

February 2023

The UN in Ethiopia has identified four interconnected outcomes that will guide its development cooperation over the next five years:

- All people in Ethiopia enjoy the rights and capabilities to realize their potential in equality and with dignity.
- All people in Ethiopia live in a cohesive, just, inclusive and democratic society.
- All people in Ethiopia benefit from an inclusive, resilient and sustainable economy.
- All people in Ethiopia live in a society resilient to environmental risks and adapted to climate change.



UN Country Team discusses on increasing effectiveness of its development response to a changing context in Ethiopia

The United Nations Country Team held a three-day discussion on major collective priorities for the UN development response in support of the people of Ethiopia.

The discussion focused on accelerating progress towards key sustainable development goals, reducing humanitarian needs and promoting resilience as well as ensuring the inclusion of the furthest left behind.

The Country Team also discussed on strengthening collaboration for increasing effectiveness and adaptation of the UN response to a changing context in Ethiopia.

In 2020, the UN in Ethiopia and



the Government of Ethiopia signed a UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework which outlines the UN collective support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The outcomes of the framework are aligned under four Ps of the Sustainable Development Goals: people, peace, prosperity and planet.

Ending Fistula, Transforming Lives

Tirumaed Molla is currently a resident of the Desta Mender (Joy Village) – a rehabilitation center for fistula survivors set up by Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia on the outskirts of Addis Ababa. She suffered obstetric fistula when she was just 17 years old trying to give birth to her first and only child.

She was giving birth at home with the help of a traditional birth attendant. Tirumaed says delivering at a health center was unthinkable as the nearest health facility was 3 hours' drive from where she lived. For that matter, the awareness on the importance of institutional delivery was low in her community at the time. She was in labor at home for a total of 8 days. She says her family took her to a small clinic in the district on the 5th day but they were told that her condition was beyond the clinic's capacity. They were told to take her to Bahir Dar, the capital of the Amhara Region, for treatment and care. Fearing that she might die along the way, her family brought her back home and on the 8th day the labor ended up in stillbirth. The ordeal left Tirumaed with a condition of obstetric fistula.

But this was just the beginning of Tirumaed's suffering. Deserted by her partner, she stayed with her condition for 10 months at her parents' place in a rural locality in the South Gondar Zone of the Amhara Region in Ethiopia isolated from social interactions due to her condition. Moreover, disabled on one of her legs from a very early age, Tirumaed's other leg was also affected due to her fistula condition. This complicated



matters for her and her care givers even more when she stayed at home during that time. She had to be helped by her family members as she could hardly make any movement without support.

Tackling Obstetric Fistula: A Two-Pronged Approach

Prevention of obstetric fistula through increasing the number of deliveries assisted by midwives as well as improving access to emergency obstetric care is the most tenable strategy to tackle this morbidity. Well-trained midwives, obstetricians and Integrated Emergency Obstetric Officers are essential for providing these services. UNFPA is actively working together with partners with the leadership of the Ministry of Health for the elimination of obstetric fistula from Ethiopia. The Strategic Plan which is currently being implemented aims at maintaining prevention strategies while accelerating treatment of the backlog of obstetric fistula cases.

Since 2010 UNFPA has been partnering with the Ministry

of Health and other partners to train integrated Emergency Obstetric Officers and midwives through supporting the Integrated Emergency Surgery and Obstetrics and Accelerated Midwifery Training Programs respectively. Community mobilization and awareness creation efforts through the engagement of community based structures has been very critical in the prevention effort.

The second prong in tackling obstetric fistula is identifying, referring and treating women with obstetric fistula. With funding from the Government of Sweden and the Maternal Health Trust Fund, UNFPA has been supporting the fistula centers at Arsi, Gondar, Jimma Universities since 2010 and partnering with Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia to repair and treat women with obstetric fistula. Moreover, as part of the scale-up of the program funded by the Government of Canada, support has also been provided for the social reintegration of treated fistula patients in Addis Ababa and three regions – Amhara, Oromia and Tigray Regions.

[Full story](#)



Supporting Women Leaders and Aspirants to Unleash their Potential

In Ethiopia, women's participation in leadership and decision-making positions are very low due to persistent unequal practices and negative gender stereotypes, lack of mandatory regulatory frameworks and insufficient implementation of laws and policies.

To address these challenges, UN Women Ethiopia strategically target women leaders in public institutions at all levels including aspirants and women with disabilities to unleash their potential to be transformative leaders and advocates of gender equality measures through consecutive capacity development and mentorship interventions to enhance both the leadership skills and experiences.

