy for the UNSDCF that raises awareness of and advocates for Agenda 2030 and the SDGs as well as the vision of the Framework and the work and performance of the United Nations development system in Ethiopia. The communication strategy seeks to place the United Nations in Ethiopia as the leading voice on the four priority areas of the Cooperation Framework (people, peace, prosperity, and planet), inspire action, foster partnerships and strengthen capacities for improved communication and knowledge-sharing.

The campaign on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations was effectively used to advocate for international cooperation and global solidarity by engaging stakeholders in the country. Highlighting Ethiopia, as one of the founding members of the United Nations, the anniversary had the theme “Shaping Our Future Together” and engaged a range of stakeholders to discuss and share views on their priorities for the future, obstacles to achieving them and the role of international cooperation in making progress. The campaign included three online dialogues that brought together a range of stakeholders, including distinguished scholars, private sector leaders, social entrepreneurs, prominent athletes, youth leaders and the Minister of Women, Children and Youth, to discuss a wide range of issues, including the five Ps of the SDGs: Peace, Planet, People, Prosperity and Partnership. Mainstream and social media were also used to engage thousands of

Ethiopians from different walks of life in the global conversations on “Shaping Our Future Together” via a one-minute online survey. Participants in the United Nations seventy-fifth celebration included the Minister of Foreign Affairs and representatives of civil society, the private sector, academia and youth who shared their views and messages on the United Nations and shaping the future.

In response to the proliferation of hate speech and in line with the United Nations Secretary-General’s Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, a UNCT Ethiopia strategy and plan of action on hate speech was developed in consultation with major State and non-State actors in the country. In partnership with the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention, the United Nations delivered trainings to representatives of CSOs, government and media on understanding, monitoring, reporting and addressing hate speech and incitement to violence. The United Nations also created an online survey tool for monitoring and reporting hate speech and misinformation against the United Nations. The tool has two categories (1) incitement of violence and the spread of hate speech, and (2) mis/disinformation against United Nations and humanitarian/development staff. In coordination with the regional and global communications teams as well as the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention, the United Nations liaised with technology companies, mainly Facebook, to create a common understanding of the growing challenges associated with hate speech and dis/misinformation against the United Nations and strengthen efforts to counter them.

The United Nations in Ethiopia and Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation signed a Declaration of Intent to strategically collaborate to help achieve the SDGs and the Ten Years Perspective Development Plan (2020–2030) in Ethiopia on 7 April 2022. The areas for collaboration will include capacity-strengthening of media professionals in Ethiopia; exchange of good practices and experience sharing; technical assistance; and advocacy and awareness-raising.

Throughout 2021, to enhance and better improve engagement with business and the private sector, the United Nations held several outreach and engagement meetings with private sector representative groups, including the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce, Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Ethiopian Horticultural Association, to discuss the SDGs. The focus of these meetings was to introduce the UNSDCF, discuss areas

where business can contribute to the SDGs and receive input and feedback on how to better engage the private sector in United Nations and national development priorities. Currently, the United Nations is collaborating with the European Business Forum in Ethiopia and the American Chamber of Commerce in Ethiopia to support and collaborate around United Nations-private sector dialogues, training and peer learning sessions and identify other opportunities for mutual support. An inter-agency group on private sector engagement has been established to guide this process and collect inputs from various United Nations agencies.

The ongoing production of One United Nations communications – including a quarterly newsletter and posts on the UNCT website and social media accounts – continued to increase the visibility of the United Nations work among key stakeholders.

## Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse

Pursuant to the campaign promoting a zero-tolerance culture, the inter-agency Ethiopia Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network has made significant progress in tackling sexual exploitation and abuse within the humanitarian community and development sector in Ethiopia. These achievements include establishing both national- and subregional-level networks, endorsing Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures for community-based

complaint mechanisms; developing contextualized information campaigns with linked information, education and communication materials and GBV pocket guides in local languages; and designing country-contextualized training packages for network focal points, clusters and partners, as well as facilitating trainings. So far, 256 PSEA focal points and cluster representatives have received training-of-trainer training using the Ethiopia PSEA Network Training Package.

Furthermore, the Ethiopia PSEA Network piloted a community engagement initiative as part of its drought response in the Somali Region to support data and evidence generation on communicating with crisis-affected communities in Ethiopia and to develop the capacity of women and girls to communicate around sexual exploitation and abuse and be advocates in holding humanitarian and development actors accountable through new and established feedback and complaints mechanisms. This initiative engaged 233 crisis-affected community members, of which 167 were female, through awareness-raising and feedback sessions. In addition, following the sessions, 24 PSEA community focal points, of which 14 were female, were nominated by their communities to be key entry points for PSEA information and reporting. Key findings from this pilot will be incorporated into the Ethiopia PSEA Network's annual workplan for 2023. These achievements are further complemented by ongoing network initiatives and inter-agency projects throughout the country.

