

UN Ethiopia

NEWSLETTER

April 2024

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.



Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress



Participants of the run

On 17 March 2024, the United Nations joined the Great Ethiopian Run on the annual Women First Run to spotlight the theme for this year's International Women's Day - Invest in Women, Accelerate Development.

The event brought together 16,000 women and girls from different walks of lives, including Ethiopian officials, celebrities,

representatives of the diplomatic community, international and local non-governmental organizations, UN heads of agencies and staff and students who took part in the race in support of the theme.

With increasing conflicts, climate change and polarizing societies, women's rights are increasingly coming under threat or being rolled back and standing up for women's

rights is more important than ever. The number of women living in conflict-affected settings has increased by 50% since 2017.

Climate change amplifies existing gender inequalities, posing specific threats to women's and girls' livelihoods. In many parts of the world, women and girls have the principal responsibility for securing food, water and energy for their families and communities. As climate change intensifies, women's unpaid care work and domestic work increases.

Speaking at the event, Minister of Women and Social Affairs, Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye, underlined that it is critical to ensure the full participation of women who represent 50 per cent of the population in all aspects of the country's development.

[Full story](#)



From survivor to a voice: the story of Shukria Keda



Shukria Keda

Shukria Keda, 35, is a mother of five, from Ebo Tirora Kebele, Central Ethiopia region.

She has an infectious smile and a vibrant presence. Welcoming anyone who visits her small village, she often invites people for coffee and some local cheese.

However, behind this joyful persona lies trauma, pain, and unfulfilled dreams.

At the tender age of six, Shukria

underwent Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). She has a vivid memory of what happened that day surrounding the ceremony. "I still remember what I wore that evening. My mom dressed me in a new dress with yellow and red patterns. I loved it so much. In our community, FGM is a ceremony, so my parents threw a party to celebrate. All of our relatives were there," she said.

[Full story](#)

Cultivating New Leaders in Ethiopia's Largest Industrial Park



Workers at Hawassa Industrial Park

ILO's Women Leadership Development Program is helping a handful of factory workers in the Ethiopia's garment sector thrive professionally and economically.

A Women Leadership Development Program designed by the International Labour Organization to empower women workers at garment and textile manufacturing enterprises through soft and technical skill trainings and on-job coaching is nurturing new leaders in Hawassa Industrial Park of Ethiopia. Through on job coaching and

mentoring by trained senior supervisors/mentors and ILO trainers, this ILO program helps young women factory workers gain new skills and climb new hierarchies in the career ladder.

Hareg Gameda was originally hired as a production supervisor at JP Garment Ethiopia PLC in the Hawassa Industrial Park. After working for about a year, she got the opportunity to participate in the ILO's Women Leadership Development program as a mentor.

[Full story](#)

In Ethiopia, WFP's new digital system tracks and delivers to people facing severe hunger



Cutting-edge tech is helping World Food Programme operations – as costs push them into the red.

Zenebech Kahsay is relieved to watch her children play once again, their energy renewed at last by bread she's baked after receiving a 15kg bag of wheat from the World Food Programme (WFP) at a food distribution in Tahtay Adyabo, in Ethiopia's northern province of Tigray.

"My children were dizzy with hunger," explains Kahsay as she grinds dark brown grains of wheat with a pestle and mortar. "Life was so difficult, we had one meal a day – most of the time it was a cup of porridge which we shared."

Kahsay speaks of life during WFP's pause in food assistance, which stretched through half of 2023. Families were hit particularly hard. She was recovering from a two-year conflict amid drought, sickness and ever-increasing food prices.

Targeting the hungriest

Following reports of food being diverted at the beginning of last year, WFP teams across Ethiopia focused on reforming the humanitarian food assistance delivery system.

During the pause in food assistance, WFP developed more robust delivery mechanisms for its operations, a significant step in assuring the delivery of critical food assistance to the hungriest populations affected by drought, flooding, and conflict.

[Full story](#)

Mastering craftsmanship and entrepreneurship in Ethiopia's leather hub

The story of Abay Girma Kefene is set in the bustling central Ethiopian town of Modjo – the heart of the country's leather production.

As a child, Kefene dreamt of being a skilled craftsman. However, his childhood dream was overshadowed due to family responsibilities and the financial pressures of the hustle of urban life. Hindered by the absence of university entrance results and the early commitments of starting a family, Kefene persevered through numerous commission and construction roles to support his wife and six-year-old son.