Yayesh Alamrew, the Deputy Head of the West Gojam Zone Job Creation and Training Department, is one of the 218 women leaders who benefited from the Transformative Leadership for Gender Equality (TLGE) training and mentorship



Participants of the Transformative Leadership for Gender Equality (TLGE) training and mentorship programme

programme, laid down by UN Women Ethiopia in collaboration with Amhara National Regional State Bureau of Women, Children and Social Affairs (Amhara BoWCSA).

“I was able to come out of the depression I was in due to my divorce. I am now able to express my ideas without fear. I have become strong and hopeful. I am in a place where I am able to coach and teach other women who have gone through the same challenge as me. I have learned so much from my experience of sadness and fear that I believe I

can help others overcome their issues.”

When asked about the benefits she got from the mentorship programme as a mentee, Yayesh said, “In the mentorship initiative, senior and experienced women leaders linked with junior women leaders and aspirants to share leadership, personal and career development experiences and support the lower-level women leaders and aspirants to increase their confidence and motivate them to hold high-level leadership and decision-making positions.”

[Full story](#)

Enat Bank ,Ashagari Consulting Firm became signatories to the Women Empowerment Principles

Gesturing assurance to Empower Women in the Workplace, Market Place and Community



Enat Bank and Ashagari Consulting Firm sign Women Empowerment Principles

UN Women Ethiopia Country Office facilitated and joined the signing of Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) with Enat Bank

and Ashagari Consulting Firm that affirm their commitment to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

More than forty-five participants drawn from the Government, private sector and mass media attended the event held in December 2022 in Addis Ababa.

Mr. Schadrack Dusabe, UN Women Ethiopia Deputy Representative/Head Office a.i, in his welcoming remarks highlighted that the commitment should drive activities that enhance business practices and empower women.

[Full story](#)

Preventing the spread of infectious diseases in Ethiopia

Improved water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure is helping to prevent the spread of communicable diseases at healthcare centres across southwestern Ethiopia.

Around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed healthcare systems to their breaking point. And in Ethiopia, the pandemic challenged the capacity of health facilities to provide essential healthcare services and treatment, particularly in underserved communities.

UNOPS worked with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to minimize the heavy toll on healthcare facilities and health workers across the country.

Using \$500,000 in funding from KOICA, UNOPS installed groundwater reservoirs, elevated water tanks, handwashing facilities, pumps and other water supply infrastructure to enhance the hygiene and sanitation conditions in 22 health centres in



A woman washes her hands at a row of outdoor taps southwestern Ethiopia.

As part of the project, UNOPS also procured and distributed personal protective equipment, soap, detergent and sanitizer to 29 health facilities. This helped prevent the spread of infections in healthcare facilities, protecting around 2,000 frontline health workers and 500 vulnerable community members, including people with weakened or

underdeveloped immune systems.

“The importance of this handwashing tap has been demonstrated especially in preventing the COVID-19 pandemic. Both society and those of us who work in hospitals benefit from it,” said Sister Aselefech Wurke, Hospital Matron, Boditi Primary Hospital.

[Full story](#)

Green jobs for sustainable livelihoods

Local stakeholders in Kalu Woreda in Amhara Region discussed and validated strategies to promote green jobs for those affected by the impact of climate change.

Under the joint programme “Addressing Drivers and Facilitating Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Contexts of Disasters and Climate Change in the IGAD Region”, briefly known as Migration, Disasters and Climate Change (MDCC), which is funded by the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and technically co-led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and International Labour Organization (ILO), the



Participants of the validation workshop on promoting green jobs

ILO conducted a workshop to validate a local market system analysis report in late December.

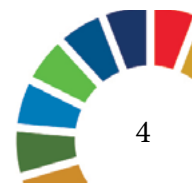
The workshop brought 35 representatives (10 female and 25 men) from the local government,

unions, potential migrants, migrant returnees, community and social partners as well as affected populations together in Dessie, a town in South Wollo Zone of Amhara Region.

[Full story](#)

PEOPLE

PLANET



Delivering health services to Ethiopia's drought-affected populations

Prolonged drought in parts of the greater Horn of Africa region has devastated millions of lives. In South and south-eastern Ethiopia, around 24 million people are grappling with severe food insecurity, malnutrition and extreme deprivation as their livelihoods have been severely affected following five straight seasons of failed rains.



Ahmed Amin, a nurse in a mobile outreach health site near her home in Chifra

Most of the drought-affected people are nomadic pastoralists who now require humanitarian assistance to survive. Since early 2022, the number of people earmarked for this assistance has almost tripled from 8.1 million.