# Challenges and lessons learned

The UNSDCF articulates the United Nations collective support towards implementing the SDGs in Ethiopia. During its first year of implementation, Ethiopia was already experiencing multiple crises (COVID-19 pandemic, conflict and drought) combined with economic challenges, which have all reshaped the context for implementing the 2030 Agenda in the country. The first two years of the implementation of the UNSDCF took place in a particularly challenging and complex environment characterized by ongoing conflict and insecurities, recurrent climatic shocks such as floods and droughts, desert locust infestations and the continued socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and driving large-scale humanitarian and development needs.

United Nations operations in Ethiopia were affected by these multiple and intertwined challenges. Restrictions associated with COVID-19 and ongoing insecurity as well as an increasingly constrained financial landscape continued to affect programme delivery and sustainable gains.

These challenges also have important regional dimensions, affecting countries across the Horn. Therefore, the United Nations in Ethiopia will look towards working more closely with the Government of Ethiopia and partners in neighbouring countries, including UNCTs, to advance cross-border solutions to the transversal challenges, including strengthening resilience to climate change, enhancing mutually beneficial economic development and fostering greater social cohesion and peace across divides.

To address these interconnected challenges and be fit for purpose, especially in a more financially constrained landscape, the United Nations must double down on working better across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. In Ethiopia, as elsewhere globally, crises – whether human-caused or natural – are recurring, and the financial, and especially human, costs are growing larger and untenable. It will be crucial for the United Nations to work better together across the areas of development, humanitarian action and peacebuilding to jointly move from addressing immediate needs and reacting to recurrent crises towards making substantial progress in reducing those needs over time. This could also involve the introduction of proactive early warning mechanisms for early action on addressing human rights concerns and occurrences from or due to natural hazards with significant implications on human rights, such as rainfall and desertification.

People must remain at the centre of what the United Nations does, and what it does should be foremost guided by their needs. This is true whether it is the ability of a girl or boy to go to and complete school, to have reliable access to water and nutritious food, to have access to health care or to be able to have a say in decisions that impact their lives. Therefore, building the resilience of communities and lifting up and empowering the most vulnerable and most marginalized will remain at the top of the United Nations agenda in Ethiopia.

# The United Nations country team's **key focus** for 2022-2023

In the first quarter of 2022, UNCT organized its annual retreat to reflect on recent developments and challenges and their impact on needs and opportunities in the country. The aim was to prioritize the key areas of collaboration for 2022 under thematic UNSDCF pillars and define new ways of working together more flexibly, efficiently and sustainably in a context of multiple crises. Discussions were held with representatives from the Government of Ethiopia, CSOs and development partners on opportunities and challenges under

four priority areas (post-conflict recovery; peacebuilding; green recovery; and sustainable recovery/economic growth) and expectations around the role of the United Nations in addressing them.

Based on the discussions held, UNCT agreed to focus on a limited number of strategic priorities under each of the outcome areas that the United Nations would jointly support based on its capacities and expertise.

## Priorities for 2022-2023

People	Peace	Prosperity	Planet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Basic service delivery</li> <li>• IDPs/Durable solutions</li> <li>• GBV response</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Rule of law delivery</li> <li>• Accountability, transitional justice and human rights</li> <li>• National dialogue</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Industry park development</li> <li>• SME development and Creative Hub initiative</li> <li>• Inclusion policy</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Early warning systems</li> <li>• Resilience to climate change (Somali Multi-Year Resilience Plan)</li> <li>• COP 27 preparations, advocacy and follow-up</li> </ul> 

The work of the United Nations in Ethiopia will continue to be guided by three principles that have been outlined in the UNSDCF, namely:

» **Inclusion**, targeting those left behind, especially children in vulnerable households and conditions, and women and youth (15–30 years), including those below the national poverty line who are unemployed, exposed to violence, displaced, facing discrimination, have a disability or are marginalized in civic and political spaces.

» **Resilience** of individuals, especially women and youth, (female-headed) households and communities, emphasizing increased capacities to foresee, prepare for and bounce back stronger from a wide variety of shocks.

» **Sustainability**, ensuring that development gains are rooted in increased country capacity and can be sustained with the resources available to the country and, critically, do not compromise prospects for future generations of Ethiopians.

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