Then, he discovered UNIDO's project and did not hesitate to embrace the opportunity to be trained to become a skilled craftsman, one step closer to his childhood dream.

Kefene's story in Ethiopia mirrors numerous others, reflecting the prevailing challenges of widespread unemployment, insufficient education,



and skill deficiencies across the country. However, amid these challenges, hope arrived through the Leather Initiative for Sustainable Employment Creation (LISEC).

It presented Kefene with an opportunity he wholeheartedly embraced—a transformative training programme that brought him closer

to fulfilling his childhood dream of becoming a skilled craftsman.

Moreover, LISEC equipped Kefene and his peers with entrepreneurship skills, honed their craftsmanship in leather product-making, and instilled the crucial tenets of team-building

[Full story](#)

A Stronger Voice and Force to Drive Financial Inclusion Priorities in Malawi and Ethiopia



"In Malawi, our Digital Financial Service (DFS) association is leveraging members' expertise to analyze policies and regulations. Once completed, we will engage the government to address the identified gaps. We envision

ourselves as a leading force in helping to shape the forthcoming Malawi Digital Economy Strategy and building the digital economy," shared William Kaunda, Chairperson of Malawi's DFS (Digital Financial Services)

Association.

"Ethiopia's Digital Financial Service Providers Association strategy focuses on strengthening our collaboration with regulatory agencies through our mixers, industry showcase events, dialogues, etc. Through these activities, we aim to contribute to shaping the regulatory environment and provide a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders." Andualem Hailu, Chairperson of Ethiopia's DFS Association, explained.

[Full story](#)

Ethiopia, China, and UNIDO sign tripartite agreement to establish center of excellence

A Joint Declaration for Tripartite Cooperation on the Establishment of Centers of Excellence in Ethiopia signed in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed between the Government of Ethiopia, the Government of China and UNIDO.

Mr. Gerd Müller, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) signed a joint declaration for tripartite cooperation with Mr. Luo Zhaohui, Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) and Mr. Melaku Aebel, Minister of Industry of Ethiopia, under the auspices of Ethiopian Prime Minister Mr. Abiy Ahmed.

The tripartite declaration



Ethiopia, China, and UNIDO Sign Tripartite Agreement to Establish Center of Excellence

aims to enhance cooperation between CIDCA, the Ethiopian Government, and UNIDO. The signatories expressed their intent to advance the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative, thereby accelerating the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The signatories of the tripartite declaration have pledged to assist Ethiopia and other African countries in improving people's well-being through development projects.

[Full story](#)

Turning adversity into opportunity: A migrant returnee's entrepreneurial success

Seleshi Shegaw, a 38-year-old Ethiopian man, recounts a life defined by persistence and determination in the face of numerous challenges. Born and raised in Majete town, Northern Shewa, Seleshi's life took a dramatic turn when he failed to pass his preparatory entrance exam in the 10th grade.

This academic setback ruined his dreams of pursuing higher education and becoming a doctor, a profession he hoped would uplift his unprivileged family and community. Faced with despair and a sense of hopelessness, Seleshi took the life-altering decision to embark on an irregular migration journey in



Seleshi Shegaw

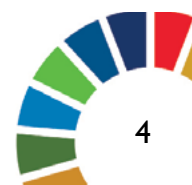
1998 E.C. (2005 G.C.), carrying only ETB 850 (\$95 at the time) and a heart full of dreams for a better life.

“My family was aware of my plans and they strongly advised me against it. They even suggested selling their land to fund my

education at the Teachers Training Institute (TTI). However, I didn't envision my future in that path, and above all, I couldn't bear the thought of my parents selling their land,” Seleshi narrated.

Driven by a desire for a better life and motivated by stories of his neighbours' success overseas, Seleshi began a risky journey to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) passing through various difficult paths and test his physical endurance and mental strength.

[Full story](#)



Empowering voices: Providing a platform for displaced women to share their experiences in Ethiopia



Displaced women gather to share their experience, struggles and hopes in a settlement in Ethiopia's Somali Region

We, as a group of women, would usually walk all day to Jigjiga, the region's capital some 40 kilometres away, to find daily work. Unfortunately, we are not always successful, and this is a struggle for us," a displaced woman said while sitting with an all-female group outside of their informal settlement. These women gathered to convene a

focused group session for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Tuliguled Town, located in the Somali region of Ethiopia.