Deep in the remote drought-gripped areas of Ethiopia, mobile health and nutrition teams, with support from World Health Organization (WHO), are

working to deliver critical health assistance and treat malnutrition to avert an extreme situation and curb potential loss of life, especially among children for whom the combination of malnutrition and disease can be fatal.

Temira, mother to one-year-old Zahara, has brought her daughter to a mobile outreach health site

near her home in Chifra, Afar, in north-eastern Ethiopia, for vaccination and a check-up.

Health workers are busy setting up plastic tables under the shade of thorn trees and stocking them with medical supplies and equipment that are needed for the busy day ahead.

[Full story](#)

Developing water sources to transform lives

Yasin Muhumad Faarah is a 70-year-old farmer, village elder and community leader. He lives in a rural area near Jigjiga in the Somali region of Ethiopia.

He and his community are beneficiaries of the ILO project: "Enhancing Disaster Resilience through Employment-Intensive Waterworks" which is being implemented in Jigjiga and Kebribeyah of Somali Region.

"In a recent drought all my cattle died. I depend on farming to provide for my family. Some members of our rural community had no water at all.

On my farm we grow different trees. There are mango trees and guava. We planted sorghum.



Yasin Muhumad Faarah

I also have sheep and cows, but we mostly depend on agriculture. In our Kebele (locality), Caradamadow, we are all farmers.

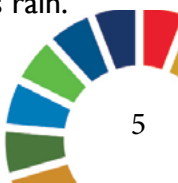
I have always worked on my farm, and I want to continue working in agriculture for the rest of my life and continue making a living from

it to support my five sons and three daughters. We don't have a health centre or hospital near us, and we have no roads. If a woman goes into labour or someone gets sick it can be difficult to find a way to get out, to get to the hospital, especially if there is rain.

[Full story](#)

PEOPLE

PROSPERITY



The condition making teen girls tired, faint and miss out on school

How iron and folic supplements are helping prevent anaemia and improve school attendance for adolescent girls in Oromia, Ethiopia.

Anaemia can cause dizziness, fatigue and fainting. This is how UNICEF and partners are helping prevent it in adolescent girls living in Ethiopia's Oromia region.

“When I stood up to go home from school, I got vertigo and fell. I almost hit my head on the classroom table.” After fainting, 15-year-old Aynye Aman was diagnosed with anaemia, a condition caused by a lack of iron in the blood which affects 1 in 3 adolescent girls and women globally. Common symptoms



Aynye

include tiredness, dizziness, heart palpitations, shortness of breath and pale skin.

Aynye attends Haile Aba Marsa, a brightly decorated school perched on top of a hill in Sire, Oromia.

Her teacher, Etenesh Sime tells us that many girls used to pass out at school, that is until they started to receive a programme of weekly iron and folic acid supplements supported by UNICEF.

[Full story](#)

Scaling up humanitarian support for children with disabilities and their families

UNICEF is expanding programming in IDP camps to provide services and support for children with disabilities and their families.

Thousands of people have fled ongoing conflict in Ethiopia's Oromia region. Some of the displaced people have been settled in temporary camps in Debre Birhan that host more than 25,000 people.

When we visited Woyinshet camp, over 6,800 people were living in difficult conditions. “We don't have any hope to return to our homes” said one woman who has been living in the camp for nearly two years. Recent data shows that there are almost 300 people with disabilities in the camp.

UNICEF is on the ground providing education, water,



Children in Woyinshet camp for internally displaced persons

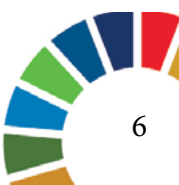
sanitation and hygiene, health and child protection services for children in the camps and in the host community.

In Woyinshet camp for internally displaced persons, we joined a classroom in a tent where girls and boys sat attentively with their UNICEF backpacks and exercise

books on the table.

When introducing us and asking if the children know what UNICEF does, one boy proudly told us that UNICEF is an aid organization that provides school materials.

[Full story](#)



Expanding Ethiopia's Agent Networks Through Innovative Digital Solutions: Building on Insights and Lessons from Forerunners

Agent networks play a critical role in the uptake of digital financial services. They make financial transactions easier as they improve accessibility and offer convenience. Consequently, agent networks have expanded financial inclusion to underserved and marginalized groups such as women, youth, and rural communities.