Facilitated by the staff of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), these group discussions provide a platform

for the women to articulate their priorities and concerns, enabling IOM and partners to gain valuable insights into the specific challenges faced by this vulnerable population. These women are facing immense challenges in their daily battle for survival. Having fled inter-communal conflict five years ago, they find themselves in a precarious situation, struggling to meet their basic needs and to provide for their families.

Most arrived at this location five years ago fleeing inter-communal conflict located along the border between Somali and Oromia regions of Ethiopia.

Despite the daily struggles they face, this group of women find some relief in having a safe space to voice out their stories, learn from each other's experiences and find some solitude in each other's presence.

[Full story](#)

Mental Health for Healthcare Workers

Protecting the well-being of healthcare workers in conflict-affected regions of Ethiopia



During conflict, frontline healthcare workers suffer the most and their mental health and wellbeing is often overlooked.

The northern Ethiopia conflict left a devastating impact on communities including frontline healthcare workers. Many healthcare workers lost their lives and their significant others also suffered injuries. Apart

from the physical injuries, they suffered from distressing experiences including forced displacement, long-distance journeys without food and water, separation from families and loved ones, as well as the tragic loss

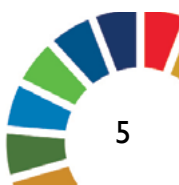
of their colleagues.

Netsanet Argaw, a dedicated midwife at Chifra Primary Hospital, in the Afar region of Ethiopia, recalls the devastating impact of the conflict. "It was very difficult to return to a sense of normalcy after what we have witnessed during the conflict," she says.

Ahmed Mohamed, a health officer at Semera Health Centre, also shares Netsanet's view. He was previously working at Kalewa Primary Hospital which suffered significant damage.

"Our hospital was damaged from three rounds of conflicts. No supplies were coming. For months, we were disconnected from any form of communication," he says.

[Full story](#)



New crops for new hope in Tigray

The crops of the farming families in Atsbi Wonberta and Tsirae Wonberta, Tigray suffered significantly from the locust infestation for the last several years, after a major outbreak of desert locusts began developing. With many of them relying on agriculture as their only source of income, this posed a serious threat to their livelihood and impact to the entire community.

In order to manage the invasion,

the Ethiopia Emergency Locust Response Project was designed and funded by the World Bank (WB) from June 2020. On behalf of the Government of Ethiopia and the Ministry of Agriculture, UNOPS implemented a component of the project - Livelihoods Protection and Rehabilitation in Tigray Regional State.

“My family of five relies on farming as our source of income.



Abrha Tesfay

We sow wheat, teff, millet and barley. This land is best for harvesting teff, millet and maize.

[Full story](#)

In Ethiopia's Somali Region, WFP empowers women to dream big and become financially independent

In the heart of a traditional and pastoralist society that has opened its doors to refugees, WFP is supporting women to challenge gender norms and thrive.

The parched land in Ethiopia's Somali region absorbs the sun's glare through its cracked soil and whispers a story of endurance. A gust of wind lifts and carries the dust further away. A thinly paved makeshift road winds its way through the vast terrain, promising nothing of a way back if the rains come.

The bumpy road gives way to refugee camps that home thousands that have fled war and instability in neighbouring Somalia in hopes for a better future.

The Somali region has limited institutional capacity to deliver services in these camps, and refugees depend on humanitarian



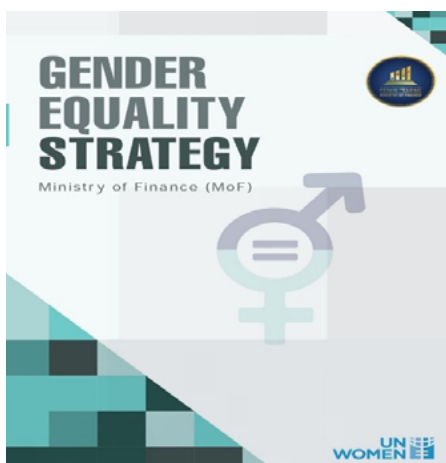
Sadiya Dubud

actors like WFP for support. The communities hosting refugees in the region are dealing with recurrent climate crises, from

the longest drought on record to devastating floods that continue to push both host and refugee communities further into hunger.

[Full story](#)

Ministry of Finance and UN Women join forces to accelerate gender equality agenda



The Ministry of Finance (MoF) in Ethiopia in partnership with UN Women, has established a technical committee to accelerate implementation of the MoF's Gender Equality Strategy developed with the support of UN Women.