However, despite the significant contributions that agent networks make toward financial inclusion, there is still a lot of room to grow access and usage, especially for users outside of urban areas. Improvements to the agent network distribution model by implementing, for instance, shared agent networks, women agents, MSMEs as agents, etc., significantly impact the expansion of digital financial services. In Zambia, for

UNCDF is supporting institutional partners in the country with technical expertise and capital to promote an inclusive digital economy, through enhancing the agent network model.

example, UNCDF and partners tested Innovative Shared Space Agent Hub Models to increase access and usage of DFS among rural populations.

In Ethiopia, the United Nation's Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), through its Digital Financial Services for Resilience (DFS4Res) Programme, funded by the European Union (EU) and in



A Highlight Trading agent facilitates primarily the payment of traffic penalties

partnership with the Organization of Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS), is supporting institutional partners in the country with technical expertise and capital to promote an inclusive digital economy, through enhancing the agent network model.

[Full story](#)

Role models to break gender imbalance and cultural stereotype in the industrial sector

Compared to other sectors, the industrial sector is a sector with a low representation of women. This imbalance is attributed to different factors including assumptions of tough industrial jobs for men only and the overall stereotypes associated with male-dominated society.

UNIDO promotes a just world where women and men equally lead, participate and benefit from industrial development. To reduce the gender gap and empower women, UNIDO advances gender equality and the empowerment of women through its projects and programmes.

The UNIDO Medium-term Programme Framework 2022-



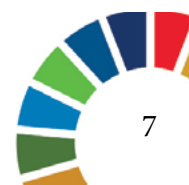
Hanna Nigusse trains commercial vehicles and heavy duty machinery maintenance at Selam Vocational College

2025 commits to address gender inequalities in industrial development, and to harness women's full potential as leaders and agents of change, thereby transforming economies and generating inclusive growth.

For Hanna Nigusse, aged 26,

situations were not easy when she joined Selam Technical and Vocational (STV) College to study commercial vehicle and heavy duty machinery maintenance training in 2017 as the first and only female trainee.

[Full story](#)



Northern Ethiopia peace deal restores hope for displaced

A November peace agreement means people displaced by the conflict in Ethiopia's northern regions can once again think about home and the future. Children play football in Alemwach refugee site in Ethiopia's north-western Amhara region.

Just seven days after the birth of her son, 32-year-old Mashwa Hailu was forced to flee her home when conflict erupted. "Our home was destroyed, and I fled with my children and parents on foot to safety," says the mother of two who has been displaced in Tigray's capital, Mekelle, since fighting broke out in November 2020.

The signing of a peace deal last November has meant an end to two years of conflict and the return of hope for Mashwa and others who dream of returning home after years of fear and uncertainty. "I hope that this peace process will bring all things back to normal," she says. "I hope that all people will go back to their places of origin to restart their lives."

The conflict in northern Ethiopia uprooted hundreds of thousands and severely disrupted the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance, plunging people like Mashwa into still more dire conditions. Among the displaced are Ethiopians as well as refugees from other countries who had sought safety in Ethiopia before the conflict began.

Since the peace agreement, the situation has begun to improve. "We are so happy about this peace agreement," Mashwa says.



Eritrean refugee Selam* was displaced from Adi-Harush refugee camp in Tigray at the peak of the conflict. She is now living in Alemwach refugee site in the Amhara region

On a three-day visit to Ethiopia that ended in February 2023, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said he was very encouraged by the progress underway.

"The peace agreement has improved the situation, allowing humanitarian agencies to deliver more aid to areas that have been very difficult to access during the hostilities. This means more people in northern Ethiopia can get access to critical services now and [be] accompanied towards solutions," said Grandi.

In Alemwach, a settlement for Eritrean refugees in the north-western Amhara region, Grandi met some of the 7,000 Eritrean refugees relocated by the Government Refugee and Returnees Service, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and partners from neighbouring Tigray since the cessation of hostilities in November. "I am grateful to the Ethiopian Government for providing land to Eritrean refugees and I am also grateful to the local authorities and host communities for accepting them," said Grandi.

UNHCR "has scaled up critical assistance to affected populations

who lost everything during the conflict, but we need sustainable funding to support solutions for refugees and other displaced," Grandi added.

UNHCR is working closely with the government of Ethiopia to ensure displaced communities are included in national development plans, and to create an integrated assistance programme that supports both refugees and host communities.

Selam* runs a small café attached to her shelter in Alemwach where she lives with her 13-year-old son, and her younger brother. The sweet smell of traditional incense wafts through the air, mixed with the strong aroma of roasted coffee.

[Full story](#)

UN Ethiopia

Bimonthly Newsletter by the UN Communications Group

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