Following the endorsement of the Gender Equality Strategy in 2023, UN Women in collaboration

with the Ministry of Finance organized a two-day workshop from 16 - 17 February 2024, in Adama, Ethiopia, for 27 senior experts from 25 divisions of the MoF. The key outcome of the workshop is the establishment of a technical committee with 27 members to oversee the effective implementation of the strategy.

[Full story](#)

UN Women, partners are working towards gender sensitive media in Ethiopia



Dr. Elsabet Samuel speaking at Editor's meeting

UN Women Ethiopia, through the project “Enhancing the Role of Media in Promoting Gender Equality and Women in Leadership” under its Women in Leadership and governance programme (WiLG) has been working with the Ethiopian Media Authority and Media Associations and partners to create a gender

aware media workforce and gender sensitive media in Ethiopia.

According to Dr Elsabet Samuel, a former journalist and Gender and Media researcher, although Media has a tremendous potential to influence society, including policymakers, it often focuses on reinforcement of stereotypes and

objectification of women through media content.

To address this “Media has to explore the impact of embedding representation in its daily editorial and production thinking and processes” Dr Elsabet says. She also noted that experiences from BBC’s 50:50 project for instance proves that fair representation is not only a goal to aspire to but one that can be achieved consistently.

Ms. Dureti Tadesse, Director of Women, Children and Social Affairs at the Ethiopian Media Authority, a government entity tasked with regulating the media and advertising sector, said that UN Women’s support has been instrumental in improving portrayal of women in the media and advertisements.

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PEOPLE

Ethiopia launches the pandemic fund mega project against potential pandemics

In a remarkable move towards strengthening its defenses against potential pandemics, Ethiopia officially launched the Ethiopian Pandemic Multi-Sectoral Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Project (EPPR) on Monday, January 29, 2024.

Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the project launch was attended by H.E. Dr. Girma Amente, Minister of Agriculture, H.E. Dr Dereje Duguma, the State Minister of Health, H.E. Dr. Mesay Hailu, Director General of Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI),



Ethiopia launches the pandemic fund mega project against potential pandemics

senior government officials, as well as Representatives from the Pandemic Fund, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and

Agricultural Organization (FAO), Africa CDC, the World Bank and other key partners.

[Full story](#)



A reactive measles campaign: More than 2 million children to be vaccinated



A measles outbreak response vaccination campaign in 58 outbreaks affected woreda

The Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), with a technical and financial support of partners including WHO and UNICEF is conducting a measles outbreak response vaccination campaign in 58 outbreaks affected woredas.

This reactive measles vaccination campaign was held from 29 December 2023, and it continued until mid-January 2024. Most of the woredas have completed the campaign and few of them are still ongoing. The prioritized

58 outbreak affected woredas are from eight regions including Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Sidama, Somali, South Ethiopia, and Southwest Ethiopia Peoples' region.

The campaign targeted children aged 6 months to 10 years, and the financial support was from measles and rubella initiative (MRI) through WHO and UNICEF for the operational, vaccines and dry supplies costs targeting more than 2 million children (2,006,342).

[Full story](#)

Sowing seeds to harvest prosperity



Amit Hailay

A major outbreak of desert locusts, the worst in Ethiopia in decades, had been affecting the agriculture producers in Tigray since 2019.

As many families suffered severely, the Ethiopia Emergency Locust Response Project was designed and funded by the World Bank (WB) from June 2020. On behalf of the Government of Ethiopia and the Ministry of

Agriculture, UNOPS implemented a component of the project - Livelihoods Protection and Rehabilitation in Tigray Regional State.

The producers in Degua Tembien Woreda received support from the project in seeds and fertilizers, in order to recultivate their fields.

“UNOPS has provided my family of nine with 25 kg of wheat, 25 kg of Urea and 25 kg of NPS fertilizer. We were able to cultivate abundant wheat, thanks to the fertilizers we were supplied with. We received the finest variety of wheat available that we were able to sow. This has been a life changing experience for us and our community at large. We anticipate an abundant harvest, given the satisfactory

outcome of the sowing process. We are profoundly thankful for the invaluable support we received, and I believe it will help improve our lives for the better,” Amit Hailay, the project beneficiary from Degua Tembien says.

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Bimonthly Newsletter by the UN Communications Group

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